

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL REVIEW
PANEL AT 10.00am ON WEDNESDAY 20 MAY 2015
IN ROOM 241 PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Pat McCartan, Chairperson
Dr Etta Campbell

In attendance: Mrs Cathy McGowan and Mrs Julie Devlin. Mr H Widdis and Mr J McMillen were present for Item 6. Mr R Stewart was present for Item 7.

1. APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Mr Alan McQuillan.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

3. Labour Relations Agency

Mr Mark McAllister, Employment Relations Manager from the Labour Relations Agency updated the panel on potential employment law and employment relations matters which could arise in relation to the Panel's proposals contained within their consultation document on the employment of Assembly members' staff. The Panel agreed that they would seek updated information from the Assembly finance office and consider in tandem with the proposals outlined within their consultation document at an earlier meeting of the Panel. The Panel agreed that they would also consider the findings from their consultation on the employment of Assembly members' staff at that meeting. It was further agreed that Mr McCallister would be invited back to a subsequent meeting following the Panel's further consideration of the issues raised.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS IFRP MEETINGS

The Panel agreed the minutes for the meeting held on 23 April 2015 for publication. The Panel also reviewed its table of action points and considered responses received to any outstanding actions from the last meeting.

5. MATTERS ARISING

5.1 Consultation on 'Members' Salaries and Office Holder Allowances – responses received to date

The Panel noted that a further response had been received in relation to the current consultation.

6. 2016 DETERMINATION UPDATE

Mr Widdis and Mr McMillen joined the meeting.

Mr McMillen presented a paper to the Panel which provided a synopsis of the main policy decisions taken by the Panel to date. The Panel discussed the forward work programme in relation to the activities required to complete their Report and Determination for the next Mandate and it was agreed that officials would undertake an analysis of requirements against available resources for the Panel's further consideration at an early meeting.

Mr Widdis and Mr McMillen left the meeting.

7. PENSIONS UPDATE

Mr Stewart joined the meeting.

The Panel briefly discussed the findings of a report produced by Mr D Selby in January 2014 and the Triennial Valuation Report of the Scheme for the period 1 April 2011 – 31 March 2014 and it was agreed that a meeting would be convened with the Assembly Pension Trustees to discuss the assumptions made within the reports further.

Dr Campbell left the meeting.

Mr Stewart left the meeting.

8. CONSULTATION ON MEMBERS' OFFICE COST EXPENDITURE

As the meeting was not quorate, this matter was deferred until the next meeting.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

As the meeting was not quorate, this matter was deferred until the next meeting.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

As the meeting was not quorate, this matter was deferred until the next meeting.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that IFRP would hold their next meeting on 29 May 2015 at 10am in Room 241.

The meeting ended at 12.10pm