



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS  
WEDNESDAY 5 OCTOBER 2016  
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

- Present: Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson)  
Mr Cathal Boylan  
Mrs Pam Cameron  
Mr Stewart Dickson  
Mr Danny Kennedy (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Seán Lynch  
Mr Philip McGuigan  
Mr Richie McPhillips  
Mr Christopher Stalford
- Apologies: Mr William Irwin  
Mr Phillip Logan
- In Attendance: Mr Peter Hall (Assembly Clerk)  
Miss Karen Jardine (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Stephen Magee (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mrs Andrienne Magee (Clerical Officer)

*The meeting began in public session at 2.00pm.*

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were noted as above.

**2. Chairperson's Business**

Visit by a delegation from the Kenyan Senate

The Chairperson advised that he had met with a delegation from the Kenyan Senate, including the Speaker of the Senate, on Tuesday 4 October along with Cathal Boylan, William Irwin and Seán Lynch.

### Meeting with the Rosetta Trust

The Chairperson advised members that he had met with a delegation from the Rosetta Trust on matters relating to survivors of Historical Institutional Abuse, and reported on the issues raised.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Executive Office to seek clarification on the small grants scheme available to victims and survivors of Historical Institutional Abuse, including details of the groups in receipt of funding under this scheme.

### EC-UK - Cardiff

The Chairperson advised members that the meeting of EC-UK, which had been arranged to take place in Cardiff on 31 October, was now postponed.

### Engagement with House of Lords EU Committee

The Committee noted a request from the Clerk to the House of Lords EU Committee for permission to make a written note of matters arising during lunch scheduled for Monday 17 October as part of its inquiry into post-Brexit Irish-UK relations.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the lunch should take place on an informal basis and that it would not be necessary for a written record to be made.

### Committee Invitations

The Committee noted an invitation from Invest NI to attend a lunch on 3 November hosted by a VIP from Colombia as part of a state visit from Colombia to the UK.

The Committee noted an invitation from the Children's Law Centre to a Children's Rights briefing event scheduled for 16 November 2016.

The Committee noted the current list of Committee invitations.

## **3. Draft Minutes**

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the proceedings of 28 September 2016 were agreed by the Committee.

## **4. Matters Arising**

### Representation on Public Bodies

The Committee noted a copy of correspondence sent to the Chairperson of the Committee for Communities following his correspondence regarding the imbalance of representation on public bodies.

## Outstanding Correspondence

The Committee noted the current list of outstanding correspondence from the Executive Office.

## **5. UK Exit from EU – Research Briefing: Non-EU Treaty Obligations**

*A Research Officer from RaISe joined the meeting at 2.08pm*

Mr Michael Potter briefed the Committee on Non-EU UK Treaty Obligations.

A question and answer session followed.

*Mr Dickson declared an interest as a representative of the NI Assembly on the Council of Europe Chamber of Local and Regional Authorities.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to request further research from RaISe on how other European countries which are not part of the European Union engage with EU treaties and agreements; and on how non-EU European states negotiate on international treaties and agreements.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the RaISe paper to the other statutory committees for information; and to ask for information on research requested by other committees relating to the UK Exit from the EU.

*Mr Potter left the meeting at 2.30pm.*

## **6. UK Exit from EU**

*Representatives from the NICS joined the meeting at 2.31 pm.*

Mr David Sterling, Permanent Secretary Department of Finance; Mr Derek Baker, Deputy Secretary, Strategic Policy Group Department for the Economy; and Mr Paul Brush, Head of EU Future Relations Division, the Executive Office briefed the Committee on the implications for NICS departments of the decision of the UK to withdraw from the EU.

A question and answer session followed. The session was recorded by Hansard.

During the briefing officials agreed to provide the following:

- i. a copy of the Deloitte analysis report commissioned to identify the capacity and resource needs of the NICS in respect of preparations for withdrawal from the EU;
- ii. a breakdown of the structures outlined in the briefing both within the NICS, and between relevant departments and structures in other jurisdictions;
- iii. a copy of the audit on border-related issues once it has been considered at the NSMC meeting in November;

- iv. a breakdown of the position of the proposed £1bn EU funding allocation for 2014-2020, following the announcement of the UK Chancellor that multi-year EU funding that has been secured before Brexit will be guaranteed once the UK has left the EU.

*The witnesses left the meeting at 3.42pm*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed, in the absence of a briefing paper from officials, to notify other statutory committees of the evidence session and to signpost them to the Official Report, once it is published.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to explore options for a briefing with the Office of the NI Executive in Brussels on matters relating to Brexit; and to explore options for engaging with Northern Ireland's MEPs on matters relating to Brexit, and other routine matters.

## **7. Correspondence**

### Equality Commission NI

The Committee noted a response from the Equality Commission NI confirming receipt of information from TEO regarding the complaint made by the NI Commissioner for Children and Young People on the consultation on proposed age discrimination legislation had been received.

### Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland

The Committee noted the ISNI Delivery Tracking System Investing Activity Report for September 2016.

### Budget

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance regarding the Minister for Finance's intention to produce a one stage budget in December/early January to cover the 2017-8 financial year for Resource DEL and the period 2017-21 for Capital DEL; and requesting a co-ordinated Committee response by the end of October.

### Northern Ireland Screen

The Committee noted Northern Ireland Screen's Value Report: 'Adding Value No.2'.

### Committee for Education

The Committee noted copy correspondence from the Committee for Education to the Executive Office in respect of the exemptions for schools in the Fair Employment and Treatment (NI) Order.

## **8. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted the additional meeting scheduled for Tuesday 11 October at 6pm with Mark Friedman and other participants in the Global Outcomes-based Accountability Summit which will be followed by a reception to close the Summit at 7pm in Room 115.

The Committee considered a draft press release with regard to the event.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft press release, and that it should be issued on Tuesday 11 October.

The Committee noted the draft Forward Work Programme until December 2016.

## **9. Any Other Business**

Mr Lynch raised the matter of an investigation into the possibility of a Single Equality Act; and Mr Dickson raised the matter of the NI Executive's failure to attend the recent UK examination on the sixth periodic report to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The Committee noted that these matters would be considered during the briefing from organisations on the NI Executive's engagement with relevant UN Committees scheduled for 16 November.

## **10. Date, time and place of next meeting**

The next Committee meeting will be held at 6 pm in Room 30 on Tuesday 11 October 2016.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.49pm.*

**Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA**  
**Chairperson**  
**Committee for the Executive Office**