



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Minutes of Proceedings

WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2020

Room 30, Parliament Buildings, Belfast

Present: Mr Colin McGrath MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
Mr Fra McCann MLA
Mr George Robinson MLA
Mr Pat Sheehan MLA
Ms Emma Sheerin MLA
Mr Christopher Stalford MLA

Apologies: Mr Trevor Lunn MLA

In Attendance: Ms Marie Austin (Assembly Clerk)
Mrs Janet Robinson (Assistant Clerk)
Mr Craig Mealey (Clerical Supervisor)
Mrs Andrienne Magee (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced at 2.15 pm in open session.

1. Apologies

As above

2. Draft Minutes

The Committee noted a minor typographical error in the draft minutes.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12 February 2020, subject to one amendment to correct the typographical error.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Communications and Executive Support – Overview Briefing

The following officials joined the meeting at 2.17 pm:

Chris Stewart, Executive Support and Programme for Government, The Executive Office

Neill Jackson, Head of Executive and Central Advisory Division, The Executive Office

Chris McNabb, Head of Communications, Executive Information Service, The Executive Office.

The officials provided an overview of the Communications and Executive Support division of The Executive Office.

The oral evidence was followed by a question and answer session.

The Chairperson reminded officials of the closing day/time for briefing papers and requested that reasons be provided in future for late papers or the unavailability of papers.

The officials agreed to provide further information on a range of issues.

The oral evidence was reported by Hansard.

The Chairperson thanked the officials for their attendance.

5. T:BUC, Good Relations and Victims – Overview Briefing

The following officials joined the meeting at 2.55pm:

Mark Browne, Director of Strategic Policy, Equality and Good Relations, The Executive Office

Andy Cole, Director of Good Relations and T-BUC, The Executive Office

Gareth Johnston, Equality, Victims, Human Rights and Delivering Social Change, The Executive Office.

The officials provided an overview briefing on T:BUC, Good Relations and Victims.

The oral evidence was followed by a question and answer session.

The officials agreed to provide examples of cases involving regulations being made by Westminster to introduce a scheme to be administered by an Executive department.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a further departmental briefing

on Historical Institutional Abuse with a focus on the efforts being made to secure funds from Institutions involved in the abuse.

The oral evidence was reported by Hansard.

The Chairperson thanked the officials for their attendance.

6. Budget 2020-21 – Departmental Briefing

The following officials joined the meeting at 4.19pm:

Mark Browne, Director of Strategic Policy, Equality and Good Relations, The Executive Office

Peter Toogood, Director of Finance and Corporate Services, The Executive Office.

The officials provided a briefing on Budget 2020-2021.

The oral evidence was followed by a question and answer session.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request regular and timely briefings from departmental officials on budgetary matters.

The oral evidence was reported by Hansard.

The Chairperson thanked the officials for their attendance.

Mike Nesbitt left the meeting at 4.45pm.

Christopher Stalford left the meeting at 4.56pm.

7. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme for February – April 2020.

8. Correspondence

The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Chairperson of the Committee on Procedures to the First Minister and deputy First Minister requesting information relating to potential changes to Standing Orders arising out of the New Decade, New Approach agreement.

9. Chairperson's Business

The Committee considered correspondence from the Chairperson of the House of Lords European Union Committee inviting engagement with the Committee for the Executive Office and requesting its views on a number of Brexit matters.

Agreed: Members agreed to advise the Clerk if they wished to attend the working lunch with the House of Lords European Union Committee on Tuesday 25 February 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to advise the Chairperson of the House of Lords European Union Committee that it is due to consider Brexit matters in significant detail in the coming months but is not in a position to submit its views on the matters mentioned at this stage.

10. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 26 February 2020 at 2.00 pm. in Room 30 Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 5.13pm.

Mr Colin McGrath MLA

Chairperson, Committee for the Executive Office