

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL REVIEW PANEL

Wednesday 15 June 2016, 10:10 am

ROOM 241, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

**Present:** Mr Pat McCartan (Chairperson)  
Dr Etta Campbell (*left at 10:45am*)  
Mr Alan McQuillan

**In attendance:** Simon Burrowes, Kathryn Aiken, Jonathan McMillen (*Item 8 only*),  
Paula McClintock (*Item 7 only*)

### 1. Apologies

None.

### 2. Declaration of interests

None.

### 3. Minutes of previous meetings

The minutes of the meeting of 26 May were agreed.

### 4. Matters Arising

The Panel agreed its draft response to the IPSA consultation exercise on MPs' business costs and expenses. **[ACTION: Simon to issue.]** All other matters had been completed and/or were substantive items on the agenda.

### 5. Correspondence

The panel agreed a draft response to a letter sent to the Chairperson by a member of staff employed by an MLA. **[ACTION: Simon to issue.]**

The Panel agreed a response to Trevor Reaney in respect of an email from him dated 13 June seeking permission to provide the NIAO with a copy of advice provided to the Panel. The Panel agreed to provide a copy of the advice, but felt it appropriate that the Panel issue the copy. **[ACTION: Simon to advise Trevor; Pat to draft letter to NIAO.]**

### 6. Members Handbook

Still no formal response from IPSA.

### 7. 2016 Determination: Implementation Update

The Panel noted the responses that had issued to a number of Assembly Questions. Paula McClintock joined the meeting and provided the Panel with an update on the

implementation of the Determination. A number of matters were discussed covering a range of issues. It was agreed that Paula should write to the Panel setting out the issues and how Finance are dealing with them; the Panel will then confirm whether the action being taken is in line with its Determination. The Panel also recorded its sincere thanks to Paula and her team for all their hard work in relation to the Determination and asked that she pass them on to all concerned. **[ACTION: Paula/Panel.]**

#### **8. Official Opposition**

The Panel discussed legal advice relating to the issue of official Opposition and also a response to its letter of 31 May to the Speaker seeking an update on the situation with regard to Opposition. Mr McMillen was in attendance for this item of business. After careful and detailed consideration, the Panel agreed that, while it was minded to consult on making provision for salaries and expenses in relation to the official Opposition, the impending end of the Panel's term of appointment would preclude it from so doing. The Panel agreed that it would write to the Speaker and Commission to set out its thoughts with regard to the provisions on which the Panel would have consulted had time allowed. **[ACTION: Pat to draft letter.]**

#### **9. Annual Report**

The Panel agreed its draft annual report and that it should be forwarded to the Speaker under cover of the letter referred to at item 10. **[ACTION: Simon]**

#### **10. Winding up of Panel's Affairs**

The Panel agreed that it should write to the Speaker to mark the end of its term of appointment, submit its annual report (see item 9) and draw attention to any matters that it felt should be considered by the Commission and/or referred to the next Panel. **[ACTION: Simon to draft letter.]**

#### **11. Date of next meetings**

The Panel agreed to meet again on Wednesday 22 June.

*Meeting ended 12.30 pm*