

**MINUTES OF A WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE INDEPENDENT  
FINANCIAL REVIEW PANEL WHICH TOOK PLACE AT 10AM ON  
THURSDAY 14 AUGUST 2014  
IN ROOM 21 PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

**APPROVED**

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

**In attendance:** Georgie Campbell, Secretary

- 1 The aim of the meeting was to discuss issues relating to the employment of staff of Assembly Members and to develop proposals for the next mandate together with the rationale for these.
- 2 It is the Panel's intentions to produce a Consultation Document containing these proposals for issue at the end of September 2014.
- 3 The Panel considered a wide range of information which had been provided for the meeting. Initial proposals were agreed and the Panel asked the Secretary to develop a draft Consultation Document for discussion at the IFRP meeting scheduled for 22 August 2014.

**ACTION: SECRETARY**

- 4 The Panel agreed that during the consultation period legal advice should be sought as follows:
  - In a situation where a member of staff of an MLA ceases to be employed by that MLA and immediately becomes an employee of another MLA, does this constitute continuity of employment?
  - In the case of an Assembly Member's staff member whose contract expires at the end of a mandate, can that employee receive a redundancy payment and then start work again for the same MLA or another MLA under a new contract?
  - Should an MLA retire or fail to be elected, can a member of his/her staff receive a redundancy payment and immediately take up employment with another MLA?

**ACTION: SECRETARY TO DRAFT A REQUEST FOR LEGAL ADVICE  
FOR THE PANEL'S APPROVAL**

5 Immediately following the meeting, Mr McCartan said that he wished to discuss the following with the Clerk/Chief Executive:

- The possible involvement of the Assembly Secretariat's HR staff in the recruitment of Assembly Members' staff above a level yet to be determined, and,
- The establishment of an independent Pension Scheme for use by Assembly Members' staff

**ACTION: SECRETARY TO ARRANGE A MEETING TO TAKE PLACE AFTER 22 AUGUST 2014 (the date of the Panel's next meeting)**

**THE MEETING ENDED AT 5.30PM.**