

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Open Minutes of the Meeting held
Monday 27th July 2020 commencing at 3pm
at the Public Accounts Committee Office, Reflections Building, Dean Street

PAC present: Mrs Nadia Knight (NK) (Chair)
Mr Owen Betts (OB)
Mrs Leona Roberts MLA (LR)
Dr Barry Elsby MLA (BE)

Minutes: Mrs Nancy Locke (NL) (Secretary)

Apologies: None

Present: Mr Tim Waggott, FIG Financial Secretary
Mr Jack Ford, Internal Audit trainee
Mr Lee Summers
Mr Tom Busbridge

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting in particular the members of the public and the new Financial Secretary who were attending. The Chair also recorded thanks to Richard Cockwell for his eight years of service to the Public Accounts Committee and for acting as Deputy Chair during that time, he will be missed.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th February 2020

The Open Minutes of the meeting held on 17th February 2020 were signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising from the Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th February 2020

None.

5. Responses to PAC from Legislative Assembly

The Secretary reported that draft responses to two outstanding recommendations had been sent from FIG to the Chair for comment. These will go before the next ExCo and the responses will be on the agenda at the September PAC meeting.

6. Falkland Islands Government Financial Statements for the year ended June 2019

The Chair invited comments from the committee.

The Chair noted that the auditors had raised a risk from staff contracts not being in place. PAC to write to Attorney General to understand the legal position in the Falkland Islands relating to employment contracts as the issue is also raised on other statutory bodies accounts.

The PAC were content.

ACTION: SECRETARY

7. Falkland Islands Government Currency Fund for the year ended June 2019

The Chair invited comments, there were none. The PAC were content.

8. Falkland Islands Government Insurance Fund for the year ended June 2019

The Chair invited comments, there were none. The PAC were content.

9. Falkland Islands Government Pensions (Old Scheme) Fund June 2019

The Chair invited comments, there were none. The PAC were content.

10. Falkland Islands Government Retirement Pensions Equalisation Fund June 2019

The Chair invited comments, there were none. The PAC were content.

11. Falkland Islands Meat Company Limited Financial Statements 2018

The Chair invited comments, it was noted that 2018 accounts were late in being sent to the PAC and also noted that rental agreements were not in place. However the PAC were content.

12. Falkland Islands Meat Company Limited Financial Statements 2019

The Chair invited comments, it was noted that rental agreements were still not in place which had been raised in the 2018 accounts. It was also noted that contracts of employment were not in place for some employees, this will be raised as an additional query in the letter to the Attorney General seeking clarity on the legal position of employment contracts at Item 6 above.

ACTION: SECRETARY

13. Media Trust Financial 2018

The committee noted that the 2018 accounts were late in being sent to the PAC and had raised concerns with the Chair of the Media Trust and with Legislative Assembly. They were reviewed in tandem with the 2019 accounts.

14. Media Trust Financial 2019

It was noted that not all members of staff had contracts in place. It was also noted that following the recommendation by the PAC regarding the late submission of accounts the payment of the 2019 subvention, although allocated, was not paid until the accounts had been received.

15. Falkland Islands Development Corporation Financial Statements 2019

The Chair invited comments. It was noted an issue regarding rent agreements remained outstanding and had been outstanding for seven years.

ACTION: SECRETARY

16. Falkland Islands Tourist Board Financial Statements 2018

The chair noted that the PAC have not received the 2019 statements, a letter will be sent to the Chair if the accounts are not received. However there were no comments from the PAC on the 2018 accounts.

ACTION: SECRETARY

17. South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute Financial Statements 2019

The Chair invited comments, there were none. The PAC were content.

18. Confirmation of dates & times for next meetings

The following dates were proposed for meetings during 2020:
September 30th 2020 at 3pm

19. Authority for documents from this meeting to be published

Members of the Public would be advised that copies of the minutes of the previous meeting and all accounts would be available from the PAC's office and published on the PAC's website www.pac.org.fk.

The Chair requested that members of the public leave the room for the consideration of the following items in accordance with the Public Accounts Committee Ordinance as amended by the Part 9 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012.

I confirm that these minutes are an accurate record of the meeting

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(Chairperson)

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(Date)