



## **COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND PRIVILEGES**

**WEDNESDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015,**

**ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Ms Anna Lo (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Steven Agnew  
Mr Cathal Boylan  
Mr Sammy Douglas  
Mr David Hilditch  
Mr Robin Newton  
Mrs Sandra Overend

In Attendance: Mr Paul Gill (Assembly Clerk)  
Mrs Hilary Cleland Bogle (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Jonathan Kerr (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Jimmy Spratt (Chairperson)  
Colum Eastwood

### **Chairperson's Introduction**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the meeting should be held in closed session.

*The meeting commenced at 1.10pm in closed session.*

The Chairperson welcomed Committee members to the meeting.

### **1. Apologies**

As above.

## **2. Declaration of Interests**

The Chairperson reminded Members of their obligation to declare any relevant financial or other interests before and during each Committee meeting.

## **3. Draft minutes**

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015 were agreed by the Committee.

## **4. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

## **5. Annual Report of the Assembly Commissioner for Standards**

Members noted the Clerk's Paper; and the Annual Report of the Assembly Commissioner for Standards 2013-2014.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Douglas Bain, Assembly Commissioner for Standards and invited him to brief the Committee on his Annual Report.

*1.16pm Mrs Overend left the meeting.*

*1.18pm Mr Agnew joined the meeting.*

*1.28pm Mrs Overend returned to the meeting.*

Following discussion the Chairperson thanked Mr Bain for attending the meeting.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Commissioner's final annual report should be published on the Committee's webpage, after it has been laid before the Assembly.

## **6. Report from the Assembly Commissioner for Standards on a complaint against a Member**

Members noted the Clerk's Paper; the Report from the Assembly Commissioner for Standards; and the Legal Advice.

The Chairperson welcomed Ms Kiera McDonald, Legal Adviser and invited her to brief the Committee on the Legal Advice.

*2.01pm Mr Douglas left the meeting.*

*2.07pm Mr Douglas returned to the meeting.*

Following discussion the Chairperson thanked Ms McDonald for attending the meeting.

The Committee discussed the timing of the decision that it needed to take.

Ms Lo proposed that the Committee should take its decision at today's meeting.

The Committee divided:

<b>Ayes</b>	<b>Noes</b>	<b>Abstentions</b>
Ms Anna Lo	Mr Cathal Boylan	None
Mr Steven Agnew	Mr Sammy Douglas	
Mrs Sandra Overend	Mr David Hilditch	
	Mr Robin Newton	

The proposal fell.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to give further consideration to this issue at its next meeting.

*2.20pm Mr Newton left the meeting.*

## **7. Review of the Code of Conduct – outstanding issues**

Members noted the Clerk's Paper; the amended draft Code of Conduct and Guide to the Rules relating to the Code of Conduct; and the Legal Advice on the amended draft Code of Conduct and Guide to the Rules.

The Clerk briefed the Committee on the outstanding issues for consideration.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the draft Guide should be updated to take account of a number of issues set out in the legal advice.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it would not recommend in its report the introduction of legislation to place restrictions on Members in post-public employment in lobbying.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to give further consideration to a potential new amendment that would lift the restrictions imposed by Rule 8 in circumstances where a benefit is repaid in such a way as to mean it would no longer be a registrable interest.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to extend the deadline for parties to consider the draft Guide to the Rules and some outstanding issues to Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it should seek to agree the final version of the Code and Guide at the next meeting of the Committee; and that the Clerk should begin preparing a draft report on the Review of the Code based on the latest draft.

*2.29pm Mr Hilditch left the meeting.*

## **8. Correspondence**

Members noted two items of correspondence from the Independent Financial Review Panel; and correspondence dated 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015 from the Carnegie UK Trust.

## **9. Any other business**

The Committee noted details of an event planned by Transparency International.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Chairperson should be asked whether he wishes to speak at this event and, if he is not available, that another member would speak at it on the Committee's behalf.

The Committee considered an application for an All-Party Group on Sport and Physical Recreation

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to the formation of an All-Party Group on Sport and Physical Recreation.

## **10. Time, date and place of next meeting**

Members noted that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015, room and time to be confirmed.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 2.39pm.*

**Mr Jimmy Spratt MLA**  
**Chairperson, Committee on Standards and Privileges**

20<sup>th</sup> May 2015