

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2015
SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Mr John Dallat (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Roy Beggs
Mr Alex Easton
Mr Phil Flanagan
Mr Paul Girvan
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: Ms Michaela Boyle (Chairperson)
Mr Trevor Clarke
Mr Phil Flanagan

2.05pm The meeting began in closed session

1. Inquiry into the Department of Justice: Managing and Protecting Funds Held in Court – Preparation Session

The Committee conducted a Preparation Session for the Inquiry into the Department of Justice: Managing and Protecting Funds Held in Court.

2.10pm Mr Girvan joined the meeting

2. Apologies

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

3. Minutes of the Meeting of 24 February 2015

Agreed: The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

4. Correspondence

There were no new items of correspondence.

5. Matters Arising

There were no new matters arising.

6. Inquiry into Managing and Protecting Funds Held in Court – Evidence Session

2.15pm The meeting moved into open session.

The Committee took oral evidence on the above inquiry from:

- Mr Nick Perry, Accounting Officer, Department of Justice
- Mr David Lavery, Director of Access to Justice, Department of Justice
- Mr Ronnie Armour, Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service
- Mr Richard Ronaldson, Deputy Accountant General, Courts Funds Office, Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service

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

2.46pm Mr Easton left the meeting

2.56pm Mr Easton re-joined the meeting

3.00pm Mr McQuillan left the meeting

3.25pm Mr McQuillan re-joined the meeting

3.29pm Mr Rogers left the meeting

3.36pm Mr Rogers re-joined the meeting

3.48pm Mr Girvan left the meeting

4.15pm The meeting moved into closed session

4.18pm Mr Girvan re-joined the meeting

7. Any Other Business

There was no other business

8. Date, time and place of next meeting

Members were advised that the Committee will next meet on Wednesday 4th March 2015 at 2.00pm in Room 115, Parliament Buildings. This meeting will be an informal joint Briefing Session with the PAC from the Oireachtas on the Inquiry into the Cross-Border Broadband Initiative: the Bytel Project. The Committees will be briefed by the Comptroller and Auditor Generals North and South.

4.21pm The meeting was adjourned.

Ms Michaela Boyle

Deputy Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee