

# PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Open Minutes of the Meeting held  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023 commencing at 10 am  
at the Public Accounts Committee Office, Reflections Building, Dean Street

<b>Present:</b>	Andrew Newman	(AN) Chair
	Sacha Cleminson	(SC) Deputy Chair
	Nadia Knight	(NK) Lay Member
	Peter Biggs MLA	(PB) MLA Member
<b>Minutes:</b>	Nancy Locke	(NL) Secretary (from recording)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Teslyn Barkman MLA	(TB) MLA Member
<b>In attendance:</b>	Traighana Smith	Falklands Radio
	Jordan Knight	FITV

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting particularly those attending from the Press. Apologies were received from MLA Teslyn Barkman.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. **Minutes of the previous Meeting**

The Open Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 were signed as an accurate record at the September meeting, there were no matters arising.

4. **Draft Annual PAC Report for discussion**

The committee reviewed the draft PAC Annual Report, the Chair explained the format and purpose of the document running through the pages individually. This includes the purpose of the committee, setting the members, the office and support staff. Also, the document explains the budget and statutory purpose of the committee in reviewing financial accounts of government and government bodies. The PAC has statutory responsibility to review and report to Legislative Assembly on Financial Statements and also Internal Audits.

Discussion about the issues with FIG being understaffed in Internal Audit and the effectiveness of that level of governance as well as capacity to assist the PAC under the MOU, the PAC has been hampered by the lack of Internal Audit assistance as well as the reduced level of audits received.

The Chair moved on to the PAC's other strands of work and explained that the Public Jetty review response was received later than due under the Ordinance. The recommendations made in the review were noted.

In October 2022 the PAC’s reviews into the Emergency Services Radio procurement and the VHF 2m replacement were sent to Legislative Assembly and published on the PAC’s website. Originally conceived as one report it quickly became apparent that the matters to be addressed should be two separate reports. Four recommendations were made on each review including recommendations concerning the difficulties PAC encountered in retrieval of information on both reports. A formal response to the recommendations will be expected from the Legislative Assembly should be received in six months.

Other work on the PAC work plan including a review of the Fisheries Patrol Vessel, the Deep Water Port and the Vulnerable Persons Unit has not been completed, in part because of reductions of staff in the Internal Audit department so that work under the Memorandum of Understanding has not been possible. More importantly, the lack of provision of information in response to formal requests for information from the PAC, is unsustainable.

The Falklands PAC Chair has attended the fifth CPA UK Overseas Territories Forum on the Oversight of Public Finances and Good Governance. In addition, the PAC Clerk went on a placement to St Helena sponsored by the CPA UK OT project and regularly attends the Clerks Leadership Group. In addition, the Falklands PAC is a full member of the Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees.

**5. Confirmation of dates & times for 2023 meetings**

Proposed dates of next meetings to be attended in person or via Teams were discussed and the following dates were suggested:

- January 2024
- April 2024

**10. Authority for documents from this meeting to be published**

Members of the Public would be advised that documents from this meeting would be published on the PAC’s website [www.pac.org.fk](http://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:

.....  
(Chairperson)

.....  
(Date)