



## **COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND PRIVILEGES**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**WEDNESDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2016  
ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Cathal Boylan MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Adrian McQuillan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
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)  
Mrs Clairita Frazer (Assistant Clerk)  
Ms Alison Ferguson (Clerical Officer)

*The meeting commenced at 10.31am in public session.*

*Members noted that agenda items 5, 6, and 7 would be held in closed session in line with normal protocol.*

#### **1. Apologies**

None.

#### **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.

*Adrian McQuillan declared an interest as a member of the Committee for Finance and Personnel during that Committee's Review of the sale of the National Asset Management Agency (NAMA) property loan portfolio in Northern Ireland.*

*Emma Little Pengelly declared an interest as a member of the Committee for Finance and Personnel during that Committee's Review of the sale of the National Asset Management Agency (NAMA) property loan portfolio in Northern Ireland and as Chairperson of the current Finance Committee.*

*Emma Little Pengelly and Adrian McQuillan indicated that they would not participate in the Committee proceedings in relation to agenda item 5.*

### **3. Draft minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016.**

The draft minutes of the meetings held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016 were agreed.

### **4. Matters Arising**

Members noted that the Committee's continued considerations around the handling of complaints arising from investigations by the Commissioner will be covered under agenda item 6, as one of a range of topics for discussion during the Committee visit to Wales and Westminster.

*The Committee moved into closed session at 10.32am in line with established procedure.*

### **5. Referral to the Commissioner for Standards: Motion to rescind previous Committee decision and Terms of Reference based on previous decision.**

Members noted the Committee's previous position in relation to the 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.

*Paula Bradshaw joined the meeting at 10.39am*

Sammy Douglas proposed the following motion, of which members had received prior notice:

***'That the Committee rescinds the previous decision taken on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016 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.'***

Sean Lynch proposed that the motion be amended as follows:

***'That the Committee rescinds the previous decision taken on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016 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; and that no referrals will be made in relation to this matter given the ongoing investigations.'***

The Chairperson put the question on the amended motion.

The Committee divided:

<b>Ayes</b>	<b>Noes</b>	<b>Abstentions</b>	<b>Did Not Vote</b>
Cathal Boylan	Gerry Carroll	Paula Bradshaw	Adrian McQuillan
Joanne Bunting	Richie McPhillips		Emma Little Pengelly
Linda Dillon			
Sammy Douglas			
Sean Lynch			

The proposal on the amended motion was carried and the question on the original motion was therefore not put.

*Agreed:* to write to the Finance Committee to update it on this matter.

*Gerry Carroll and Ritchie Philips left the meeting at 10.43am*

*Agreed:* that the Clerk will issue an urgent email reminder to all Committee members that the discussion on this agenda item was in closed session and, given the adjudication role of the Committee, members are advised not to make public comment on matters which may subsequently come before the Committee.

## **6. Visit to Welsh Assembly and Westminster**

*Agreed:* that a minimum of 4 members should confirm their intention to participate in the Committee's fact-finding visit to the Welsh Assembly and Westminster on 25-26 January 2017. Should this confirmation not be received by close of play on Wednesday 14 December 2016, the visit will be rescheduled to a later date.

## **7. Correspondence**

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

### **7.1 Correspondence dated 1 December 2016 from the Welsh Assembly re Inquiry into Lobbying**

*Agreed:* that this inquiry would be a further issue which could be discussed with the Welsh Standards Committee during the Committee visit in January 2017.

## **8. Any other business**

None.

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

Members noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be on Wednesday 18 January 2017 at 10.30am in Room 21.

*The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11.01am.*

**Mr Adrian McQuillan MLA**  
**Deputy Chairperson, Committee on Standards and Privileges**

**24 January 2017**