Northern Ireland Assembly Resource Accounts
For the year ended 31 March 2005

Laid before the Houses of Parliament
by the Department of Finance and Personnel
in accordance with Paragraph 36 of the Schedule to the
Northern Ireland Act 2000 (Prescribed Documents) Order 2004

15 November 2005

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Annual accounts for the year ended 31 March 2005

ANNUAL REPORT

These resource accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Northern Ireland Resource Accounting Manual.

History and statutory background of the Northern Ireland Assembly

The Northern Ireland Assembly was established following the signing of the Belfast Agreement (also known as the “Good Friday” Agreement because it was signed on that day). The Agreement was the result of extended talks between the political parties in Northern Ireland and the Governments of the United Kingdom and Ireland. The talks covered how Northern Ireland should be governed in the future to ensure that the aspirations of all communities could be democratically accommodated. The Agreement was signed on Friday 10 April 1998.

The electorate of Northern Ireland endorsed the Belfast Agreement in a referendum held on 22 May 1998. This paved the way for new legislation (the Northern Ireland Act 1998), which defined the future institutions of government in Northern Ireland, and for collaboration between the Governments of the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Powers of government were devolved to the Northern Ireland Assembly by the United Kingdom Parliament at midnight on 1 December 1999. Following this, the Assembly could govern Northern Ireland in respect of “transferred matters” and also “reserved matters” with the Secretary of State’s consent. Excepted matters remain the responsibility of the United Kingdom Parliament.

- Transferred matters: e.g. education, health and agriculture;
- Reserved matters: e.g. policing and criminal law, which could be transferred to the Assembly at a later date;
- Excepted matters: matters of national importance such as defence, taxation and foreign policy.

The Northern Ireland Assembly was suspended with effect from midnight on Monday 14 October 2002.

Scope

The Northern Ireland Assembly does not currently support any agencies, non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) or trading funds.

Under section 40 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 the Assembly elected a Commission, which is the body corporate and has responsibility for providing the Assembly with the property, staff and services to carry out its business. It is the Assembly Commission’s practice to publish an annual report in respect of each financial year giving a full account of the work of the Commission and the Assembly Secretariat as well as a full statement of accounts and details of all sums paid by the Assembly to its current and former Members. As a result of the current suspension the Commission is unable to meet and therefore an annual report has not been published in respect of the Commission or the Assembly Secretariat’s work since April 2003. Copies in respect of years prior to April 2003 are available from The Stationery Office.

The Assembly’s accounts are published annually and available from The Stationery Office, and details of all sums paid to Members and former Members are published on the Assembly’s web site. The Assembly continues to participate fully in all public expenditure exercises during suspension and details of the Assembly’s main and supplementary estimates are available from The Stationery Office.

Operating and financial review

Aims and objectives

The key aim of the Northern Ireland Assembly is to provide effective devolved government for the people of Northern Ireland.

Principal activities

Under the terms of Section 40 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 the Assembly elected a Commission, which is the body corporate and has the responsibility of providing the Assembly with the property, staff and services to carry out its business.

Under suspension the Assembly Commission cannot meet and its responsibilities have therefore been assumed by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The purpose of the Assembly Secretariat, which is the administrative arm of the Commission, is to deliver to the Assembly all the procedural support, resources and services necessary for devolution to function effectively.

In doing so, the Secretariat aims to:

- support the Assembly, its Speaker, Committees and Members in performing their duties;
- assist the Assembly in processing new legislation and holding Ministers to account;
- develop its staff and systems to respond to business needs;
- make people aware of the work of the Assembly;
- maintain, and make the best use of, the Assembly's property as part of the national heritage; and
- exchange information with legislatures throughout the world.

In pursuing these aims, all Secretariat officials will:

- act impartially and professionally and recognise the diversity of Members and colleagues;
- be responsive to the needs of Members and other customers; and
- provide high quality services in a cost-effective manner.

The main activities of the Secretariat are as follows:

- to support the Northern Ireland Assembly in the operation and delivery of its business; and
- to provide a physical environment appropriate to the needs of the Assembly.

The provision of Secretariat services is linked across eight directorates and offices, and each is dependent on others for the successful delivery of those services. They are:

- the Finance and Personnel Directorate;
- the Research and Information Directorate;
- the Office of the Keeper;
- the Office of the Official Report (Hansard);
- the Office of the Clerk Assistant;
- the Office of the Speaker;
- the Office of the Commission; and
- the Office of the Clerk to the Assembly.

The Northern Ireland Assembly was suspended with effect from midnight on Monday 14 October 2002 and remained in suspension throughout the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005.

Following the suspension, the Secretariat reviewed and revised its forward work programme to address the impact of the suspension and to identify priority projects that could be undertaken during this period. The ongoing suspension has had a dramatic impact on the Secretariat's work programme and, as a result, the Secretariat's Senior Management Team decided in Spring 2003 that all non-essential staff should be made available to support *Programme for Government work* within the public sector. That exercise is co-ordinated on an ongoing basis by the Central Personnel Group in the Department of Finance and Personnel and the Assembly's Personnel Office and has resulted in over 100 members of Assembly staff being outposted to work within government departments and other public bodies during the period of these accounts. In addition, significant amounts of work, particularly research, was undertaken by staff who remained within the Secretariat. On the basis of staff records it is estimated that total staff resources of £3.4 million were made available to the wider public sector during 2004-2005, which represents 40% of the total staff resource employed during 2004-2005.

The Secretariat continues to deliver a range of services to MLAs, Assembly parties and the public despite the suspension of the Assembly. Therefore, the Assembly Secretariat's aims and values, which were endorsed by the Assembly Commission prior to suspension, continue to be relevant and fit for purpose. During the ongoing suspension the Secretariat has continued to work to develop key areas of service provision and, during 2004-2005, these projects have included the implementation of revised procurement guidance, a range of building and improvement work to ensure that Parliament Buildings meets the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act, further development of budget management and reporting systems and the preparation of detailed user specifications for a corporate asset management solution. Other key areas include further development of governance arrangements through formal risk management arrangements. Throughout the period of suspension a core staff has remained providing key services including finance, personnel, IT and accommodation.

The Assembly's budget, as currently set, was presented to the Assembly in February 1999 and assumes both a fully operational Assembly and a full complement of staff. The Assembly's first period of suspension in February 2000 created significant delays in the recruitment process, and whilst much progress was made during 2001-2002, a full complement of staff had not yet been achieved when the Assembly was again suspended on 14 October 2002. In addition, since suspension there has been a marked reduction in staff numbers as members of staff resigned to pursue other career opportunities and were not replaced. This reduced staffing complement, together with the ongoing suspension, is reflected in the out-turn. As a result of these delays in the Assembly's work programme - and reducing staff numbers - the Assembly was in a position to release significant resources to the public purse during 2004-2005. The Assembly's request for resources was reduced by £14.6 million and its net cash requirement was reduced by £16.4 million.

The most significant item of expenditure during 2004-2005 was £8.5 million relating to staffing. Members' salaries of £4.3 million and Members' office costs allowance (OCA) totalling £5.1 million were also paid during 2004-2005. OCA is intended to enable Members to secure secretarial and research staff and accommodation to assist in the discharge of their Assembly duties.

Indications of future development

Because of the limited office space in Parliament Buildings the Commission identified Ormiston House, located approximately a mile and a half from Parliament Buildings, as being a suitable site for the development of additional office accommodation. Ormiston House was acquired in September 2001 following an initial capital outlay of £9 million. It is estimated that a further £12million will be expended on development of this site over the next four years.

Pension liabilities

Present and past Secretariat employees are covered by the provisions of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland) PCSPS(NI), which is non-contributory and unfunded. Although the scheme is a defined benefit scheme, liability for payment of future benefits is a charge to the PCSPS(NI). Departments, agencies and other bodies covered by the PCSPS(NI) meet the cost of pension cover provided for the staff they employ by payment of charges calculated on an accruing basis. There is a separate scheme statement for the PCSPS(NI) as a whole.

Pension benefits for the Members are provided through the Northern Ireland Assembly Members' Pension Scheme. This scheme is a statutory scheme, which provides benefits on a "final salary" basis at a normal retirement age of 65 (or age 60, if reckonable service is more than 20 years, with a sliding scale from 60 to 65). Members pay contributions of 6% of pensionable salary, including Office Holder's salary. All pensions increase in line with the retail price index once in payment. There is a separate scheme statement for the Northern Ireland Assembly Members' Pension Scheme.

The Inland Revenue requires, as a condition of tax approval, that a defined benefit-approved occupational scheme must have full actuarial valuation at least once every three years. The first formal valuation of the scheme was made at 31 March 2002, a date chosen to coincide with the valuations of the Welsh Assembly and Scottish Parliament schemes. The Government Actuary's report at 31 March 2005 indicated a fund valuation that presented a deficit of £1.43 million. In line with the Northern Ireland Resource Accounting Manual (NIRAM) and FRS17 a provision has been made in the 2004-2005 Resource Accounts.

Management

The Northern Ireland Assembly Commission comprises the Speaker, a representative from each of the four major parties(the Ulster Unionist Party; the Social Democratic and Labour Party; the Democratic Unionist Party and Sinn Fein)and a representative from the minor parties.

The Management Team employed by the Assembly Commission during the 2004-05 financial year was:

Arthur Moir	Clerk to the Northern Ireland Assembly
Tom Evans	Deputy Chief Executive
Joe Reynolds	Deputy Clerk
Clare McGivern	Director of Legal Services
Nuala Dunwoody	Clerk Assistant
Simon Burrowes	Editor of Debates
Agnes Peacock	Keeper of the House
Allan Black	Director of Research and Information

Arthur Moir was appointed as Clerk to the Northern Ireland Assembly on 2 April 2001 through open competition. The appointment is not time bounded, and termination procedures would currently be in accordance with standard Civil Service arrangements.

The details of remuneration of senior management are set out in note 2 to the annual report.

Employment of disabled persons

The Northern Ireland Assembly does not discriminate against staff or eligible applicants for posts on any grounds, including disability.

Equal opportunity policy

The Northern Ireland Assembly is an equal opportunities employer. It does not discriminate against staff or eligible applicants on the grounds of gender, marital status, race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, religion, disabilities, age or sexual orientation. Every possible step will be taken to ensure that staff are treated equally and fairly and that decisions on recruitment, selection, training, promotion and career management are based solely on objective and job-related criteria. It will actively pursue arrangements for flexible working patterns and is committed to creating a culture in which individual differences are valued and respected. The Northern Ireland Assembly does not tolerate any form of discrimination, harassment or victimisation. It is committed to providing a working environment where no one is disadvantaged.

Consultation with employees

The Assembly makes every effort to ensure that all staff are kept informed of the organisation's plans and development. The main channels of communication include a staff magazine called 'Assembly Lines', office circulars, email and regular team briefings.

Policy on payment of suppliers

The Northern Ireland Assembly policy is to comply with the Confederation of British Industry's Prompt Payers Code. The target is for payment to be made within agreed payment terms or 30 days of receipt of invoices not in dispute for goods and services. During the financial year 2004-05, 99.7% of all invoices were paid within 30 days

Auditor

The Comptroller and Auditor General is the auditor for the Assembly for the year ended 31 March 2005. Notional fees for the audit services for the year ended 31 March 2005 were £25,000.

Register of interests

The Assembly's body corporate is the Assembly Commission. Commission Members are elected by the Assembly from its membership. Northern Ireland Assembly Standing Order 64(1) requires that a Register of Members' interests be established, published and made available for public inspection. However, the Assembly is currently in suspension and Members elected to the second mandate of the Northern Ireland Assembly in November 2003 have not signed the Assembly's role of membership. A Register of Members' Interests for the second mandate has therefore not been established and will not be established until after the Assembly is restored.

Post balance sheet events

There have been no post balance sheet events.

Research and development

The Assembly has not undertaken any research or development.

Charitable donations

The Assembly has not made any charitable donations.

Arthur Moir

Accounting Officer and Clerk to the Assembly
Date:

Statement of Accounting Officer's responsibilities

Under the Government Resources and Accounts Act (NI) 2001 the Northern Ireland Assembly is required to prepare resource accounts for each financial year, in conformity with a DFP direction, detailing the resources acquired, held, or disposed of during the year and the use of resources by the Assembly during the year.

The resource accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and must give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Northern Ireland Assembly, the net resource outturn, resources applied to objectives, recognised gains and losses and cash flows for the financial year.

The Department of Finance and Personnel has appointed the Clerk to the Assembly as Accounting Officer of the Northern Ireland Assembly with responsibility for preparing the Assembly's accounts and for transmitting them to the Comptroller and Auditor General.

In preparing the accounts, the Accounting Officer is required to comply with the ***Northern Ireland Resource Accounting Manual (NIRAM)*** prepared by DFP and, in particular, to:

- observe the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- make judgements and estimates on a reasonable basis;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, as set out in the NIRAM, have been followed, and disclose and explain any material departures in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on a going-concern basis.

The responsibilities of an Accounting Officer, including responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which an Accounting Officer is answerable, for keeping proper records and for safeguarding the Department's assets are set out in the Accounting Officers' Memorandum issued by DFP and published in Government Accounting Northern Ireland.

Arthur Moir

Accounting Officer and Clerk to the Assembly
Date:

Statement on Internal Control

1. Scope of responsibility

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of Assembly Commission's policies, aims and objectives as set by the Assembly Commission whilst safeguarding the public funds and Assembly assets for which I am personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to me in Government Accounting Northern Ireland (GANI).

Under section 40 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 the Assembly elects a Commission which acts as a Body Corporate and has the responsibility for providing the Assembly with the property, staff and services to carry out its business. The Accounting Officer attends all meetings of the Commission and presents all major decisions in relation to expenditure, asset management and staffing to the Commission for its consideration and approval. During suspension the Assembly Commission cannot meet, and its responsibilities have therefore been assumed by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

2. The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate the risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of departmental policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realized and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in the Northern Ireland Assembly for the year ended 31 March 2005 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts and accords with DFP guidance.

3. Capacity to handle risk

The Senior Management Team (SMT) has taken the lead in developing and embedding risk management. Risk owners obtain confirmation from directors, heads of business areas etcetera on the means by which risks are managed and the level of acceptable risk. The level of risk was determined via consultation exercises and workshops involving SMT and directors. A scoring framework incorporating factors such as likelihood and impact was used in the final assessment of each corporate level risk. A series of workshops has also been used to clarify roles and responsibilities of those involved in the risk management process. This is regarded as an ongoing process that will continue to be developed in accordance with best practice. The Secretariat will continue to monitor developments in the public and private sectors and apply those methodologies that will bring about improvement.

4. The risk and control framework

A corporate level risk register has been developed and agreed with the Accounting Officer and SMT. Each corporate level risk has been evaluated to assess potential impact, likelihood etcetera and the controls currently in place to manage each risk identified. The resulting risk analysis was used to identify any additional measures considered necessary to effectively manage the risks. Risk owners have been assigned to each corporate risk. A stewardship statement, produced by risk owners every six months, identifies any changes or developments that impact on each risk and sets out the manner in which they are managed.

Risk management now forms an integral element of the business planning process. Directors and heads of business areas are required to identify to what extent they contribute to the control of each corporate level risk. The continuing relevance of the corporate level risks and the means by which they are managed are subject to regular review. This review takes place half yearly in conjunction with the issue of stewardship statements. SMT will take the lead in this exercise, which has resulted in amendments to the Corporate Risk Register. SMT may also review corporate risks at any stage during the year should the need arise.

5. Review of effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, I have also responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of Internal Control. This review is informed by the work of senior managers within the Secretariat who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework. It is also informed by the work of the Internal Review team and the comments made by the external auditors in their management letter and other reports. The Senior Management team and the Secretariat Audit Advisory Committee have advised me on the implications of the results of these reviews. Plans are in place to address any weaknesses identified and ensure continuous improvement of the system of Internal Control.

Internal Review has been able to provide limited assurance on the system of Risk Management and Internal Control. This is a result of the restricted nature of the work program which continues to be influenced by ongoing suspension and by the areas of concern which have arisen during assignments. Specific concerns raised in relation to Recruitment, Office of the Keeper and Finance Branch are currently being addressed by Management.

The effectiveness of the system of internal control has been maintained through regular meetings of SMT, the Board of Directors and the Audit Committee, any of which may be used to identify material changes in risks or controls. The Audit Committee meets twice a year to review and approve the programme of work for the Internal Review Unit, which is operating at a reduced capacity during suspension. Although only limited assurance can be taken from the reduced programme, several compensating factors can be taken into account. These include the introduction of stewardship statements, which can be used to identify changes in risks and controls alike; the regular review of the corporate risk register; and the implementation of measures recommended by the Northern Ireland Audit Office.

Arthur Moir

Accounting Officer and Clerk to the Assembly
Date:

The Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the House of Commons and the Northern Ireland Assembly

I certify that I have audited the financial statements on pages 11 to 32 under the Government Resources and Accounts Act (Northern Ireland) 2001. These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets and the accounting policies set out on pages 16 to 18.

Respective responsibilities of the Accounting Officer and Auditor

As described on page 6, the Accounting Officer is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Government Resources and Accounts Act (Northern Ireland) 2001and Department of Finance and Personnel directions made thereunder and for ensuring the regularity of financial transactions. The Accounting Officer is also responsible for the preparation of the other contents of the Accounts. My responsibilities, as independent auditor, are established by statute, and I have regard to the standards and guidance issued by the Auditing Practices Board and the ethical guidance applicable to the auditing profession.

I report my opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Government Resources and Accounts Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 and Department of Finance and Personnel directions made thereunder and whether in all material respects the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them. I also report if, in my opinion, the Annual Report is not consistent with the financial statements, if the Department has not kept proper accounting records, or if I have not received all the information and explanations that I require for my audit.

I read the information contained in the Accounts and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. I consider the implications for my certificate if I become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements.

I review whether the statement on pages 7-8 reflects the Department's compliance with the Department of Finance and Personnel's guidance on the Statement on Internal Control. I report if it does not meet the requirements specified by the Department of Finance and Personnel or if the statement is misleading or inconsistent with other information I am aware of from my audit of the financial statements. I am not required to consider, nor have I considered, whether the Accounting Officer's Statement on Internal Control covers all risks and controls. I am also not required to form an opinion on the effectiveness of the Department's corporate governance procedures or its risks and control procedures.

Basis of audit opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with United Kingdom Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts, disclosures and regularity of financial transactions included in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the Department in the preparation of the financial statements and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Department's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which I considered necessary in order to provide me with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by error, or by fraud or by other irregularity, and that, in all material respects, the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them. In forming my opinion I have also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In my opinion:

- The financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Northern Ireland Assembly at 31 March 2005 and of the net resource outturn, resources applied to objectives, recognised gains and losses and cash flows for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Government Resources and Accounts Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 and directions made thereunder by the Department of Finance and Personnel; and
- in all material respects the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

I have no observations to make on these financial statements.

J M Dowdall
Comptroller and Auditor General

Northern Ireland Audit Office
106 University Street
Belfast BT7 1EU

Date

Schedule 1

Summary of Resource Outturn 2004/2005 (£'000)

	2004/2005 Estimate			2004/2005 Outturn				
	Gross Expenditure	Accruing resources	NET TOTAL	Gross expenditure	Accruing resources	NET TOTAL	Net outturn compared with estimate Saving/ (excess)	2003/04 Prior yr outturn
Request for Resources1	33,992	10	33,982	31,371	10	31,361	2,621	32,038
Total Resources	33,992	10	33,982	37,371	10	31,361	2,621	32,038
Non-operating accruing resources	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Cash Requirement	-	-	26,124	-	-	24,137	1,987	26,258

Summary of income payable to the consolidated fund

In addition to accruing resources, the following income relates to the Northern Ireland Assembly and is payable to the Consolidated Fund

		2004/2005 Forecast		2004/2005 Outturn	
	Note	Income	Receipts	Income	Receipts
Total	6	0	0	103	103

Adjustment in respect of prior year supply balances

The Net Cash Requirement for the year 2003-04 was overstated by an amount of £572k. In line with the requirements of NIRAM the Net Cash Requirement for 2004-05 has been decreased by £572k by way of an adjustment in respect of Supply balances on the face of Schedule 1 and Schedule 4.

Reconciliation of resources to cash requirement

	Notes	Estimate	Out-turn	Net total out-turn compared with estimate savings/ (excess)
Net Total Resources		**33,982**	**31,361**	**2,621**
Capital:				
Purchase of fixed assets Investments	11	397	20	377
Non-operating accruing resources				
Proceeds of FA disposals		-	-	-
Accruals adjustments:				
Non-cash items	4	(8,255)	(7,255)	(1,000)
Changes in working capital other than cash	13	-	583	(583)
Changes in creditors falling due after more than one year		-	-	-
Use of provisions	17	-	-	-
Adjustment in respect of prior year supply balances	2	-	(572)	572
Net Cash Requirement (Schedule 4)		**26,124**	**24,137**	**1,987**

Schedule 2

Operating Cost Statement for the year ended 31 March 2005 (£'000)

	Notes	**2004/2005**	**2003/2004**
Administration costs			
Staff cost	3	12,820	12,124
Non-staff programme costs	4	18,551	19,919
Gross administration costs		**31,371**	**32,043**
Operating income	5	(113)	(153)
Net administration costs		**31,258**	**31,890**
Net programme costs		**-**	**-**
Net operating cost	**8**	**31,258**	**31,890**
Net resource outturn	**8**	**31,361**	**32,038**

All income and expenditure are derived from continuing operations.

Statement of Recognised Gains and Losses for the year ended 31 March 2005 (£'000)

	2004/2005	**2003/2004**
Net gain on revaluation of tangible fixed assets	10,670	4,440
Total recognised gains and losses for the financial year	**10,670**	**4,440**

Schedule 3

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2005 (£'000)

	Notes	2004/2005	2003/2004
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	**122,942**	**114,828**
Debtors: amounts falling due after more than one year		**-**	**-**
Current assets			
Debtors	14	369	629
Cash at bank and in hand	15	432	219
		801	848
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	**(1,875)**	**(2,014)**
Net current assets		**(1,074)**	**(1,166)**
Total assets less current liabilities		**121,868**	**113,662**
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		**-**	**-**
Provisions for liabilities and charges	**17**	(1,430)	(860)
		120,438	**112,802**
Taxpayers' equity			
General fund	19	103,014	105,972
Revaluation reserve	20	17,424	6,830
		120,438	**112,802**

(Signed). . . . . (Accounting Officer)

Arthur Moir

(Date)

Schedule 4

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 March 2005 (£'000)

	Notes	2004/2005	2003/2004
Net cash outflow from operating activities (i)		(24,586)	(26,079)
Capital expenditure and financial investment (ii)		(20)	(31)
Receipts due to the Consolidated Fund which are outside the scope of the Department's activities		0	241
Payments of amounts due to the Consolidated Fund		(70)	(650)
Financing (iii)		24,889	25,869
Increase/(decrease) in cash in the period		213	(650)

Notes

(i) See the table below giving a reconciliation of operating cost to operating cash flows.

(ii) See the table below giving an analysis of capital expenditure and financial investment.

(iii) See the table below giving an analysis of financing and a reconciliation to the net cash requirement.

Reconciliation of operating cost to operating cash flow

Net operating cost	8	31,258	31,890
Adjustments for non-cash transactions (includes movement in provisions)	4	(7,255)	(6,969)
Use of provisions	17	-	525
Adjustments for movements in working capital other than cash	13	583	633
Net cash outflow from operating activities		**24,586**	**26,079**

Analysis of capital expenditure and financial investment

Purchase of tangible fixed assets	11	20	31
Net cash outflow from investing activities		**20**	**31**

Analysis of financing and reconciliation to the net cash requirement

From the Consolidated Fund: current year		24,500	25,000
From the Consolidated Fund: prior year		389	869
Net financing		24,889	25,869
(Increase)/Decrease in cash		(213)	650
Net Cash Flows other than Financing		**24,676**	**26,519**
Adjust for payments and receipts not related to Supply:			
Amounts due to the Consolidated Fund - received in a prior year and paid over (Consolidated Fund Extra Receipts)		(17)	(42)
Amounts due to the Consolidated Fund - received and not paid over (Consolidated Fund Extra Receipts)		50	(219)
Adjustment in respect of Supply balances	2	(572)	-
Net Cash Requirement (Schedule 1)		**24,137**	**26,258**

Amount of grant actually issued to support the net cash requirement was £ 24,500,000

Schedule 5

Resources by Departmental Aims and Objectives for the year ended 31 March 2005 (£'000)

			2004/2005			2003/2004
	Gross	Income	Net	Gross	Income	Net
Aim:						
Objective 1	31,371	113	31,258	32,043	153	31,890
Net operating costs	**31,371**	**113**	**31,258**	**32,043**	**153**	**31,890**

Objective 1 – Remunerating and supporting the Members of the Assembly in discharging their duties in the constituency, in the Assembly and elsewhere, the costs of general administration including staff costs, general expenses and equipment, accommodation, other services and associated non-cash items.

Notes to the Resource Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2005

1. Statement of accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the 2004-05 Northern Ireland Resource Accounting Manual issued by DFP. The accounting policies adopted by the Northern Ireland Assembly follow UK generally- accepted accounting practice for companies (UK GAAP) to the extent that it is meaningful and appropriate to the public sector. Where NIRAM permits a choice of accounting policy, the accounting policy which has been judged to be most appropriate to the particular circumstances of the department for the purpose of giving a true and fair view has been selected. The department's accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items considered material in relation to the accounts.

1.1 Accounting convention

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention modified to account for the revaluation of fixed assets, and stocks where material, at their value to the business by reference to their current costs.

1.2 Tangible fixed assets

The Department of Finance and Personnel holds legal title to Parliament Buildings. However, under the accounting requirements of FRS5 'Reporting the substance of transactions' the Northern Ireland Assembly is the beneficial owner of Parliament Buildings and as such recognises the property as an asset on its balance sheet. The building has been restated at current replacement cost using a professional valuation. This exercise is to be repeated every five years with appropriate indices to be used in the intervening years.

Fixed assets are capitalised at their cost of acquisition and installation and are revalued annually by reference to appropriate indices compiled by the Central Statistical Office. The threshold for capitalisation as a fixed asset is £500 for IT equipment and £1,000 for all other assets.

Assets are pooled where there are a large number of a certain type of asset, which, if treated singly, would fall below the capitalisation threshold, but which, if aggregated, have a value exceeding £1,000. The threshold for capitalisation of these assets is £250. Assets which have been pooled include computer hardware and office equipment. Depreciation on the value of these assets is charged to the operating account.

1.3 Heritage assets

Heritage assets are those that "are intended to be preserved in trust for future generations because of their cultural, environmental and historical associations". Heritage assets generally display the following characteristics:

- their value is unlikely to be fully reflected in a financial value derived from price;
- there are severe restrictions on disposal;
- they may require significant maintenance expenditure so that they can continue to be enjoyed by future generations;
- they are often irreplaceable, and their value may increase over time even if their physical condition deteriorates; and
- their life is measured in hundreds of years.

In accordance with NIRAM, non-operational heritage assets are not capitalised. Operational heritage assets are valued and incorporated within the fixed asset register as at 1.2 above.

1.4 Donated assets

These are assets donated by third parties, either by gift of the assets or funds to buy the asset. Donated tangible fixed assets are capitalised at their current value on receipt, and this value is credited to the donated asset reserve, which is included in the general reserves fund. Subsequent revaluations are also taken to this reserve. Each year, an amount equal to the depreciation charge on the asset is released from the donated asset reserve to the operating cost statement.

1.5 Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated at rates calculated to write them down to estimated residual value on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives. No depreciation is provided on freehold land and items for collections since they have unlimited or very long estimated useful lives. The principal annual rates used for depreciation purposes are:

	%
Land & buildings	2
Information technology	25
Office equipment	20
Furniture & fittings	10

1.6 Operating income

Operating income is income that relates directly to the operating activities of the Northern Ireland Assembly. It comprises:

- sale of souvenir stock;
- public telephone calls;
- stationery - recovery of cost;
- postage - recovery of cost; and
- recoupment of salary costs of staff seconded to other public sector bodies during suspension.

This includes both accruing resources of the Vote and income to the Consolidated Fund that DFP has agreed should be treated as operating income.

1.7 Administration and programme expenditure

The operating cost statement is analysed between administration and programme costs. For the Northern Ireland Assembly all costs incurred are administration costs, incorporating payments of allowances and other disbursements by the Assembly.

1.8 Capital charge

A charge, reflecting the cost of capital utilised by the Northern Ireland Assembly, is included in the operating costs. The charge is calculated at the Government's standard rate of 3.5% in real terms on all assets and liabilities, except donated assets, cash balances within the Civil Service pool at the Northern Bank and the amount due to the Consolidated Fund where the charge is nil.

1.9 Foreign exchange

Transactions which are denominated in a foreign currency are translated into sterling at the exchange rate ruling on the date of each transaction.

1.10 Pensions

Present and past employees are covered by the provisions of the NI Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (NIPCSPS), which is non-contributory and unfunded. Although the Scheme is a defined benefit scheme, liability for payment of future benefits is a charge to the NIPCSPS. Departments, agencies and other bodies covered by the NIPCSPS meet the cost of pension cover provided for the staff they employ by payment of charges calculated on an accruing basis. There is a separate scheme statement for the NIPCSPS as a whole. Liability for payment of future benefits is a charge on the NIPCSPS. In respect of the defined contribution schemes, the department recognises the contributions payable for the year.

Pension benefits for the Members are provided through the Assembly Members' Pension Scheme. This scheme is a statutory scheme, which provides benefits on a "final salary" basis at a normal retirement age of 65 (or age 60, if reckonable service is more than 20 years, with a sliding scale from 60 to 65). Members pay contributions of 6% of pensionable salary, including Office Holder's salary. All pensions increase in line with the Retail Price Index once in payment.

1.11 Early departure costs

The Northern Ireland Assembly is required to meet the additional cost of benefits beyond the normal NIPCSPS benefits in respect of employees who retire early. The Assembly provides in full for this cost when the early retirement programme has been announced and is binding on the Assembly. The Assembly may, in certain circumstances, settle some or all of its liability in advance by making a payment to the Paymaster General's account at the Bank of England for the credit of the Civil Superannuation Vote. The amount provided is shown net of any such payments.

As confirmed with the Assembly Personnel Office, no liability exists for the year ended 31 March 2005.

1.12 Provisions

The Northern Ireland Assembly provides for legal or constructive obligations which are of uncertain timing or amount at the balance sheet date on the basis of the best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is significant, the estimated risk-adjusted cash flows are discounted using the Treasury discount rate of 3.5% in real terms.

1.13 Contingent liabilities

In addition to contingent liabilities disclosed in accordance with FRS12, the Assembly discloses for parliamentary reporting and accountability purposes certain contingent liabilities where the likelihood of a transfer of economic benefit is remote. These comprise:

- Items over £100,000 (or lower where required by specific statute) that do not arise in the normal course of business and which are reported to Parliament by Assembly Minute prior to the Assembly entering into the arrangement;
- All items (whether or not they arise in the normal course of business) over £100,000 (or lower where required by specific statute or where material in the context of resource accounts) which are required by the Resource Accounting Manual to be noted in the resource accounts.

Where the time value of money is material, contingent liabilities which are required to be disclosed under FRS12 are stated at discounted amounts and the amount reported to Parliament separately noted. Contingent liabilities that are not required to be disclosed by FRS 12 are stated at the amounts reported to Parliament.

1.14 Value added tax

In the Northern Ireland Assembly output tax generally does not apply and input tax is recovered on a monthly basis from DFP. Where input tax is recoverable, the amounts are stated net of vat.

1.15 Investments

Financial interests in bodies that are outside the Assembly boundary are treated as fixed asset investments. Fixed asset investments are included at market value if this can be readily ascertained, or are valued on a basis agreed as appropriate with DFP. The Assembly does not hold any investments.

1.16 Stocks and work in progress

Stock and works in progress are values as follows:

a. finished goods and goods for resale are valued at cost or, where materially different, current replacement cost, and at the net realisable value only when they either cannot or will not be used;

b. work in progress is valued at the lower of cost, including appropriate overheads, and net realisable value.

1.17 Research and development

Expenditure on research is not capitalised. Expenditure on development in connection with a product or service which is to be supplied on a full cost recovery basis is capitalised if it meets the criteria specified in SSAP 13.

1.18 Leases

Where substantially all risks and rewards of ownership of a leased asset are borne by the Assembly, the asset is recorded as a tangible fixed asset and a debt is recorded to the lesser for the minimum lease payments discounted by the interest rate implicit in the leases. The interest element of the finance lease payment is charged to the Operating Cost Statement over the period of the lease at a constant rate in relation to the balance outstanding. Other leases are regarded as operating leases and the rentals are charged to the Operating Cost Statement on a straight-line basis over the term of the leases.

1.19 Private Finance Initiative (PFI) transactions

The Assembly does not have any PFI transactions.

1.20 Grants payable

The Assembly does not make payment in respect of any grants.

1.21 Third-party assets

The Assembly does not hold any assets belonging to third parties.

2. Adjustment in respect of prior year supply balances

The incorrect disclosure of amounts due to the Consolidated Fund and a misstatement of financing in the 2003-04 Cash Flow Statement resulted in an overstatement of the Net Cash Requirement by £572k. These adjustments had no impact on the net resource outturn for the year ended 31 March 2004. Inline with the requirements of NIRAM Schedule 1 cannot be restated to reflect this adjustment to the prior year Net Cash Requirement; this overstatement must be reflected through the 2004-05 Resource Account. Consequently the 2004-05 Net Cash Requirement has been decreased by £572k by way of an adjustment in respect of Supply balances on the face of Schedule 1 and Schedule 4.

In addition, amounts due to the Consolidated Fund in respect of Consolidated Fund Extra Receipts were overstated by £80k in 2003-04. This has been corrected by way of an opening balance adjustment to the General Fund.

3. Staff numbers and related costs

3.1 Staff costs

	Members £'000	Secretariat £'000	Special Advisors £'000	2004/2005 Total £'000	2003/2004 Total £'000
Staff costs					
Wages and salaries	3,283	7,176	-	10,459	10,076
Social security costs	303	517	-	820	764
Other pension costs	684	857	-	1,541	1,344
Sub Total	**4,270**	**8,550**	**-**	**12,820**	**12,184**
Inward secondments	-	-	-	-	65
Total	**4,270**	**8,550**	**-**	**12,820**	**12,249**
Less recoveries in respect of outward secondments	-	(83)	-	(83)	(125)
Total Net Costs	**4,270**	**8,467**	**-**	**12,737**	**12,124**

The Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland) (PCSPS(NI)) is an unfunded defined benefit scheme which produces its own resource accounts, but the Assembly is unable to identify its share of underlying assets and liabilities. A full actuarial valuation was carried out at 31 March 2003.

For 2004-05, contributions of £ 857,237 were paid to the PCSPS (NI) (2003-04 £889,829) at rates determined by the Government Actuary and advised by the Treasury. These rates were in the range 12% to 19.5 % of pensionable pay based on salary bands. The 2003/2004 rates are in the range of 12 % to 18 % of pensionable pay, based on the revalorised salary bands.

The scheme's Actuary reviews employer contributions every four years following a full scheme valuation. Rates will increase from 2005-06. The contribution rates reflect benefits as they are accrued, not when the costs are actually incurred, and reflect past experience of the scheme.

Employees joining after 1 October 2002 could opt to open a partnership pension account, a stakeholder pension with an employer contribution. Employers' contributions are age-related and range from 3 % to 12.5 % (2003-04: 3% to 12.5 %) of pensionable pay. Employers also match employee contributions up to 3 % of pensionable pay. In addition, employer contributions of 0.8 % of pensionable pay were payable to the PCSPS(NI) to cover the cost of the future provision of lump sum benefits on death in service and ill health retirement of these employees. Contributions paid due to partnership pension providers at the balance sheet date were nil. Contributions prepaid at that date were nil.

3.2 Average number of persons employed

The average number of whole-time equivalent persons employed during the year was as follows. These figures include those working in the department as well as in agencies and other bodies included within the consolidated departmental resource account.

	Total	Number 2004/2005 Members	Number 2004/2005 Secretariat	Number 2003/2004 Total
Average monthly number of whole-time equivalent persons (including senior management and ministers) employed during the year was as follows:				
Objective 1	**371**	**108**	**263**	**393**

3.3 Salary and pension entitlements

The following sections provide details of the remuneration and pension interests of the most senior officials of the department.

(a) Remuneration:

	Salary including performance pay £'000 2004-05	Benefits in kind (to the nearest £100) 2004-05	Salary including performance pay £'000 2003-04	Benefits in kind (to the nearest £100) 2003-04
Clerk to the Northern Ireland Assembly **Arthur Moir**	80-85	0	75-80	0
Deputy Chief Executive **Tom Evans**	55-60	0	50-55	0
Deputy Clerk **Joe Reynolds** *(consent for disclosure withheld)*	-	-	-	-
Director of Legal Services **Clare McGivern**	60-65	0	55-60	0
Clerk Assistant **Nuala Dunwoody**	45-50	0	45-50	0
Editor of Debates **Simon Burrowes**	50-55	0	45-50	0
Keeper of the House **Agnes Peacocke** *(consent for disclosure withheld)*	-	-	-	-
Director of Research and Information **Allan Black** *(consent for disclosure withheld)*	-	-	-	-

Salary

Salaries include gross salaries, performance pay or bonuses, overtime payments , recruitment and retention allowances, private office allowances and any other allowance to the extent that it is subject to UK taxation.

Benefits in kind

The monetary value of benefits in kind covers any benefits provided by the employer and treated by the Inland Revenue as a taxable emolument. There were no benefits in kind during 2004-05.

(b) Pension Benefits:

	Column 1	**Column 2**	**Column 3**	**Column 4**	**Column 5**	**Column 6**
	Real increase in pension and related lump sum at age 60	**Total accrued pension at age 60 at 31/03/05 and related lump sum**	**CETV at 31/03/04**	**CETV at 31/03/05**	**Real increase in CETV after adjustment for inflation and changes in market investment factors**	**Employer contribution to partnership pension account including risk benefit cover – to nearest £100**
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Clerk to the Northern Ireland Assembly *Arthur Moir*	0-2.5 plus 2.5-5 lump sum	15-20 plus 50-55 lump sum	266	297	20	-
Deputy Chief Executive *Tom Evans*	0-2.5 plus 0-2.5 lump sum	20-25 plus 65-70 lump sum	312	344	13	-
Deputy Clerk *Joe Reynolds (consent for disclosure withheld)*	-	-	-	-	-	-
Director of Legal Services *Clare McGivern*	0-2.5 plus 0-2.5 lump sum	15-20 plus 45-50 lump sum	184	207	11	-
Clerk Assistant *Nuala Dunwoody*	0-2.5 plus 2.5-5 lump sum	10-15 plus 40-45 lump sum	167	190	8	-
Editor of Debates *Simon Burrowes*	0-2.5 plus 2.5-5 lump sum	15-20 plus 45-50 lump sum	202	229	10	-
Keeper of the House *Agnes Peacocke (consent for disclosure withheld)*	-	-	-	-	-	-
Director of Research and Information *Allan Black (consent for disclosure withheld)*	-	-	-	-	-	-

Pension

Pension benefits are provided through the Civil Service pension arrangements. From 1 October 2002, civil servants may be in one of three statutory based "final salary" defined benefit schemes (Classic, Premium and Classic Plus). The schemes are unfunded with the cost of benefits met by monies voted by Parliament each year. Pensions payable under Classic, Premium and Classic Plus are increased annually in line with changes in the Retail Price Index. New entrants after 1 October 2002 may choose between membership of premium or joining a good quality "money purchase" stakeholder based arrangement with a significant employer contribution (partnership pension account).

Employee contributions are set at the rate of 1.5% of pensionable earnings for Classic and 3.5% for Premium and Classic Plus. Benefits in Classic accrue at the rate of 1/80th of pensionable salary for each year of service. In addition, a lump sum equivalent to three years' pension is payable on retirement. For Premium, benefits accrue at the rate of 1/60th of final pensionable earnings for each year of service. Unlike Classic, there is no automatic lump sum, but members may commute some of their pension to provide a lump sum.

Classic Plus is essentially a variation of Premium, but with benefits in respect of service before 1 October 2002 calculated broadly as per Classic.

The partnership pension account is a stakeholder pension arrangement. The employer makes a basic contribution of between 3% and 12.5% (depending on the age of the member) into a stakeholder pension product chosen by the employee. The employee does not have to contribute, but where he does make contributions, these will be matched by the employer up to a limit of 3% of pensionable salary (in addition to the employer's basic contribution). Employers also contribute a further 0.8% of pensionable salary to cover the cost of risk benefit cover (death in service and ill health retirement).

Further details about the CSP arrangements can be found at the website www.civilservicepensions-ni.gov.uk.

The Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV)

The table above shows a member's CETV accrued at the beginning and the end of the reporting period. Column 5 reflects the real increase in CETV effectively funded by the employer. It takes account of the increase in accrued pension due to inflation and the contributions paid by the employee (including the value of any benefits transferred from another pension scheme or arrangement) and uses common market valuation factors for the start and end of the period.

A cash equivalent transfer value (CETV) is the actuarially assessed capitalised value of the pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a particular point in time. The benefits valued are the member's accrued benefits and any contingent spouse's pension payable from the scheme. A CETV is a payment made by a pension scheme or arrangement to secure pension benefits in another pension scheme or arrangement when the member leaves a scheme and chooses to transfer the benefits accrued in his former scheme. The pension figures relate to the benefits that the individual has accrued as a consequence of his total membership of the pension scheme, not just his service in a senior capacity to which disclosure applies. The CETV figures, and from 2004-05 the other pension details, include the value of any pension benefit in another scheme or arrangement which the individual has transferred to the CSP arrangements and for which the CS Vote has received a transfer payment commensurate to the additional pension liabilities being assumed. They also include any additional pension benefit accrued to the member as a result of his purchasing additional years of pension service in the scheme at his own cost. CETVs are calculated within the guidelines and framework prescribed by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries.

Real increase in CETV

This reflects the increase in CETV effectively funded by the employer. It takes account of the increase in accrued pension due to inflation, contributions paid by the employee (including the value of any benefits transferred from another pension scheme or arrangement) and uses common market valuation factors for the start and end of the period.

(c) The salary and pension entitlements of the Assembly Commission for the year ending 31 March 2005.

As a result of suspension, the Commission did not meet. Hence no office holders' salaries were paid.

Pension benefits for the Members are provided through the Assembly Members' Pension Scheme. This scheme is a statutory scheme, which provides benefits on a "final salary" basis at a normal retirement age of 65 (or age 60, if reckonable service is more than 20 years, with a sliding scale from 60 to 65). Members pay contributions of 6% of pensionable salary, including Office Holder's salary. All pensions increase in line with the Retail Price Index once in payment. There is a separate scheme statement for the Assembly Members' Pension Scheme. The rules of the Assembly Members' Pension Scheme require the employer to meet the balance of the cost of providing the benefits as recommended by the actuary from time to time. There is currently a liability of £1,430,000, and this is provided for in the accounts in line with NIRAM and FRS 17.

For 2004-05, contributions of £624,359 were paid to the Assembly Members' Pension Scheme. Contributions were at a rate of 21.3% of pensionable pay, as determined by the Government Actuary and advised by the Treasury.

4. Non-staff administration costs

	2004/2005 £'000	**2003/2004 £'000**
Office cost allowance	5,079	4,700
Other Members' costs	240	0
Party allowance	613	709
Travel and subsistence	794	674
Support contract service	605	739
Repairs and maintenance	612	812
Rates	578	529
Security	621	631
Telephone and fax	270	277
Contract management and cleaning	369	294
Subscriptions	160	156
Construction fees	153	199
Miscellaneous	1,202	3,224
Non cash items (a):		
Depreciation	2,618	2,420
Impairment of fixed assets	(43)	248
Cost of capital charge	4,083	3,911
Miscellaneous computer sales		7
Miscellaneous notional charges	2	27
Auditor's remuneration and exps (notional)	25	27
Provisions	570	335
Total non-cash items	7,255	6,975
	18,551	**19,919**

(a) The total of non-cash transactions included in the *Reconciliation of resources to cash requirement* in Schedule 1 and in the *Reconciliation of operating cost to operating cash flow* in schedule 4 comprises:

	2004-05 £'000
Other administration costs- non-cash items as above	-
Add: other non-cash amounts charged to operating expenditure	7,255
Less non-cash income	-
Profit on sales of fixed assets	-
Total non-cash transactions	**7,255**

5. Income and accruing resources

Operating income not classified as accruing resources (ie. surrenderable to the Consolidated Fund) is analysed for resource budget purposes between that which is included in public expenditure and that which is not. In 2004-2005, all operating income not classified as accruing resource was within public expenditure.

Operating income 2004/05

Operating income analysed by classification and activity is as follows:	Accruing resources	Transfer of estimate cover	Netted off gross expenditure in sub-head	Payable to Consolidated Fund	Transactions between requests for resources	Income included in operating cost statement
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Administration income						
Operating income	10	-	-	103	-	113
	10	-	-	103	-	-
Programme income						
Operating income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	10	-	-	103	-	113

Operating income 2003/04

Operating income analysed by classification and activity is as follows:	Accruing resources	Transfer of estimate cover	Netted off gross expenditure in sub-head	Payable to Consolidated Fund	Transactions between requests for resources	Income included in operating cost statement
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Administration income						
Operating income	5	-	0	148	-	153
	5	-	-	148	-	153
Programme income						
Operating income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5	-	-	148	-	153

6. Analysis of income payable to the Consolidated Fund

Analysis of income payable to the Consolidation Fund. In addition to accruing resources, the following income relates to the Assembly and is payable to the Consolidation Fund.

	Forecast 2004/2005		Outturn 2004/2005	
	Income £'000	Receipts £'000	Income £'000	Receipts £'000
Operating income and receipts - excess accruing resources	-	-	**103**	**103**
trightNon-operating income and receipts – excess accruing resources	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	**-**	**-**	**103**	**103**
Other operating income and receipts not classified as accruing resources	-	-	-	-
Other non-operating income and receipts not classified as accruing resources	-	-	-	-
Other amounts collectable on behalf of the Consolidated Fund	-	-	-	-
Excess cash surrenderable to the Consolidated Fund	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**103**	**103**

7. Administration cost limits

The Northern Ireland Assembly is independent from the NI Executive for funding purposes and receives programme funding only.

8. Reconciliation of net operating cost and net resource outturn

	2004/200 £'000	2003/2004 £'000
Net operating cost	31,258	31,890
Operating income not classified as AR	103	148
Net resource outturn (a)	**31,361**	**32,038**

(a) Net operating cost is the total of expenditure and income appearing in the Operating Cost Statement (Schedule 2). Net resource outturn is the total of those elements of expenditure and income that are subject to parliamentary approval and included in the department's Supply Estimate. The outturn against the Estimate is shown in the Summary of Resource Outturn (Schedule 1)

9. Analysis of net operating cost by spending body

	2004/2005 Budget	2004/2005 Outturn	2003/2004 Outturn
Spending body	£'000	£'000	£'000
NI Assembly	33,982	31,258	31,890
	33,982	**31,258**	**31,890**

10. Analysis of resource outturn by Estimate subhead and reconciliation to Operating Cost Statement.

	Admin	Other Current	Grants	Gross resource expend-iture	Accruing resources	2004-05 Net total	Estimate	Net total outturn versus estimate	2003-04 Prior Year Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Request for resources 1									
Administration	-	31,371	-	31,371	10	31,361	33,982	2,621	32,038
Resource Outturn	**-**	**31,371**	**-**	**31,371**	**10**	**31,361**	**33,982**	**2,621**	**32,038**

Reconciliation to Operating Cost Statement

	Gross resource expenditure £'000	Accruing resources £'000	Net Total £'000
Resource outturn	**31,371**	**10**	**31,361**
Income payable to the consolidation fund	**-**	**103**	**103**
Gross operating expenditure	**31,371**	**-**	**-**
Operating income	**-**	**113**	**-**
Net operating cost		**-**	**31,258**

11. Analysis of capital expenditure, financial investment and associated accruing resources

	2004/2005			
	Capital Expenditure	**Loans etc**	**Accruing resources**	**Net total**
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Request for resources 1	20	-	-	20
Total 2004-2005	**20**	**-**	**-**	**20**

	2003/2004			
	Capital expenditure	**Loans etc**	**Accruing resources**	**Net total**
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Request for resources 1	31	-	-	31
Total 2003-2004	**31**	**-**	**-**	**31**

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Information technology	**Office equipment**	**Furniture & fittings**	**Land & buildings**	**Total**
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or valuation					
At 1 April 2004	881	1,046	1,763	113,587	117,277
Additions	12	-	8	-	20
Disposals	(1)	-	-	-	(1)
Revaluations	(47)	19	94	8,448	8,514
At 31 March 2005	**845**	**1,065**	**1865**	**122,035**	**125,810**
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2004	761	882	806	-	2,449
Charged in year	121	110	203	2,184	2,618
Revaluation	-	-	-	(2,184)	(2,184)
Indexation	(90)	32	44	-	(14)
Disposals	(1)	-	-	-	(1)
At 31 March 2005	**791**	**1024**	**1,053**	**0**	**2,868**
Net book value					
At 31 March 2005	**54**	**41**	**812**	**122,035**	**122,942**
At 31 March 2004	120	164	-	113,587	114,828
Asset financing	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Owned	54	41	812	122,035	122,942
Financed leased	-	-	-	-	-
On-balance sheet PFI contracts	-	-	-	-	-

Parliament Buildings, Ormiston House and land was professionally valued at £113.6million. The Valuation and Lands Agency, in accordance with RICS *Appraisal and Valuation Manual*, carried out the valuation in March 2005. Donated assets of £1,987 are included.

13. Movements in working capital other than cash

The movements in working capital used in the reconciliation of resources to cash requirement comprises:

	2004/2005 £'000	2003/2004 £'000
(Decrease) in stocks/work in progress	0	(14)
(Decrease/increase in debtors	(260)	(36)
Decrease in creditors falling due within one year	139	683
	(121)	**633**
Adjustment: movement in working capital not related to net operating costs		
Amounts due to the ConsolidatedFund	704	0
Amounts receivable that will be due to the Consolidated Fund when received	0	0
Net decrease in working capital other than cash	583	633

The movements in working capital other than cash used in the Cash Flow Statement comprises:

	2004/2005 £'000	2003/2004 £'000
(Decrease) in stocks/work in progress	0	(14)
(Decrease)/increase in debtors	(260)	(36)
Decrease in creditors falling due within one year	139	683
	(121)	633
Adjustment: movement in working capital not related to net operating costs		
Amounts due to the Consolidated Fund	704	0
Net decrease in working capital other than cash	**583**	**633**

14. Debtors

	2004/2005 £'000	2003/2004 £'000
Amounts falling due within one year		
Value Added Tax	201	101
Prepayments	62	64
Sundry debtors	99	68
Suspense debtors	7	7
Supply debtor	0	389
	369	**629**

Included within sundry debtors is £54,000 (2003-04: £54,000) that will be due to the Consolidated Fund once the debts have been collected.

15. Cash at bank and in hand

	2004/2005 £'000	2003/2004 £'000
Balance at 1 April 2004	219	869
Net change in cash balances	213	(650)
Balance at 31 March 2005	432	219
The balance at 31 March is held at		
Commercial banks and cash in hand.	432	219
The balance at 31 March comprises		
Amounts issued from the consolidated fund for supply but not spent at year end:	363	(389)
Consolidated Fund extra receipts due to be paid to the Consolidated Fund	69	170
	432	**219**

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2004/2005 £'000	2003/2004 £'000
Other taxation and social security	232	215
Other creditors	11	10
Amounts due to the Consolidated Fund (Consolidated Fund extra receipts)	122	170
Accruals and deferred income	1,147	1,619
Amounts issued from the consolidated fund for supply but not spent at year end	363	-
	1,875	**2,014**

Accruals and deferred income relate to both Member's Office Cost Allowances and the Assembly Secretariat.

Amounts due to the Consolidated Fund are based on the accounting conventions adopted for resource-based supply.

17. Provisions for Liabilities and charges

	Pension costs £'000	Total £'000
Balance at 1 April 2004	860	860
Provided in the year	570	570
Provision not required written back	-	-
Provision utilized in the year	-	-
Unwinding of discount	-	-
Balance at 31 March 2005	**1,430**	**1,430**

18 Assembly Members' Pension Scheme

Pension benefits for the Members are provided through the Assembly Members' Pension Scheme. This scheme is a statutory scheme, which provides benefits on a "final salary" basis at a normal retirement age of 65 (or age 60, if reckonable service is more than 20 years, with a sliding scale from 60 to 65). The rules of the Assembly Members' Pension Scheme require the employer to meet the balance of the cost of providing the benefits as recommended by the actuary from time to time. There is a liability of £1.43 million, and according to NIRAM and FRS 17 this has been provided for in the financial year 04-05.

19. Reconciliation of net operating cost to changes in general fund

	2004/2005 £'000	2003/2004 £'000
Net operating cost for the year (Schedule 2)	(31,258)	(31,890)
Income not accrued resources payable to Consolidated Fund	(103)	(73)
	(31,361)	(31,963)
Parliamentary funding: drawn down	24,500	25,869
Transfer to general fund of realised element of revaluation reserve		
Depreciation	76	673
Non-cash charges:		
Cost of capital	4,083	3,911
Notional audit costs	25	27
Notional other costs	2	34
Consolidated Fund creditor for cash unspent	(363)	(170)
Supply debtor	-	389
Opening balance adjustment	80	-
Net increase/(decrease) in general fund	**(2,958)**	**(1,230)**
General fund at 1 April 2004	**105,972**	**107,202**
General fund at 31 March 2005 (Schedule 3)	**103,014**	**105,972**

The opening balance adjustment has arisen as Amounts due to the Consolidated Fund in respect of Consolidated Fund extra receipts were overstated by £80k in 2003-04(see Note 2).

20. Revaluation Reserve

	2004/2005 £'000	2003/2004 £'000
Balance at 1 April 2004	6,830	2,861
Arising on revaluation during the year (net)	10,670	4,440
Transferred to general fund in respect of realised element of revaluation reserve	(76)	(673)
Permanent diminution in value – transfer to OCS	-	202
Balance at 31 March 2005	17,424	6,830

The revaluation reserve reflects the unrealised element of the cumulative balance of indexation and revaluation adjustments (excluding donated assets).

21. Commitments

There were no commitments for the following at 31 March 2005:

- Capital commitments
- Commitments under operating leases

22. Other financial commitments

The Assembly has entered into non-cancellable contracts (which are not leases or PFI contracts), for the maintenance of IT equipment. The payments to which the department is committed during 2005-06, analysed by the period during which the commitment expires, are as follows.

	2004-05 £'000	**2003-04** £'000
Expiry within 1 year	48	-
Expiry within 2-5 years	242	-
Expiry thereafter	-	-
	290	-

23. Contingent liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities at 31 March 2005.

24. Notes to Schedule 5

The Northern Ireland Assembly is independent from the Executive for funding purposes and receives programme funding only.

Current expenditure has been allocated as follows

	2004/05 £'000	**2003/04** £'000
Aim:		
Objective 1	31,258	31,890

Capital employed by the NI Assembly

	2004/05 £'000	**2003/04** £'000
Aim:		
Objective 1	120,438	112,802

25. Related party transactions

The Northern Ireland Assembly is independent from the Executive for funding purposes. It has a number of transactions with the Executive and with other Government departments and public bodies. Most of these transactions have been with the Department of Finance and Personnel and one of its agencies (Business Development Services).

Related party transactions during the financial year with DFP relate to the utilization of their call-off contracts, for example, for the provision of security and the Dial Network. None of the post-holders within the Assembly holds any post within DFP.

None of the Members, key managerial staff or other related parties has undertaken any transactions with the Northern Ireland Assembly during the year.

26. Financial instruments

The Northern Ireland Assembly, because of the largely non-trading nature of its activities and the way Government departments are financed, is not exposed to the degree of financial risk faced by business entities. The Assembly has no powers to borrow or invest surplus funds. Financial assets and liabilities are generated by the day-to-day operational activities and are not held to change the risks faced in undertaking its activities.

Liquidity risk

The Assembly's net revenue resource requirements are financed by resources voted annually by Parliament, as is its capital expenditure. It is therefore, not exposed to significant liquidity risks.

Interest rate risk

The Assembly's financial assets and liabilities carry nil or fixed rates of interest, and it is therefore not exposed to significant interest rate risk.

Foreign currency risk

The Assembly's exposure to foreign currency risk is not significant. There is no foreign currency income, and foreign currency expenditure is less than 2% of total expenditure.

Fair values

Set out below is a comparison by category of book values and fair values of the department's financial assets and liabilities as at 31 March 05.

	Book value £'000	**Fair value** £'000	**Basis of fair valuation** £'000
Primary financial instruments			
Financial assets:			
Cash at bank	432	432	-
Financial liabilities:			
Provisions	1,430	1,430	(a)

Note

(a) Fair value is not significantly different from book value since, in the calculation of book value, the expected cash flows have been discounted by the real rate set by HM Treasury (currently 3.5%).

27. Post balance sheet events

There have been no post balance sheet events.

28. Losses and special payments

There have been no losses or special payments

29. Third party assets

The Assembly does not hold any assets belonging to third parties

30. Entities within the Assembly boundary

The Northern Ireland Assembly does not currently support any agencies , non-departmental bodies (NDPBs) or trading funds.

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