



COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND PRIVILEGES

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY, 08 NOVEMBER 2016
ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Cathal Boylan MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Adrian McQuillan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Doug Beattie MC MLA
Ms Joanne Bunting MLA
Ms Paula Bradshaw MLA
Mr Gerry Carroll MLA
Ms Linda Dillon MLA
Mr Sammy Douglas MLA
Mrs Emma Little Pengelly MLA
Mr Sean Lynch MLA
Mr Richie McPhillips MLA

In Attendance: Mr Shane McAteer (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Keith McBride (Senior Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mrs Clairita Frazer (Assistant Clerk)
Ms Alison Ferguson (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: None.

The meeting commenced at 1.13pm in public session.

1. Apologies

As detailed above.

2. Declaration of Members' Interests

Members noted that they are obliged to declare any relevant financial or other interests before and during each Committee meeting.

Joanne Bunting MLA, Paula Bradshaw MLA, Gerry Carroll MLA, and Sammy Douglas MLA declared an interest as either an officer or member of the proposed All-Party Groups (APGs) to be discussed under agenda item 5.

Agreed: to defer consideration of the scheduled agenda items 3 (Draft minutes of 5th October 2016), 4 (Matters Arising), 7 (Commissioner for Standards: Recruitment Timetable), 8 (Correspondence) and 9 (AOB) until the Committee's scheduled meeting on Wednesday 23 November 2016.

5. All Party Groups

The Committee noted that applications for two new APGs had been submitted to the Committee for approval; one on Hospitality & Tourism and one on Students.

Agreed: that the Committee is content to approve the application for an APG on Hospitality and Tourism.

Agreed: that the Committee is content to approve the application for an APG on Students.

6. Referral to the Commissioner for Standards: Terms of Reference

Members noted that, arising from the Committee's decision to make a referral to the Commissioner for Standards to investigate the conduct of all members of the Finance and Personnel Committee during that Committee's Review of the sale of the NAMA property loan portfolio in Northern Ireland, a draft terms of reference for the referral had been prepared for consideration.

Agreed: to also defer consideration of the draft terms of reference until the Committee's scheduled meeting on Wednesday 23 November 2016.

Emma Little Pengelly MLA and Adrian McQuillan MLA requested that, for future meetings, papers referring to this issue be removed from their packs to ensure that there is no possible conflict of interest, given their membership of the Finance and Personnel Committee during that Committee's Review of the sale of the NAMA property loan portfolio in Northern Ireland.

The Committee noted that Emma Little Pengelly MLA would be taking further advice on how the Committee's wide discretion to refer Members for investigation balances with fairness.

5. Time, date and place of next meeting

Members noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be on Wednesday 23rd November 2016 at 10.30am in Room 21.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1.16pm

Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Chairperson, Committee on Standards and Privileges

23 November 2016