

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 13 JANUARY 2016, ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

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

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

Apologies: No Apologies

2.04pm The meeting began in open session.

1. Apologies

No Apologies were received.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 2 December and 9 December 2015

Agreed: The minutes of the meetings of 2 December and 9 December were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

There were no new matters arising.

4. Correspondence

Email correspondence received from David Hutchinson, former Head of Land and Property in the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, in relation to the Inquiry into The Governance of Land and Property in the Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Agreed: Members agreed to note the email correspondence dated 12 January 2016 and to consider it during the full briefing from the NIAO (Agenda Item 7).

5. Inquiry on DRD: The effectiveness of Public Transport in Northern Ireland – Memorandum of Reply

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the Memorandum of Reply on the report on DRD: The effectiveness of Public Transport in Northern Ireland and to write to the Department to request an update in 6 months' time on the implementation of the recommendations and to seek further clarification in relation to some aspects of the MOR.

6. Inquiry on Tackling Social Housing Tenancy Fraud in Northern Ireland – Memorandum of Reply update

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the update on the Memorandum of Reply on the report on Tackling Social Housing Tenancy Fraud in Northern Ireland.

7. Inquiry into The Governance of Land and Property in the Northern Ireland Housing Executive – Introduction to Briefing

The Committee received an introduction to the briefing on The Governance of Land and Property in the Northern Ireland Housing Executive from the C&AG and his team.

2.18pm Mr Clarke left the meeting.

2.19pm Mr Clarke re-joined the meeting.

2.24pm The meeting moved into closed session.

The Committee received a full briefing from the NIAO team on The Governance of Land and Property in the Northern Ireland Housing Executive

2.45pm Ms Hanna joined the meeting.

2.55pm Mr Poots joined the meeting.

2.56pm Mr Wells left the meeting.

2.58pm Mr Wells re-joined the meeting.

3.04pm Mr Flanagan left the meeting.

3.12pm Ms Hanna left the meeting.

3.14pm Ms Hanna re-joined the meeting.

3.17pm Mr Dallat left the meeting.

3.22pm Mr Flanagan re-joined the meeting.

3.22pm Mr Clarke left the meeting.

3.24pm Mr Dallat re-joined the meeting.

Email correspondence received from David Hutchinson in relation to the Inquiry into The Governance of Land and Property in the Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Agreed: Members agreed to write to Mr Hutchinson in order to clarify his concerns raised in his email dated 12 January 2016 and to ask him to provide clarification and further evidence in support of his concerns.

8. Inquiry into The Governance of Land and Property in the Northern Ireland Housing Executive – Preparation Session

The Committee agreed the sections of the inquiry that they wished to focus on during the evidence session.

9. Inquiry into the Northern Ireland Events Company

**Mr Hussey declared an interest as a close family friend of a person named during the inquiry.*

Correspondence received from Andrew McCormick, DETI Accounting Officer, dated 6 January 2016

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note and publish the received correspondence; on the inquiry website.

Agreed: The Committee also agreed to publish previous correspondences dated the 13 and 24 November 2015; on the inquiry website.

Correspondence received from PSNI regarding a request for further information

Agreed: The Committee also agreed to note the correspondence dated 4 December 2015 received from the PSNI.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Andrew McCormick, DETI Accounting Officer to request further information in relation to the PSNI investigation.

3.54pm Mr Wells left the meeting.

3.56pm Mr Flanagan left the meeting.

3.56pm Mr Wells re-joined the meeting.

Consideration of draft report

Agreed: The Committee concluded its final consideration of the draft report on the above inquiry.

Main Body of Report:

Paragraph 11 (amended)	Read and agreed
Paragraph 12 (amended)	Read and agreed
Recommendation 1 (new)	Read and agreed
Paragraph 13 (amended)	Read and agreed
Paragraph 18	Read and agreed
Recommendation 3 (amended)	Read and agreed
Paragraph 23	Read and agreed
Paragraph 24 (amended)	Read and amended
Paragraph 25 (amended)	Read and agreed
Paragraph 29 (amended)	Read and agreed
Paragraph 32 (amended)	Read and agreed
Paragraph 33 (amended)	Read and agreed
Paragraph 34	Read and agreed

Paragraph 35	Read and agreed
Recommendation 4 (new)	Read and agreed
Paragraph 36	Read and agreed
Paragraph 37 (amended)	Read and agreed
Paragraph 40 (amended)	Read and agreed
Paragraph 41 (amended)	Read and agreed
Paragraph 42 (amended)	Read and agreed
Paragraph 45 (amended)	Read and agreed
Paragraph 48 (new)	Read and agreed
Recommendation 7 (new)	Read and agreed
Paragraph 50 (amended)	Read and agreed
Paragraph 57 (amended)	Read and agreed
Paragraph 67 (amended)	Read
Paragraph 70 (amended)	Read
Paragraph 73 (new)	Read and agreed

10. Inquiry into the General Report on the Health and Social Care Sector 2012-13 and 2013-14 – Draft Press Release

**Mr Poots declared an interest in this matter as the former Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety*

4.07pm *Mr Poots left the meeting.*

4.13pm *Mr Poots re-joined the meeting.*

Agreed: The draft press release was amended and agreed. The Committee agreed that the amended press release be published.

11. NIAO Draft Corporate Plan 2016-17 and 2018-19

The Committee received a briefing from NIAO on their Draft Corporate Plan 2016-17 and 2018-19.

Agreed: Members agreed to write to the Audit Committee to advise that they are content with the Draft Corporate Plan.

Any Other Business

Correspondence received from a member of the public in regards to the Charity Commission NI: Investigation into the Disabled Police Officers' Association NI (DPOANI)

**Mr Hussey declared an interest in this matter as a member of DPOANI*

4.26pm *Mr Hussey left the meeting.*

Agreed: Members agreed to note the correspondence dated 12 December and 21 December 2015 from a member of the public in relation to allegations of misuse of monies by the Charity Commission NI.

The Audit Office agreed to update the Committee on this matter at a later date as appropriate.

Agreed: Members agreed to write back to the member of the public advising him that the Committee has requested the Audit Office to provide an update to the Committee at a later date.

Date, time and place of next meeting

Members were informed that the next meeting of the Committee would be at 2.00pm on Wednesday 20 January 2016 in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

4.32pm *The meeting adjourned.*

Ms Michaela Boyle (Chairperson)
Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee