



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2020

The Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, Belfast

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

Apologies: Mr Christopher Stalford MLA

In Attendance: Ms Marie Austin (Assembly Clerk)
Ms Carla Campbell (Assistant Clerk)
Mr Craig Mealey (Assistant Clerk)
Ms Andrienne Magee (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced at 3:18pm in open session.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16 September 2020.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Brexit – Oral evidence session with Junior Ministers on Brexit Issues

The Committee considered a copy of correspondence from the Chairperson of the Welsh Parliament’s Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, to the Welsh Secretary of State, on the Sewel Convention and the UK Internal Market Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Secretary of State for Wales asking to be copied into his response to the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

The Junior Ministers joined the meeting at 3:18pm:

Declan Kearney MLA, Junior Minister, The Executive Office

Gordon Lyons MLA, Junior Minister, The Executive Office.

The Junior Ministers briefed the Committee on Brexit issues.

George Robinson joined the meeting at 3:35pm.

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

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

The Junior Ministers agreed to provide an update on the report on the review of Civil Contingencies and how a re-purposed model could apply to Brexit.

The Chairperson thanked the Junior Ministers for their attendance.

Martina Anderson left the meeting at 4:46pm.

The meeting was suspended at 4:46pm.

The meeting resumed at 4:55pm.

5. Victims’ Payment Scheme – Oral Evidence Session with Departmental Officials

The following officials joined the meeting at 4:55pm:

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

Gareth Johnston, Director of Equality, Victims, Human Rights, The Executive Office.

The officials briefed the Committee on the Victims’ Payment Scheme.

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

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

The Chairperson thanked officials for their attendance.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a further evidence session with departmental officials on the Victims' Payment Scheme.

6. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme for September to October 2020.

7. Correspondence

- i. The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for the Economy to the Minister for the Economy, regarding Covid-19 support administration and data gathering.
- ii. The Committee considered correspondence from the Committee on Procedures requesting views on the temporary provisions provided for in Standing Orders 110 to 116.

Agreed The Committee agreed that it was content with the temporary provisions.

8. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson referred to the recent threat that had been made against Committee Member, Doug Beattie. On behalf of the Committee, the Chairperson offered support to Mr Beattie and stressed that there was no place in society for threats and violence.

The Chairperson advised Members that both he and Committee Member, Pat Sheehan, had met with the EU Ambassador to the UK, HE Mr João Vale de Almeida on Thursday 17 September 2020, to discuss Brexit issues.

9. Any Other Business

None.

10. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 30 September 2020 at 2:00pm in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48pm.

Mr Colin McGrath MLA
Chairperson, Committee for the Executive Office