

**Audit Committee**

**Report on  
the Estimate of the  
Northern Ireland Audit Office  
2013-14**

**Together with the Minutes of Proceedings of the Committee and  
other Evidence Considered by the Committee Relating to the Report**

**Ordered by the Audit Committee to be printed on 19 February 2013  
Report: NIA 93/11-15 Audit Committee**



# Committee Powers and Membership

1. The Audit Committee is a Standing Committee of the Northern Ireland Assembly established in accordance with paragraph 10 of Strand One of the Belfast Agreement and under Assembly Standing Order No. 58. The Committee has 5 members including a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson and a quorum of 2.
2. The Committee:
  - Exercises the functions mentioned in Section 66(1) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. The Committee therefore agrees, in place of the Department of Finance and Personnel, the estimates of the Northern Ireland Audit Office and lays them before the Assembly; and
  - Is responsible for tabling any motion for a resolution of the Assembly relating to the salary payable under Article 4(1) of the Audit (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 to the holder of the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General.
3. The Chairperson of the Audit Committee also has a lead role in the recruitment of the C & AG (NI).
4. The membership of the Committee is as follows:

Mr Danny Kinahan (Chairperson)  
Mr David Hilditch (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Dominic Bradley<sup>1</sup>  
Ms Anna Lo  
Ms Michaela Boyle<sup>2</sup>

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1 Mr Dominic Bradley replaced Miss Margaret Ritchie with effect from 23rd April 2012  
2 Ms Michaela Boyle replaced Mr Paul Maskey with effect from 17th September 2012

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# Report on the NIAO Estimate 2013-14

## Introduction

1. Article 6(2) of the Audit (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 provides for the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) to prepare for each financial year an estimate of the use of resources by the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO).
2. Further to Section 66 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, and to Standing Order 58 (1), it is for the Assembly's Audit Committee (in place of the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP)) to lay that estimate before the Assembly. The Committee may agree modifications to the estimate with the C&AG before it is laid before the Assembly.
3. There is an important constitutional principle underpinning the statutory provision for agreeing the estimate of the NIAO. When the Northern Ireland Act 1998 transferred the power to agree the NIAO's estimate with the C&AG from DFP to a committee of the Assembly, it addressed a longstanding fundamental principle of public audit which has since been expressed by the UN General Assembly:

*Supreme audit institutions can accomplish their tasks objectively and effectively only if they are independent of the audited entity and protected against outside influence<sup>1</sup>.*

4. The Mexico Declaration on Supreme Audit Institution Independence<sup>2</sup>, made by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI), addressed the issue of independence in much greater detail. Principle 8 of that declaration underlined the importance of a supreme audit institution's financial independence from the Executive:

*Supreme audit institutions should have available necessary and reasonable human, material and monetary resources – the Executive should not control or direct access to these resources.*

5. The C&AG is responsible for:
  - authorising the issue of money from the Northern Ireland Consolidated Fund to enable Northern Ireland departments to meet their necessary expenditure, and ensuring that there are adequate arrangements for the collection of revenue; and
  - the external audit of central government bodies in Northern Ireland, including Northern Ireland departments and their executive agencies and a wide range of other public sector bodies, including executive non-departmental public bodies and health and personal social service bodies.
6. The C&AG undertakes financial audit and value for money audit and the results of this work are reported to the Northern Ireland Assembly. The NIAO supports the C&AG in fulfilling these responsibilities. The C&AG and the NIAO must therefore be wholly independent of the Executive in order to ensure that the Assembly is provided with an effective and truly independent audit assurance in relation to the use of public funds. It would compromise the NIAO's independence if the Executive was to control or direct its access to resources.

### **Annual process for agreeing the estimate**

7. Each year the C&AG prepares an estimate of the use of resources by the NIAO for the next financial year. The Audit Committee considers this estimate and, subject to any modifications agreed between it and the C&AG, lays the estimate before the Assembly. In carrying out

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1 Resolution A/66/209 adopted on 22 December 2011 by the 66th United Nations General Assembly.

2 INTOSAI (2009) 'Lima declaration and Mexico declaration' available online at: <http://www.intosai.org/uploads/englisch.pdf> (accessed 19 February 2013) (see page I-27).

this function the Committee has regard to the advice of the Assembly's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and DFP

8. In advance of considering the annual estimate, the Audit Committee meets to consider a draft corporate plan for the NIAO. The draft plan is prepared by the C&AG and it sets out the NIAO's key strategic aims for the next three year period; how the NIAO propose to deliver these aims; the resources that are required by the NIAO to do so; and their key performance measures.
9. The draft corporate plan is an important document for the Audit Committee as it provides the necessary background and context to enable the estimate to be agreed subsequently. Given the significance of the corporate plan, the Audit Committee also seeks the views of both the PAC and DFP in relation to it.

### **Current Financial Context**

10. During 2010-11, prior to the Audit Committee's consideration of either the draft corporate plan or the annual estimate for the following year, it was apparent that the level of expenditure available to fund public services in Northern Ireland over the four year budget period would be reduced. The Audit Committee noted the significant reduction in the level of funding available from within the Northern Ireland Executive's Departmental Expenditure Limit over the budget period and concluded that it was important that the NIAO should make a significant contribution to reducing its own expenditure over this period. It was the Committee's view that this was important not only to reduce costs to the public purse, but also to demonstrate that the NIAO was willing and ready to bear its fair share of the savings that need to be made.
11. The Committee also agreed, however, that while it was important that the maximum level of practicable savings should be made it was just as important to ensure that the NIAO had the resources necessary in order to carry out its role effectively. In fact, the role of the NIAO is even more important in the current financial climate. The Audit Committee therefore confirmed that it would not agree a reduction in the funding for the NIAO that would prevent it from fully carrying out its crucial role.
12. The Audit Committee met on 9 December 2010 and received a presentation from the C&AG on the issue of efficiency savings that could be made by the NIAO over the budget period. This presentation set out how the NIAO intended to build on efficiencies already made by, inter alia, reducing significantly its outsourcing requirements, reducing recruitment and implementing a two year pay freeze.
13. The Committee considered carefully the proposed savings that the C&AG outlined. The Committee also gave consideration to the overall reduction to the Northern Ireland Executive's Departmental Expenditure Limit and to the planned reductions to the budgets of other audit bodies in the UK. Having considered all of this, the Audit Committee agreed that it would expect to see the NIAO reduce its requirement by at least 10% in cash terms by 2014-15 from its 2010-11 net resource requirement of £9,397,000.
14. The Audit Committee subsequently agreed an annual estimate for the use resources by the NIAO during 2011-12 which represented a decrease in cash terms of 9% from the estimate the previous year. The Committee then agreed for 2012-13 a reduction of 1.5% in the net resource requirement from the 2011-12 provision.

### **The estimate for 2013-14**

15. The C&AG prepared a draft corporate plan for the period 2013-14 to 2015-16 and presented this plan to the Audit Committee at its meeting on 4 December 2012. The plan set out the NIAO's key strategic aims along with the activities and associated targets that will be used to measure performance.



16. The plan also set out the resources that would be required by the NIAO over this period and how those resources would be used. These details are set out in the tables below:

**Proposed Resource Requirement:**

	Plan Period					
	2010-11 Main Estimate* £'000	2011-12 Main Estimate £'000	2012-13 Main Estimate £'000	2013-14 Forecast £'000	2014-15 Forecast £'000	2015-16 Forecast £'000
Net Resource Requirement	9,397	8,542	8,414	8,327	8,248	8,654
Increase/ (Decrease) in cash terms		-9.1	-1.5%	-1.0%	-0.9%	4.9%
GDP deflator		-2.34	-2.7	-2.5	-2.5	-2.5
Increase/ (Decrease) in real terms		-11.2	-4.1	-3.4	-3.4	2.4

\* This amount is based on the NIAO's 2010-11 Main Estimate (that is, before the 2010-11 Spring Supplementary Estimate). In order to aid comparability the figure has been amended to include £388,000 of budget which was transferred from the National Audit Office in respect of the financial audit of policing and justice bodies, effective from 2011-12.

**Proposed Use of Resources:**

	2012-13 Estimate £'000	2013-14 Forecast £'000	2014-15 Forecast £'000	2015-16 Forecast £,000
Staff	7,525	7,511	7,584	7,736
Staff (temporary)	97	90	90	90
Consultancy	60	45	45	45
Contracted out audit	1,377	1,317	1,272	1,272
General expenditure	1,814	1,484	1,695	1,569
<b>Gross resource requirement</b>	<b>10,873</b>	<b>10,477</b>	<b>10,686</b>	<b>10,712</b>
Income	(2,459)	(2,120)	(2,483)	(2,058)
<b>Net resource requirement</b>	<b>8,414</b>	<b>8,327</b>	<b>8,248</b>	<b>8,654</b>

17. The Audit Committee considered the draft corporate plan and questioned the C&AG and NIAO staff on it. The Committee was satisfied that the draft plan provided for the NIAO to continue to hold the public sector to account for its spending through its core activities of the financial audit of central and local government bodies and the provision of value for money reports for the consideration of the Assembly.
18. The Committee also considered the proposed resource requirement in the draft plan and was satisfied that the reduced net resource requirement of 1% in 2013-14 and a further 0.9% in 2014-15, on top of the other efficiencies already made by the NIAO since 2011-12, was consistent with the overall direction it had given in December 2010. The Committee noted that the NIAO's net resource requirement for 2013-14 in the draft plan represented a cash terms reduction of 11.39% from its 2010-11 net resource requirement of £9,397,000.

19. The Committee sought reassurance from the C&AG that the proposed savings represented the maximum reduction that could be made by the NIAO whilst still maintaining the same quality and breadth of service to the Assembly that has been offered in recent years.
20. Having received this reassurance, the Committee agreed that it was content with the draft corporate plan. The agreed plan is being published separately by the NIAO, with a foreword from the Chairperson of the Audit Committee endorsing the plan on behalf of the Committee.
21. Further to the corporate plan being agreed, the C&AG has prepared his estimate of the use of resources by the NIAO for 2013-14. The estimate is attached at **Annex A** and is consistent with the figures set out in the agreed corporate plan. The 2013-14 estimate therefore provides for a decrease in the net resource requirement of 1% in cash terms from the estimate for 2012-13 (£8.327 million compared to £8.414 million).
22. The estimate provides for expenditure by the NIAO “on providing objective information, advice and assurance on the use of public funds; encouraging beneficial change in the provision of public services, the highest standards in financial management and reporting and propriety in the conduct of public business; and conducting data matching exercises for the purpose of assisting in the prevention and detection of fraud.” This covers the full scope of the work set out in the NIAO’s Corporate Plan.
23. As usual, advice was sought from both the PAC and DFP on the estimate. Their responses are included at **Appendix 1**. PAC informed the Committee in its advice that it was content with the estimate. DFP noted in its advice that:

*“...a difference remains between the Estimate position and that of the Budget, which can be addressed during the in-year monitoring process.”*
24. The Audit Committee met on 18th February 2013 when it considered the estimate prepared by the C&AG, the advice of the PAC and the advice of DFP. The Committee noted that the estimate produced by the C&AG was consistent with the figures set out in the NIAO’s corporate plan. After having questioned the C&AG and NIAO staff about the estimate, and after having had regard to the advice of both the PAC and DFP, the Committee agreed the estimate at **Annex A** without modification.
25. The publication of this report gives effect to the Committee’s function of laying the estimate before the Assembly. The Audit Committee will forward the estimate to DFP so that it can be included with the main estimates, together with the budget no 2 bill, which is generally introduced to the Assembly before the summer recess.



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

Annex A

# Northern Ireland Audit Office Estimate 2013-14



# Northern Ireland Audit Office - Estimate for 2013-14

## Memorandum

1. Responsibility for the agreement of the Northern Ireland Audit Office's Estimate lies with the Audit Committee of the Northern Ireland Assembly. Under the Northern Ireland Act 1998 before considering the Office's estimate the Audit Committee must have regard to the advice of the Public Accounts Committee and the Department of Finance and Personnel.
2. The proposed Estimate, which has been prepared in accordance with current DFP guidance, is attached.
3. The key figures in the estimate are unchanged from those in the Corporate Plan 2013-14 to 2015-16 that was considered by the Public Accounts Committee on 21 November 2012 and by the Audit Committee on 4 December 2012.
4. The key figures in the estimate for 2013-14 are;
  - The net resource requirement of **£8,327,000**;
  - A proposed capital expenditure figure of **£290,000**;
  - A net cash requirement of **£8,576,000** which is a projection of the cash we need in 2013-14. This figure is based on the two figures above but adjusted to remove any non-cash movements.

# Introduction

This Estimate provides for expenditure by the Northern Ireland Audit Office on providing objective information, advice and assurance on the use of public funds; encouraging beneficial change in the provision of public services, the highest standards in financial management and reporting and propriety in the conduct of public business; and conducting data matching exercises for the purpose of assisting in the prevention and detection of fraud.

## Part I

		£
<b>RfR A:</b>	<b>Providing objective information, advice and assurance on the use of public funds; encouraging beneficial change in the provision of public services, the highest standards in financial management and reporting and propriety in the conduct of public business; and conducting data matching exercises for the purpose of assisting in the prevention and detection of fraud.</b>	<b>8,327,000</b>
<b>Net Cash Requirement</b>		<b>8,576,000</b>

**Amounts required in the year ending 31 March 2014 for use by the Northern Ireland Audit Office on:**

**RfR A: Providing objective information, advice and assurance on the use of public funds; encouraging beneficial change in the provision of public services, the highest standards in financial management and reporting and propriety in the conduct of public business; and conducting data matching exercises for the purpose of assisting in the prevention and detection of fraud:**

- providing objective information, advice and assurance on the use of public funds; encouraging beneficial change in the provision of public services, the highest standards in financial management and reporting and propriety in the conduct of public business; conducting data matching exercises for the purpose of assisting in the prevention and detection of fraud; administration; related services; and associated non-cash items.

The **Comptroller and Auditor General for Northern Ireland** will account for this Estimate.

	Net Total	Allocated in Vote on Account	Balance to Complete £
RfR A:	8,327,000	3,786,000	4,541,000
Net Cash Requirement	8,576,000	3,704,000	4,872,000

Part II Subhead Detail		2013-14										2011-12 Outturn
		Resources					Capital					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Admin	Other Current	Grants	Gross Total	Accruing Resources	Net Total	Capital	Non -operating Accruing Resources	Net Total Resources	Net Total Resources		
<b>RfR A:</b>												
	-	10,497	-	10,497	2,170	8,327	290		8,414	8,131		
Departmental Expenditure in DEL:												
A-1: Administration	-	10,487	-	10,487	2,170	8,317	290		8,239	8,131		
Annual Managed Expenditure (AME):												
A-2: Administration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		165	-		
Non-Budget:												
A-3: Notional Charges	-	10	-	10	-	10	-		10	-		
<b>Total:</b>	-	10,497	-	10,497	2,170	8,327	290		8,414	8,131		

£'000

**Resource to Cash Reconciliation**

	<b>£'000</b>		
	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2011-12</b>
	<b>Provision</b>	<b>Provision</b>	<b>Outturn</b>
<b>Net Total Resources</b>	<b>8,327</b>	<b>8,414</b>	<b>8,131</b>
<b>Capital Items</b>			
Capital	290	115	240
<b>Total net capital</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>240</b>
<b>Accruals to cash adjustments</b>			
Depreciation	-338	-395	-380
New provisions and adjustments to previous provisions	-	-165	-
Notional charges	-10	-10	-
Other non-cash items	-	-	-
Movement in working capital	250	250	-359
Use of provisions	57	22	45
<b>Total accruals to cash adjustments</b>	<b>-41</b>	<b>-298</b>	<b>-694</b>
<b>Net Cash Required</b>	<b>8,576</b>	<b>8,231</b>	<b>7,677</b>



**Part III Extra Receipts payable to the Consolidated Fund**

In addition to Accruing Resources, the following income and receipts relate to this Office and are payable to the Consolidated Fund (cash receipts being shown in italics):

	<b>£'000</b>					
	<b>2013-14</b>		<b>2012-13</b>		<b>2011-12</b>	
	<b>Provision</b>		<b>Provision</b>		<b>Outturn</b>	
	<b>Income</b>	<b><i>Receipts</i></b>	<b>Income</b>	<b><i>Receipts</i></b>	<b>Income</b>	<b><i>Receipts</i></b>
Excess operating accruing resources	-	-	-	-	<b>383</b>	-
Operating income not classified as ARs	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Non operating income not classified as ARs	-	-	-	-	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Total:</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>394</b>	<b>11</b>

**Forecast Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure  
For the year ending 31 March 2014**

	£'000		
	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12
	Provision	Provision	Outturn
<b>Net Administration Costs</b>			
Request for Resources A	8,520	8,607	7,939
<b>Total Net Administration Costs</b>	<b>8,520</b>	<b>8,607</b>	<b>7,939</b>
<b>NET OPERATING COST</b>	<b>8,520</b>	<b>8,607</b>	<b>7,939</b>
<b>NET RESOURCE REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>8,327</b>	<b>8,414</b>	<b>8,131</b>
<b>RESOURCE BUDGET</b>	<b>8,510</b>	<b>8,597</b>	<b>7,940</b>

**Reconciliation of resource expenditure between Estimates, Accounts and Budgets  
For the year ending 31 March 2014**

	<b>£'000</b>		
	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2011-12</b>
	<b>Provision</b>	<b>Provision</b>	<b>Outturn</b>
<b>Net Resource Requirement (Estimates)</b>	<b>8,327</b>	<b>8,414</b>	<b>8,131</b>
<i>Adjustments:</i>			
Consolidated Fund Standing Services	193	193	192
Consolidated Fund Extra Receipts (CFERs) in the FSCNE	-	-	-384
<b>Net Operating Cost (Accounts)</b>	<b>8,520</b>	<b>8,607</b>	<b>7,939</b>
<i>Adjustments to remove:</i>			
Voted resource expenditure outside the budget	-10	-10	-
Consolidated Fund Extra Receipts (CFERs) in the FSCNE	-	-	1
<b>Resource Budget</b>	<b>8,510</b>	<b>8,597</b>	<b>7,940</b>
<i>Of which:</i>			
Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL)	8,567	8,454	7,985
Annually Managed Expenditure (AME)	-57	143	-45

**Reconciliation of capital expenditure between Estimates, Accounts and Budgets  
For the year ending 31 March 2014**

	£'000		
	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12
	Provision	Provision	Outturn
<b>Net Capital (Estimates)</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>240</b>
<b>Capital Budget</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>240</b>
<i>Of which:</i>			
Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL)	290	115	240
Annually Managed Expenditure (AME)	-	-	-

### Accruing Resources Analysis

Detail		£'000					
		2013-14 Provision		2012-13 Provision		2011-12 Outturn	
		Operating ARs	Non - operating ARs	Operating ARs	Non - operating ARs	Operating ARs	Non - operating ARs
<b>RfR A:</b>	<b>Providing objective information, advice and assurance on the use of public funds; encouraging beneficial change in the provision of public services, the highest standards in financial management and reporting and propriety in the conduct of public business; and conducting data matching exercises for the purpose of assisting in the prevention and detection of fraud.</b>						
	Administration	2,170	-	2,459	-	2,080	-
<b>Total for RfR A:</b>	*	<b>2,170</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,459</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,080</b>	<b>-</b>

\* Amount that may be applied as accruing resources in addition to the net total, arising from receipts from bodies in respect of audit services tendered and income from the National Audit Office in respect of work carried out on behalf of their Comptroller and Auditor General; fees received in respect of data matching exercises; income in respect of the recovery of salary etc. costs for seconded-out staff.



### Notional Charges Analysis

	<b>£'000</b>		
	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2011-12</b>
	<b>Provision</b>	<b>Provision</b>	<b>Outturn</b>
<b>RfR A:</b>	<b>Providing objective information, advice and assurance on the use of public funds; encouraging beneficial change in the provision of public services, the highest standards in financial management and reporting and propriety in the conduct of public business; and conducting data matching exercises for the purpose of assisting in the prevention and detection of fraud.</b>		
Departmental Solicitors Office	9	9	-
Land and Property Services	1	1	-
<b>Total RfR A:</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Notional Charges</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-</b>

**Consolidated Fund Extra Receipts (CFERs) Analysis****Detail**

In addition to Accruing Resources the following income and receipts relate to the NIAO and are payable to the Consolidated Fund (cash receipts being shown in italics):

	<b>£'000</b>					
	<b>2013-14 Provision</b>		<b>2012-13 Provision</b>		<b>2011-12 Outturn</b>	
	<b>Income</b>	<b><i>Receipts</i></b>	<b>Income</b>	<b><i>Receipts</i></b>	<b>Income</b>	<b><i>Receipts</i></b>
Excess operating accruing resources	-	-	-	-	<b>383</b>	-
Operating income not classified as ARs	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Non operating income not classified as ARs	-	-	-	-	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Total:</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>394</b>	<b>11</b>



### **Explanation of Accounting Officer Responsibilities**

The Department of Finance and Personnel has appointed the Comptroller and Auditor General for Northern Ireland, Mr Kieran Donnelly, as Accounting Officer for the Northern Ireland Audit Office with responsibility for preparing the Office's Estimate.

The responsibilities of an Accounting Officer, including responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which an Accounting Officer is answerable, for keeping proper records and for safeguarding the NIAO's assets, are set out in Managing Public Money Northern Ireland.

### **Notes to the Estimate:**

1. The provision sought for 2013-14 is 1% lower than the final net provision for 2012-13.





Northern Ireland  
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Appendix 1

# Other Evidence Considered by the Committee



# Letter from the Department of Finance and Personnel



Central Finance Group Supply  
Rathgael House,  
Balloo Road  
Bangor, BT19 7NA

14 February 2013

Hilary Bogle  
Committee on Standards and Privileges  
Parliament Buildings,  
Stormont,  
Belfast BT4 3XX

Re: NIAO: ESTIMATE 2013-14

Dear Hilary

Thank-you for your correspondence of 21 January 2013 in which you seek the views of DFP regarding the NIAO Main Estimate for 2013-14. I understand that the Estimate is to be considered by the Audit Committee on 19 February. As you will be aware under the Northern Ireland Act, the Audit Committee must, when considering the approval of this Estimate, have regard to the advice of DFP. I have therefore set out some comments below.

The NIAO estimate details the net resource requirement as £8,327,000, with Accruing Resources of £2,170,000 and capital expenditure of £290,000, the balance to complete therefore is £4,541,000. I have compared these figures to the 2013-14 budgetary position agreed by the Executive. In doing so it is evident that the Audit Office intends to spend £90,000 less on capital investment, £12,000 less on depreciation and collect an additional £6,000 in receipts. I also note that the planned resource spend outlined in the Estimate is £163,000 higher than that agreed by the Executive. Following the Executive's decision to reduce the Audit Office's budget by £167,000, the proposed Main Estimate is basically looking for some £55,000 to be re-instated.

From the information provided, I am content that the Audit Office has considered the views of the DFP Minister regarding the level of under-spend and in response has reviewed spending proposals, finding the additional savings identified above. Going forward a difference remains between the Estimate position and that of the Budget, which can be addressed during the in-year monitoring process.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Fleming

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# Letter from the Public Accounts Committee

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From: Aoibhinn Treanor  
Clerk to the Public Accounts Committee

To: Paul Gill  
Clerk to the Audit Committee

Date: 7 February 2013

**Subject: PAC consideration of NIAO Estimate 2013-2014**

At its meeting on Wednesday, the Public Accounts Committee considered the NIAO Estimate for 2013-2014.

The Committee discussed notional and hard charging for DSO and DFP services, and noted capital expenditure aimed at two major data automation projects. The C&AG undertook to clarify the forecasted outturn for capital expenditure for 2012-13, which I will forward to you once it has been received.

The Committee was however content with the proposed estimate and agreed to refer the item to Audit Committee for its formal consideration and approval.

With kind regards,

Aoibhinn Treanor  
Committee Clerk



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

Appendix 2

# Minutes of Proceedings





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## Tuesday, 4th December 2012

### Room 21, Parliament Buildings

**Present:** Mr Danny Kinahan (Chairperson)  
Mr David Hilditch (Deputy Chairperson in the Chair)  
Ms Michaela Boyle  
Mr Dominic Bradley  
Ms Anna Lo

**In Attendance:** Mr Paul Gill (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Colin Pidgeon (Assembly Research Officer)  
Ms Hilary Bogle (Assistant Clerk)  
Mr Christopher McNickle (Clerical Officer)

**3.01pm** The meeting commenced in open session.

**5. Consideration of the draft Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) Corporate Plan 2013-2014 to 2015-2016**

Members noted the Clerk's paper; the draft NIAO Corporate Plan 2013-2014 to 2015-2016; advice from the Public Accounts Committee; and advice from the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP).

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Kieran Donnelly, Comptroller and Auditor General; Ms Janet Sides, Assistant Auditor General; and Mr Joe Campbell, Audit Manager. The Chairperson invited Mr Donnelly to brief the Committee on the draft NIAO Corporate Plan.

**3.18pm** Mr Hilditch joined the meeting

Following a question and answer session the Chairperson thanked Mr Donnelly and his colleagues and invited them to remain at the table for the next item of business.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed that it was content to approve the draft Corporate Plan for 2013-2014 to 2015-2016.

**[EXTRACT]**

## Tuesday, 19th February 2013

### Room 29, Parliament Buildings

**Present:** Mr Danny Kinahan (Chairperson)  
Mr David Hilditch (Deputy Chairperson)  
Ms Michaela Boyle  
Mr Dominic Bradley  
Ms Anna Lo

**In Attendance:** Mr Paul Gill (Assembly Clerk)  
Ms Hilary Bogle (Assistant Clerk)  
Mr Jonathan Watson (Clerical Supervisor)

**Apologies:** None

**3.04pm** The meeting commenced in open session.

#### 5. NIAO Estimate for 2013-2014

Members noted the draft NIAO Estimate for 2013-2014 and correspondence from the Department of Finance and Personnel and the Public Accounts Committee.

**3.08pm** Mr Hilditch joined the meeting

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Kieran Donnelly, Comptroller and Auditor General; Ms Janet Sides, Assistant Auditor General; Mr Andrew Allen, Audit Manager; and Mr Joe Campbell, Audit Manager. The Chairperson invited Mr Donnelly to brief the Committee on the NIAO Estimate for 2013-14.

Following discussion the Chairperson thanked Mr Donnelly and his colleagues for attending the meeting.

**3.20pm** Ms Boyle left the meeting

**3.20pm** The Committee moved into closed session.

**3.25pm** Ms Boyle returned to the meeting

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the NIAO Estimates for 2013-2014.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft Committee Report on the NIAO Estimates for 2013-2014 (as amended).

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Committee Powers and Membership and Table of Contents should form part of the Report.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that Appendix 1 'Other Evidence considered by the Committee' should form part of the Report.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that Appendix 2 'Minutes of Proceedings relating to the Report' should form part of the Report.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the tabled extract of today's Minutes of Proceedings should be included in Appendix 1 of the report.

*Agreed:* The Committee ordered the Report on the Estimates of the Northern Ireland Audit Office 2013-14 to be printed.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Clerk should write to the Department of Finance and Personnel advising them of the Committee's decision.

**[EXTRACT]**





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Belfast: The Stationery Office

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Printed in Northern Ireland by The Stationery Office Limited  
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ISBN 978-0-339-60464-3



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