

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL REVIEW  
PANEL AT 10.00AM ON FRIDAY 26 JUNE 2015  
IN ROOM 241 PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

**Present:** Mr Pat McCartan, Chairperson  
Mr Alan McQuillan

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

**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 29 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** The Chairman updated the Panel regarding his meeting with John McCallister MLA and his researcher Peter Hutchinson on Monday 22 June 2015 to discuss his Private Members Bill on Assembly and Executive Reform.

*Dr R Barry and Mr H Widdis joined the meeting*

**5. CONSULTATION ON MEMBERS' OFFICE COST EXPENDITURE**

The Panel considered further information in relation to the methodology for travel allowances and the section of the consultation in relation to Travel and Subsistence Allowances.

*Dr R Barry left the meeting.*

The Panel considered the remaining sections of the draft consultation document relating to Members' Office Costs and Travel Allowances and agreed that suggested amendments should proceed to allow a launch of the document prior to summer recess.

*Mr H Widdis left the meeting*

The Panel further approved the draft press release, postmaster and cover letter to accompany the consultation document.

**6. ASSIMILATION EXERCISE FOR MEMBERS' STAFF**

*Mrs P McClintock joined the meeting.*

The Panel discussed the potential implementation scenarios relating to the proposals outlined in the consultation on Members' staff and agreed that further consideration was required in relation to Members' staff current salary arrangements and the impact of assimilating existing posts into the proposed salary structure outlined within the consultation document.

It was agreed that Mr McCallister from the Labour Relations Agency (LRA) would be invited to an early meeting to explore the provision of assistance available from the LRA.

*Mrs P McClintock left the meeting.*

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Panel noted the correspondence received since their last meeting.

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

It was agreed that a Liaison Meeting with Officials would be arranged for August 2015 or earlier if required.

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that IFRP would hold their next meeting in August 2015 in room 241.

*The meeting ended at 1.35pm*