



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

**Minutes of Proceedings**

Wednesday 10 June 2020

Room 29, Parliament Buildings, Belfast

**Present:** Mr Colin McGrath MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Doug Beattie MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Ms Martina Anderson MLA\*  
Mr Trevor Lunn MLA  
Mr George Robinson MLA\*  
Mr Pat Sheehan MLA  
Ms Emma Sheerin MLA\*  
Mr Christopher Stalford MLA

**Apologies:** Mr Trevor Clarke MLA

**In Attendance:** Ms Marie Austin (Assembly Clerk)  
Ms Andrienne Magee (Clerical Officer)

*\* Members who attended the meeting via video conferencing.*

*The meeting commenced at 2.05pm.*

**1. Apologies**

As above.

**2. Draft Minutes**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3 June 2020.

### **3. Matters Arising**

#### Brexit

The Committee considered a response from the Chairperson of the Chairpersons' Liaison Group outlining its preferred option for scrutiny of EU exit issues.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to respond to the Chairperson's Liaison Group expressing its view that there is a need for a central resource to support all Committees in their scrutiny of EU exit issues, and asking that the EU Affairs Manager is provided with a small team of staff to support her in her work.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that Brexit should be one of its strategic priorities for this mandate.

#### June 2020 Monitoring Round

The Committee noted that a departmental written briefing paper on the June 2020 Monitoring Round was still outstanding and asked that it be provided for consideration at the Committee meeting on 17 June 2020.

### **4. The Functioning of Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill – Oral Evidence session with the Permanent Secretary of the Executive Office and Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service**

The following officials joined the meeting at 2.15pm:

David Sterling, Permanent Secretary of the Executive Office and Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service,  
Neill Jackson, Head of Executive and Central Advisory Division, The Executive Office.

The officials briefed the Committee on the Functioning of Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.

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

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

The Chairperson thanked the officials for their attendance.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Executive Office to request further information on a range of issues in relation to the Functioning of Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.

## 5. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Forward Work Programme for June to July 2020.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule an oral evidence session with departmental officials on the Victims Payment Scheme for the Committee meeting on 8 July 2020.

## 6. Correspondence

- i. The Committee considered a response from the Executive Office providing estimated costings for the Historical Institutional Abuse Redress Panel and administration.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Executive Office requesting clarification on whether any staff vacancies remain to be filled within the office of the Interim Advocate for Victims and Survivors of Historical Institutional Abuse.

- ii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Executive Office providing a link to the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry Report.
- iii. The Committee noted a written briefing from the Executive Office on the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020, and the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Amendment No. 3) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020.
- iv. The Committee considered a copy of correspondence from the Committee for the Economy to the First Minister and deputy First Minister requesting information on the Graduate Medical School at Magee College.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to request that it is copied into the response from the First Minister and deputy First Minister.

- v. The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for Communities to the Executive Office on the Sports Hardship Fund.
- vi. The Committee considered correspondence from the EU Affairs Manager providing a copy of the House of Lords EU Committee Report: *The Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland*.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule a virtual session with the House of Lords EU Committee to discuss the report on the Ireland/Northern Ireland Protocol.

- vii. The Committee noted the Pivotal report: *Covid-19 in Northern Ireland: Moving out of lockdown*.

- viii. The Committee noted: *The Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland - Investing Activity Report*.
- ix. The Committee considered correspondence from the Executive Office providing a copy of a press release announcing the launch of the competition to appoint the Commissioner for Survivors of Institutional Child Abuse (COSICA).

The Committee welcomed the launch of the competition to appoint a Commissioner for Survivors of Institutional Child Abuse who would have the full range of statutory powers to ensure that the needs and concerns of victims and survivors are met and their voices are heard clearly.

## **7. Chairperson's Business**

There was no Chairperson's Business.

## **8. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **9. Date, Time and Place of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 17 June 2020 at 2.00 pm in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

*The meeting was suspended at 3.41pm.*

*The meeting resumed at 3.49pm.*

## **6. Correspondence (continued)**

- x. The Committee noted a response from the Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service regarding the Interim Advocate for Victims and Survivors of Historical Institutional Abuse.

*The meeting was adjourned at 3.51pm.*