

# **INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL REVIEW PANEL**

**ON THURSDAY 5 APRIL 2012**

**IN ROOM 28 PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

## **APPROVED**

**Present:** Pat McCartan, Chairman  
Alan McQuillan  
Dr Etta Campbell

**In attendance:** Georgie Campbell, Secretary

### **1 APOLOGIES**

1.1 There were no apologies

### **2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

2.1 No interests were declared in relation to the issues scheduled for discussion.

### **3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (6 January 2012)**

3.1 The draft minutes of the meeting of 6 January 2012 were agreed and their inclusion on the IFRP website was approved.

**ACTION: SECRETARY TO ARRANGE FOR THE MINUTES TO  
BE PLACED ON THE IFRP WEBSITE**

### **4 REVIEW OF PUBLICATION AND LAUNCH OF IFRP REPORT**

4.1 The Panel thanked the Secretary for her assistance with the launch event.

4.2 The Panel agreed that it had been appropriate to hold the launch event at a venue other than Parliament Buildings.

4.3 The Panel noted the press coverage following the launch event.

- 4.4 The Panel recorded its thanks to Austin Hunter and Angela Hunter for their very professional and efficient support with the media arrangements for the launch event.
- 4.5 The Panel agreed that a photograph of the launch event should be included in its Annual Report.

**ACTION: GEORGIE CAMPBELL TO NOTE**

- 4.6 The Panel agreed that it would be useful to invite about 5/6 academics/economists/business people to a dinner at Parliament Buildings to take their views on its Report and also to share their thoughts on the next Report and Determination. The Panel agreed on a number of people who should be approached and asked the Secretary to take this forward.

**ACTION: GEORGIE CAMPBELL TO ARRANGE A VENUE AND DRAFT A LETTER OF INVITATION FOR THE PANEL'S APPROVAL**

## **5 REVIEW OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE IFRP DETERMINATION**

- 5.1 The Panel acknowledged that it had left insufficient time for the preparation of the Determination to allow its printing to coincide with the printing of the Report. It noted that at least one month should be allowed for the legal staff to produce their next Determination.

## **6 ANNUAL REPORT 2011/2012**

- 6.1 The Panel agreed the broad outline of its Annual Report for 2011/2012 and asked the Secretary to proceed to draft this.

**ACTION: GEORGIE CAMPBELL**

## **7 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**

- 7.1 The Panel agreed that at its next meeting, the production of a timeline for the work leading to its next Report and Determination should be the main agenda item.

**ACTION: GEORGIE CAMPBELL TO NOTE**

- 7.2 The Panel agreed to write to the Clerk/DG to thank him for the support provided by Secretariat staff with the development and implementation of its Report and Determination and also to highlight information with which it would like to be provided in order to gauge the outcome and effectiveness of its decisions.

**ACTION: GEORGIE CAMPBELL TO PREPARE A DRAFT TO TREVOR REANEY FOR THE PANEL'S APPROVAL**

- 7.3 The Panel agreed to follow up the suggestion made by Professor Chatterji for a colloquium involving those in the devolved legislatures with responsibility for determining members' salaries, allowances and expenses. It was agreed that IPSA should also be invited. Panel members agreed to write to George Reid, Chair of the Remuneration Board for the National Assembly for Wales, in order to take his views on this.

**ACTION: GEORGIE CAMPBELL TO PREPARE A DRAFT LETTER TO GEORGE REID FOR THE PANEL'S APPROVAL**

- 7.4 It was suggested that a meeting with relevant academics in QUB and the University of Ulster would be helpful to explore possible internship opportunities to provide support to MLAs.

**ACTION: GEORGIE CAMPBELL TO ADD TO THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

## **8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **8.1 Response to the Assembly and Executive Review Committee (AERC)**

The Panel thanked the Secretary for arranging for a response on its behalf to go to the AERC. The Secretary reported that the AERC will meet on 17 April to consider the responses to its consultation exercise and decide on the respondents with which it wishes to meet.

### **8.2 Meeting with the Clerk/DG**

The Secretary provided suitable dates for the Panel to meet with Trevor Reaney to discuss its future work programme and resource requirements. It was agreed that this meeting would take place at 10.30am on Friday 13 April.

**ACTION: GEORGIE CAMPBELL TO ARRANGE**

### **8.3 Letter from Trevor Reaney, Clerk/DG, NI Assembly**

The Panel noted Mr Reaney's letter of 15 March 2012 thanking the Panel for a copy of their Report and Determination and saying that he

would make the necessary administrative arrangements to give effect to the Determination.

**8.5 Letter from Paul Gill, Clerk to the Committee on Standards and Privileges**

In his letter of 4 April 2012, Mr Gill said that the Committee had noted the contents of paragraphs 175 to 177 of the Panel's Report. The Committee agreed that Mr Gill should write to all those Assembly members who are self employed to remind them of their duty to ensure that they register the end year net profit received in relation to such self employment.

**9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**The next meeting of the Panel will take place at 10am on Friday 4 May 2012 in Room 28, Parliament Buildings**