

MEETING OF THE INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL REVIEW

PANEL AT 10AM ON FRIDAY 25 MAY 2012

IN ROOM 28 PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Pat McCartan, Chairman
Alan McQuillan
Dr Etta Campbell

In attendance: Hugh Widdis, Director of Legal and Governance Services
(Agenda item 6)
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 (4 May 2012)

3.1 The draft minutes of the meeting of 4 May 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 ACTION POINTS/MATTERS ARISING

4.1 The Panel noted that all actions due for completion had been completed.

5 DINNER ON 30 MAY 2012

5.1 The Panel noted the list of those who will attend this dinner at Parliament Buildings and approved the menu.

6 MARCH 2012 DETERMINATION

- 6.1 Members discussed a series of issues that had arisen in respect of expenses claims since the publication of the last Determination. Members received legal advice, requested that further information be obtained to clarify some issues and agreed a series of actions.

7 PENSIONS

- 7.1 The Panel noted the NI Assembly Members' Pension Scheme 2011 Valuation Report. The Panel agreed to write to the Pension Trustees to say that it had noted the Actuary's recommendation at paragraph 10.2 and that, on the basis of this, would support the Consolidated Fund contribution rate proposed at paragraph 4(ii) of the note by the Government Actuary's Department to the Pension Trustees.
- 7.2 It was further agreed that the Panel's letter would be copied to the Government Actuary and the Trevor Reaney, the Clerk/DG of the NI Assembly.

ACTION: GEORGIE CAMPBELL TO PREPARE DRAFT LETTER TO THE PENSION TRUSTEES FOR THE PANEL'S APPROVAL

- 7.3 The Panel agreed that the issue of Pensions should be included on its agenda for the colloquium in Cardiff on 11 October 2012.

ACTION: GEORGIE CAMPBELL TO NOTE

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Internships

The Panel noted the initial draft paper prepared by the Chairman and agreed to discuss this issue further at a future meeting.

ACTION: GEORGIE CAMPBELL TO ARRANGE

8.2 Meeting with the Committee on Standards in Public Life

The Chair had received a letter from Sir Christopher Kelly, the Chair of the Committee inviting the Panel to meet with the Committee when it visits Belfast on the afternoon of 24 September 2012. The Panel asked the Secretary to contact the Committee to arrange a suitable time.

ACTION: GEORGIE CAMPBELL

8.3 Budget 2012/2013

The Panel noted its budget allocation for 2012/2013 and agreed that it would meet formally two half days per month during the current year.

8.4 Meeting with Lord Rooker

Dr Campbell informed the Panel that Lord Rooker, Chair of the Food Standards Agency, will be visiting Northern Ireland on 20 September 2012 and would be happy to meet with the Panel. Lord Rooker was Minister of State in the Northern Ireland Office from 2005 to 2006 and Government Spokesperson for Northern Ireland from 2005 to 2008. It was agreed that Dr Campbell would arrange for the Panel to meet with Lord Rooker.

ACTION: DR ETTA CAMPBELL

9 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

7PM IN THE PRIVATE DINING ROOM, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

10AM ON FRIDAY 1 JUNE IN ROOM 28 PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

10AM ON FRIDAY 22 JUNE IN ROOM 28 PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

THURSDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2012: MEETING WITH LORD ROOKER (TO BE CONFIRMED)

PM ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2012: MEETING WITH THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE (TIME AND VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED)

11 OCTOBER 2012 MEETING IN CARDIFF