

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 22 APRIL 2015
ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

- Present: Ms Michaela Boyle (Chairperson)
Mr John Dallat (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Roy Beggs
Mr Daithi McKay
Mr Adrian McQuillan
Mr Sean Rogers
- In Attendance: Ms Lucia Wilson (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Jack Peel (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mrs Danielle Saunders (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Darren Weir (Clerical Officer)
- Apologies: Mr Trevor Clarke
Mr Paul Girvan
Mr Alex Easton
Mr Phil Flanagan
Mr Ross Hussey

2.10pm The meeting began in open session

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Clarke, Mr Girvan, Mr Easton, Mr Flanagan and Mr Hussey.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of 21 April 2015

Agreed: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. Correspondence

Correspondence from DFP regarding Acceptance and Clearance of NIAO VFM reports

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence from DFP.

Correspondence from NIAO on DARD Ministerial Direction

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence from NIAO on a DARD Ministerial Direction.

4. Matters Arising

The Charity Commission for NI report on the USPCA

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the Charity Commission report on the USPCA.

5. Inquiry into the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service Trust Statement for the year-ended 31 March 2013

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the Memorandum of Reply and agreed to request an update in 12 months.

6. Inquiry into Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service – An Organisational Assessment and Review of Departmental Oversight and Report on Accounts 2011-12 – MOR Update

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the MOR update and agreed to seek further information around the composition of the NIFRS Board.

7. Inquiry into Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure – Management of Major Capital Projects: MOR Update

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the MOR Update.

8. Inquiry into the Department for Regional Development: The Effectiveness of Public Transport in Northern Ireland – Introduction to Briefing Session

The Committee received an introductory briefing from NIAO on the report into The Effectiveness of Public Transport in Northern Ireland.

2.49pm *The meeting moved into Closed Session*

9. Inquiry into the Department for Regional Development: The Effectiveness of Public Transport in Northern Ireland – Briefing Session

The Committee received full briefing from NIAO on the report into The Effectiveness of Public Transport in Northern Ireland.

2.52pm *Mr McKay joined the meeting*

Mr Beggs declared an interest as the discussion moved into talking about the number of roads engineers employed by the Department, as one of his sons is a student Civil Engineer.

10. Inquiry into the Department for Regional Development: The Effectiveness of Public Transport in Northern Ireland – Preparation Session

The Committee conducted a preparation session for the forthcoming Inquiry into the Effectiveness of Public Transport in Northern Ireland. Members selected their lines of questioning and sought clarification from NIAO staff.

11. Inquiry into the Department for Social Development – Advanced Land Purchases – Correspondence.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence from DSD. The Committee agreed to delay the publication of their report into Advanced Land Purchases until a current litigation case in relation to the valuation of Great Georges Street has concluded.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write a letter of reply to the Department of Social Development requesting a copy of the report of the independent inquiry into governance within Trinity Housing as soon as it becomes available.

12. Any Other Business

Committee visit to PAC of Wales

Agreed: The Committee agreed in principle to a visit to the Public Accounts Committee of the National Assembly for Wales on 24th June 2015. The Clerk agreed to work on the details with her counterpart in Wales and provide an outline programme to the Committee in due course.

13. Date, time and place of next meeting

Members were advised that the Committee will next meet on Wednesday 29th April 2015 at 2.00pm in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

3.26pm *The meeting was adjourned.*

Mrs Michaela Boyle
Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee