

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL REVIEW
PANEL AT 10.00AM ON FRIDAY 29 MAY 2015
IN ROOM 241 PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Pat McCartan, Chairperson
Mr Alan McQuillan
Dr Etta Campbell

In attendance: Mrs Cathy McGowan and Mrs Julie Devlin. Dr R Barry was present for Item 5. Mr J McMillen and Mrs P McClintock were present for Item 6.

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies were noted.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Panel agreed the minutes for the meeting held on 20 May 2015 for publication. The Panel also reviewed its table of action points and considered responses received to any outstanding actions from the last meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 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. The Panel also noted that the consultation was scheduled to close at 5pm on 29 May 2015 and they would consider responses at an early meeting.

4.2 Meeting with Assembly Pension Trustees

The Chairperson informed the Panel that the Pension Trustees had agreed to a meeting on 30 June 2015 to discuss the assumptions made within the Selby Report 2014 and the GAD Triennial Valuation Report of the Scheme for the period 1 April 2011- 31 March 2014.

4.3 Liaison Meeting

The Chairperson reminded the Panel that the next Liaison meeting was scheduled to take place on 10 June 2015 in room 25.

5. CONSULTATION ON MEMBERS' OFFICE COST EXPENDITURE

The Panel considered the draft consultation document relating to Members' Office Costs and Travel Allowances. The Panel requested further information in relation to the methodology for travel allowances and it was agreed that following amendment the document as directed, it would be considered at the next meeting. The Chairperson highlighted that he hoped to launch the document prior to Summer Recess.

6. FINDINGS FROM CONSULTATION ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF MEMBERS' STAFF

The Panel considered the overall findings from the consultation on the employment of Members' staff. The Panel noted that 52 completed questionnaires had been received of which 3 contained only comments and no responses to the questions posed. The Panel agreed that further consideration of the qualitative findings was required and agreed that all findings should be published in line with the publication of the other consultation responses during the Summer Recess. Following discussion, it was agreed that further information was required from the finance office to finalise the policy direction for the next Determination.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

The Panel noted the correspondence received since their last meeting.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No further matters were discussed

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that IFRP would hold their next meeting on 10 June 2015 in room 241 following the conclusion of the Liaison meeting with the Clerk/Director General.

The meeting ended at 1.20pm