

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL REVIEW
PANEL AT 10.00AM ON TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2015
IN ROOM 241 PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Pat McCartan, Chairperson
Mr Alan McQuillan

In attendance: Mrs C McGowan. Mrs L Anderson was present for Item 5. Mr Stewart was present for Item 5 & 6. Mr Mark McAllister (LRA) was present for Agenda Item 6. Mrs P McClintock was present for Agenda Item 6 and Mr J McMillen was present for Agenda Item 7.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Dr Etta Campbell

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Panel agreed the minutes for the meeting held on 4 August 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' Office Cost Expenditure

The Panel noted nine responses received to their consultation on Members' Office Cost, travel and childcare expenditure.

4.2 Resettlement and ill health retirements from other Legislatures

The Panel noted the comparative information provided by Paula McClintock in relation to resettlement and ill health retirement in other legislatures.

4.3 Guidance on creating a neutral working environment

The Panel noted guidance from the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland in relation to creating a neutral working environment.

4.4 IFRP Annual Report

The Panel considered and approved the IFRP Annual Report for 2014-15 and agreed that it should now forward to the Assembly Commission.

5 PENSION MATTERS

Mrs L Anderson and Mr R Stewart joined the meeting.

The Panel considered an updated paper provided by Mr Stewart in relation to the review of Assembly Members Pension Scheme. Mrs Anderson also provided an update in relation to the development of the new pension

scheme rules. Mr Stewart further reported that he would be meeting with the pension advisors for auto enrolment for Members support staff and would provide an update to the Panel in advance of their next meeting.

Mrs L Anderson left the meeting.

5. ASSIMILATION EXERCISE FOR MEMBERS' STAFF

Mr McAllister and Mrs P McClintock joined the meeting.

Mr McCartan provided an update in relation to his recent meeting with both Mrs McClintock and Mr McAllister from the Labour Relations Agency (LRA) on progressing matters relating to the employment of support staff by Members. Following discussion, it was agreed that further information would be sought from the Assembly Finance Office for consideration at the next meeting.

Mr McAllister, Mrs P McClintock and Mr Stewart left the meeting.

7. PREPARATION FOR 2016 DETERMINATION

Mr J McMillen joined the meeting

Mr McMillen provided the Panel with a paper seeking clarification on a number of matters relating to the development of the 2016 Determination. Following discussion it was agreed that Mr McMillen would provide further instructions for the Panels consideration at their next meeting.

Mr J McMillen left the meeting

8. CORRESPONDENCE

The Panel noted the correspondence received since their last meeting and provided responses for issue.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 *Email from Peter Weir MLA*

The Chairperson informed the Panel that he had received a request from Mr Weir seeking a meeting with the Panel to discuss the current consultation on Members' Office Cost Expenditure. The Panel agreed that arrangements progress to facilitate meetings.

9.2 *Liaison Meeting*

The Chairperson informed the Panel that he was meeting with the Clerk/Chief Executive in the morning to discuss the ongoing work of the Panel and would suggest a possible Liaison meeting in October 2015.

9.3 *Article for Agenda NI*

The Panel noted the article written by Agenda NI.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that IFRP would hold their next meeting by end September 2015 in room 241.

The meeting ended at 2.55pm