

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 1 JULY 2015
ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Mr John Dallat (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Roy Beggs
Mr Trevor Clarke
Mr Adrian McQuillan
Mr Sean Rogers
Mr Jim Wells

In Attendance: Ms Lucia Wilson (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Jack Peel (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mrs Danielle Saunders (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Darren Weir (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Ms Michaela Boyle (Chairperson)
Mr Phil Flanagan
Mr Paul Girvan

2.06pm The meeting began in open session.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from the Chairperson, Mr Flanagan and Mr Girvan.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 17 June 2015

Agreed: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed

3. Correspondence

Correspondence from Carnegie UK Trust

Agreed: The Committee agreed to reconsider Carnegie UK Trust's offer of a briefing again at the next Committee meeting in September.

Correspondence from whistleblower re DEL

Agreed: It was agreed to forward the letter to the Department of Employment and Learning and to copy it to the DEL Committee. It was also agreed that NIAO would closely monitor the case.

Correspondence re administration of European Structural Funding

Agreed: It was agreed to pass this correspondence on to the NIAO for further investigation.

4. Matters Arising

Submission from the Attorney General of Northern Ireland

Agreed: It was agreed to note the correspondence and submissions from the Attorney General.

Agreed: It was agreed to await the Memorandum of Reply on the report into Managing and Protecting Funds Held in Court before considering the Attorney General's offer to provide a briefing to the Committee. It was agreed to write to the Attorney General's office to inform him of this.

Committee visit to Wales 23/24 June 2015

Agreed: It was agreed that the Clerk would explore the proposal to produce a joint piece of work in conjunction with the Jersey and Wales PAC's on the topic of Public Appointments.

Agreed: It was agreed that the Committee write a letter of thanks to the Chairperson of the Welsh PAC, Darren Millar AM, for the kind welcome and hospitality that he showed to the PAC delegation and NIAO delegation. .

2.43pm The meeting moved into Closed Session.

5. Inquiry into DSD: Advanced Land Purchases

Agreed: The Committee agreed to re-draft its report to take account of points raised during the meeting by Mr Wells and outstanding relevant information that the Committee was anticipating receiving during summer recess.

2.54pm Mr Wells left the meeting

6. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the latest Forward Work Programme.

2.55pm The meeting moved back into Open Session

4. Matters Arising (contd)

MOR from DHSSPS re board structure of NIFRS

Agreed: It was agreed to note the correspondence from the Accounting Officer of DHSSPS.

7. Any Other Business

End to provision of printed committee packs

Agreed: Members noted that from September 2015 there will no longer be any printed committee packs produced for any member. Packs will be provided exclusively through the ECP system.

8. Date, time and place of next meeting

Members were informed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held after Summer Recess on Wednesday 9th September at 2pm in Room 29 Parliament Buildings.

2.59pm The meeting adjourned.

Ms Michaela Boyle (Chairperson)
Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee