



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS  
WEDNESDAY 18 JANUARY 2017  
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

- Present: Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson)  
Mr Danny Kennedy (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mrs Pam Cameron  
Mr Stewart Dickson  
Mr William Irwin  
Mr Phillip Logan  
Mr Christopher Stalford
- Apologies: Mr Cathal Boylan  
Mr Seán Lynch  
Mr Philip McGuigan  
Mr Richie McPhillips
- In Attendance: Mrs Kathy O'Hanlon (Committee Clerk)  
Mr Neal Flanagan (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Stephen Magee (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mrs Andrienne Magee (Clerical Officer)

*The meeting began in public session at 2.03 pm.*

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were noted as above.

*Mr Logan joined the meeting at 2.04 pm.*

**2. Chairperson's Business**

End of Mandate Arrangements

The Committee considered a number of administrative matters in respect of the end of the Assembly mandate.

- Agreed:* that the draft minutes of proceedings of the final meeting will be agreed by the Chairperson on behalf of the Committee.
- Agreed:* that a standard response be issued to correspondents advising that the Committee for the Executive Office will have no further meetings after the Assembly is dissolved from 26 January 2017.
- Agreed:* that the incoming Committee for the Executive Office be permitted access to the Committee papers from this mandate.

### Committee Invitations

The Committee noted the current list of Committee invitations.

The Committee noted that the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry Report will be launched on Friday at 11.00 am in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Shaws Bridge, Belfast; and that staff had been advised that members of the Committee were welcome to attend.

### **3. Draft Minutes**

- Agreed:* The draft minutes of the proceedings for the meeting of 11 January 2017 were agreed by the Committee.

### **4. Matters Arising**

#### UK Exit from the EU

The Committee noted a paper prepared by the Clerk setting out the work undertaken by the Committee on the UK's exit from the EU, and details of future plans that the Committee had in this regard.

Mr Stalford noted his appreciation for how the Chairperson has conducted business and chaired meetings of the Committee.

The Committee noted that the meeting of the devolved legislatures is planned to take place the day after the Assembly election; and that EC-UK is scheduled for the following week.

- Agreed:* that, if possible, officials attend these meetings in an observing capacity, given that the incoming Committee will not be formed by that stage.

*Mrs Cameron joined the meeting at 2.10 pm.*

## RaISe – International Relations outside the European Union: Ukraine

The Committee noted a paper from the Assembly's Research and Information Service (RaISe) on 'International Relations Outside the EU: Ukraine'.

*Agreed:* that the research paper be published on the Committee's website.

## Draft Programme for Government

The Committee noted the response from the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs on the draft Programme for Government 2016-21, and that the submission had been published in the appendices to the Committee's report on the PfG.

## Outstanding Committee Correspondence

The Committee noted the current list of outstanding correspondence.

## **5. Northern Ireland Community of Refugee and Asylum Seekers**

*The representative from the Northern Ireland Community of Refugee and Asylum Seekers (NICRAS) joined the meeting at 2.12 pm.*

Mr Justin Kouame, Chairperson of NICRAS, briefed the Committee on its 'Home Sweet Home' Report.

A question and answer session followed.

*The representative from the Northern Ireland Community of Refugee and Asylum Seekers left the meeting at 3.00 pm.*

## **6. Refugee and Asylum Forum**

*Representatives from the Refugee and Asylum Forum (RAF) joined the meeting at 3.01 pm.*

Ms Denise Wright, Race Relations Coordinator, South Belfast Roundtable; Ms Liz Griffith, Policy Officer, Law Centre (NI); Mr Neil McKittrick, Refugee Services Manager, British Red Cross; and Ms Siphon Sibanda, volunteer, Housing4All, briefed the Committee on issues facing refugees and asylum seekers regarding destitution.

A question and answer session followed.

*Mr Dickson left the meeting at 3.32 pm.*

*Representatives from the Refugee and Asylum Forum left the meeting at 3.40 pm.*

*Agreed:* to copy the NICRAS report and Refugee and Asylum Forum papers to the Executive Office (TEO).

*Agreed:* to copy the papers to relevant statutory committees for information.

*Mr Dickson returned to the meeting at 3.43 pm.*

## **7. Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman – Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland**

The Committee noted the RaISe paper, ‘Further information relating to the Police Ombudsman’; and a response from the Minister for Justice regarding complaints of maladministration against the Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland.

*Agreed:* to advise the NI Retired Police Officers Association that the Committee has looked at this matter and believes it merits further consideration; and therefore recommends that it be examined by the new Committee in the next mandate.

## **8. Correspondence**

### UN Reporting Cycles

The Committee noted the response of 16 December 2016 from the then First Minister and deputy First Minister on the Executive’s participation in UN treaty reporting cycles.

### Together: Building a United Community

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Health which included information from the Department of Health regarding Together: Building a United Community.

### Children and Young People’s Strategy

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department of Education on the consultation on the Children and Young People’s Strategy.

### Draft Programme for Government 2016-21

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance providing a response from the Department of Finance regarding the outcome of mapping OECD recommendations against Programme for Government objectives, along with the copy of

the OECD report.

The Committee noted copy correspondence from the Committee for Education to TEO requesting sight of its response to the comments from the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People on the Programme for Government consultation.

#### Attorney General for Northern Ireland – Annual Report 2015-16

Members noted that the Attorney General for NI's Annual Report 2015-16 had been received and was available in the Committee office.

### **9. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted that representatives from the Panel of Experts on Redress and from WAVE are available to provide briefings at the meeting on 25 January 2017.

### **10. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

### **11. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting**

The next Committee meeting will be held at 2.00 pm in Room 30 on Wednesday 25 January 2017.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.45 pm.*

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