

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2015 SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT
BUILDINGS

Present: Ms Michaela Boyle (Chairperson)
Mr John Dallat (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Roy Beggs
Mr Trevor Clarke
Mr Phil Flanagan
Mr Paul Girvan
Ms Claire Hanna
Mr Conor Murphy
Mr Edwin Poots

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

Apologies: Mr Ross Hussey

2.08pm The meeting began in closed session.

5. Evidence Session on the Northern Ireland Events Company – Discussions with NIAO Officials

2.13pm Mr Edwin Poots joined the meeting

2.18pm The meeting moved into open session.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Hussey.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 30 September 2015

Agreed: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

There were no new matters arising.

4. Correspondence

There was no new correspondence.

5. Evidence Session on the Northern Ireland Events Company

The Committee took oral evidence on the above inquiry from:

- Mr Paul Sweeney, Former Accounting Officer, DCAL
- Mr Denis McMahon, Accounting Officer, DCAL
- Mr David Carson, Director of Finance and Corporate Services, DCAL
- Mr Mervyn Elder, Former Chairman of the Board of the Northern Ireland Events Company
- Mr Kieran Donnelly, Comptroller and Auditor General, Northern Ireland Audit Office
- Mr Mike Brennan, Acting Treasury Officer of Accounts, Department of Finance and Personnel

The witnesses answered a number of questions put by the Committee and agreed to provide additional information in writing.

2.19pm Mr Girvan joined the meeting

2.45pm Mr Beggs joined the meeting

3.15pm Mr Clarke left the meeting

3.43pm Mr Girvan left the meeting

3.43pm Mr Girvan re-joined meeting

3.48pm Mr Poots left the meeting

3.48pm Mr Poots re-joined the meeting

3.54pm Mr Flanagan left the meeting.

3.55pm The meeting was suspended.

4.14pm The meeting resumed in public session. The Deputy Chair took the Chair.

The following members were present:

Mr John Dallat (Deputy Chairperson)

Mr Roy Beggs

Mr Trevor Clarke

Mr Phil Flanagan

Mr Paul Girvan

Ms Claire Hanna

Mr Edwin Poots

4.15pm Mr Poots drew attention to the fact that he was Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure from May 2007 – May 2008 when the issues under discussion were discovered. Having worked with DCAL officials, in attendance at the evidence session, this perhaps gave him access to information which might be discussed during the course of the evidence session..

4.15pm *Mr Flanagan left the meeting*
4.16pm *Mr Flanagan re-joined the meeting*
4.17pm *Mr Flanagan left the meeting*

4.54pm *Ms Hanna left the meeting*

4.58pm *Mr Clarke left the meeting*
5.01pm *Mr Clarke re-joined the meeting*

5.23pm *Mr Girvan left the meeting*
5.26pm *Mr Girvan re-joined the meeting*

Mr Beggs declared an interest as a relative of Jonathan Rea who began his career in motocross.

6.23pm *The meeting moved into closed session.*

The Committee discussed the evidence session with the C&AG and members of NIAO staff.

8. Any Other Business

Agreed: The Committee agreed to replace a previous piece of correspondence with a shortened version of correspondence received from Mr Dermot Nesbitt into the Committee's report on DSD Advanced Land Purchases.

Agreed: In response to a FOI request, the Committee agreed that a piece of correspondence received by the Committee from NIAO could be released.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting

Members were informed that the next meeting of the Committee would be at 2.00pm on Wednesday 14 October in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

6.32pm *The meeting adjourned.*

Ms Michaela Boyle (Chairperson)
Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee