

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL  
REVIEW PANEL WHICH TOOK PLACE AT 10AM ON  
FRIDAY 22 AUGUST 2014  
IN ROOM 21 PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

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

**In attendance:** Mark McAllister, Senior Adviser Labour Relations Agency  
(Mr McAllister attended for a discussion with the Panel prior  
to the Panel's deliberations on the agenda items)

Tony Logue, Head of the Clerk/CE's Office  
Georgie Campbell, Secretary

**Prior to the commencement of business, the Panel welcomed Tony Logue who will succeed Georgie Campbell on her retirement as Secretary to the Panel**

### **Discussion with Mr Mark McAllister**

#### **Action points**

- Mr McAllister will prepare a paper on the issues which the Panel needs to consider in relation to Assembly Members' staff including continuity of employment.
- The Panel agreed to share the next Draft of the Consultation Document on Assembly Members' Staff Costs with Mr McAllister.
- Mr Logue undertook to update the Panel on the Commission's discussions re a pension scheme for Assembly Members' staff. The Panel will consider seeking professional advice on this issue together with options for moving forward.
- The Panel undertook to consider the arrangements in the National Assembly for Wales regarding the employment of family members by Welsh Assembly Members and any read across for the NI Assembly.

**Mr McAllister left the meeting at this point.**

## **1 APOLOGIES**

1.1 There were no apologies.

## **2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

2.1 No interests were declared

## **3 MINUTES OF IFRP MEETING OF 1 AUGUST 2014**

3.1 These were approved without amendment.

## **4 NOTE OF WORKSHOP MEETING OF 14 AUGUST 2014**

4.1 These were approved without amendment.

## **5 MATTERS ARISING**

5.1 Matters arising will be discussed as substantive agenda items.

## **6 VERBAL REPORT OF CHAIR'S MEETING WITH THE CLERK/CHIEF EXECUTIVE ON 5 AUGUST 2014**

6.1 The Chair reported that he had an informal meeting with the Clerk/Chief Executive on 5 August. The primary subjects discussed were consultations with Party Whips and budgetary pressures. A further meeting is to take place in when the Consultation Document on Assembly Members' Staff has progressed further.

**ACTION: SECRETARY TO ARRANGE A MEETING BETWEEN THE CHAIR AND THE CLERK/CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

6.2 The Panel asked to have sight of all recent FOI queries relating to constituency office expenses.

**ACTION: SECRETARY**

## **7 ASSEMBLY MEMBERS' STAFF COSTS**

### **7.1 Consultation Document Draft 1**

The Panel agreed some changes to this Document and the Secretary undertook to provide a revised draft (2) for their consideration.

**ACTION: SECRETARY**

7.2 It was agreed that, in advance of the next meeting, any further amendments would be considered by email.

**ACTION: PANEL MEMBERS**

7.3 The Panel asked that any further amendments be incorporated in a further draft (3) to be discussed at the Panel's next meeting.

**ACTION: SECRETARY**

7.4 The Panel asked the Secretary to arrange for Paula McClintock to attend the next meeting to discuss the employment of Temporary Staff and the figures which she had provided in relation to this expenditure

**ACTION: SECRETARY TO ARRANGE**

## **8 ASSEMBLY MEMBERS' SALARIES**

### **8.1 Specification for consultancy exercise**

The Panel approved the draft letter for issue to consultants.

**ACTION: SECRETARY TO ARRANGE FOR LETTERS TO ISSUE TO THE LIST OF CONSULTANTS PREVIOUSLY AGREED BY THE PANEL**

## **9 REMAINING ASSEMBLY MEMBERS' COSTS**

### **9.1 Draft Consultation Document draft 1**

The Panel asked that this document is included on the agenda for the next meeting.

**ACTION: SECRETARY TO ARRANGE**

## **10 IFRP POWERS**

10.1 The Panel agreed to consider the two briefs provided at their next meeting.

**ACTION: SECRETARY**

## **11 IFRP SELF EVALUATION**

The Panel agreed to complete the self evaluation forms for discussion at their next meeting.

**ACTION: SECRETARY TO INCLUDE ON AGENDA FOR NEXT IFRP MEETING**

## **12 LETTER OF 8 AUGUST 2014 FROM THE CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND PRIVILEGES**

The Panel agreed the draft response to the Clerk to the Committee on Standards and Privileges and asked the Secretary to proceed with issuing it.

**ACTION: SECRETARY**

## **13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Panel thanked the Secretary, Georgie Campbell, for her support since their appointment and wished her well for her retirement.

## **14 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

**10am on Thursday 2 October 2014  
(Venue to be confirmed)**

**IFRP meeting**

**Meeting(s) to be arranged with Pat Ramsey MLA,  
Peter Weir MLA, Robin Swann MLA  
and Stewart Dickson MLA**

**Meeting to be arranged with Douglas Bain,  
Commissioner for Standards**

**Meeting to be arranged with Clerk/Chief Executive. The discussion should include the following issues:**

- **The possible involvement of the Assembly's HR staff in the recruitment of Assembly Members' staff**
- **The establishment of an independent pension scheme for use by Assembly Members' staff**
- **The Panel's proposals in relation to Assembly Members' Staff**