



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY
FIRST MINISTER
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 27 JANUARY 2016
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson)
Mr Chris Lyttle (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Andy Allen
Mr Alex Attwood
Mr Paul Frew
Mr Chris Hazzard
Mr Gordon Lyons
Mr Alex Maskey
Mr David McIlveen

Apologies: Mr Stephen Moutray

In Attendance: Mrs Kathy O'Hanlon (Assembly Clerk)
Ms Karen Jardine (Senior Assistant Clerk)
Mr Christopher McNickle (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Stephen Magee (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Bill Kinnear (Clerical Officer)
Mr Alyn Hicks (Bill Team – Item 1 only)

The meeting began in closed session at 2.03 pm.

1. NIPSO Bill

Mr Alyn Hicks joined the meeting at 2.03 pm.

The Committee noted that the motion to suspend Standing Order 37A(1), (2) and (3)(b) & (c) and Standing Order 39(1) and the Exceptional Further Consideration Stage of the Public Services Ombudsperson Bill have been scheduled for Monday 1 February.

The Committee considered amendments that may be required to Standing Orders to reflect the provisions of the Bill. Members noted the role of the Audit Committee in consideration of the Ombudsman's estimate and the laying of the estimate before the Assembly.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask that the Committee on Procedures bring forward an amendment to Standing Order 58 to reflect the additional role for the Audit Committee.

Mr Alyn Hicks left the meeting at 2.08 pm.

The meeting moved into public session at 2.08 pm.

2. Apologies

Apologies were as recorded above.

3. Chair's Business

Public Achievement

The Committee noted a letter from the Chief Executive of Public Achievement to the Committee Chair requesting a meeting regarding the Together: Building a United Community Strategy.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to arrange an informal meeting with Public Achievement.

EU Debate NI

The Committee noted an invitation from EU Debate NI to a roundtable discussion on the upcoming referendum on EU membership which is to be held in Belfast City Hall on Friday 5 February 2016.

Consul General of the People's Republic of China

The Committee noted an invitation from the Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Belfast for the Chairperson to Celebrate the Chinese Year of the Monkey at Belfast Castle on Thursday 11 February.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chairperson should attend on behalf of the Committee.

St Patrick's Day Washington Trip

The Committee noted that invitations had been secured for the Chairperson to attend annual events in Washington D.C. for St Patrick's Day.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chairperson should attend on behalf of the Committee.

Current Committee Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

4. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The draft minutes of the proceedings of 20 January 2016 were agreed by the Committee.

5. Matters Arising

EU Equal Treatment Directive

The Committee considered a draft letter to the EU scrutiny committees in Westminster which outlined the Committee's consideration of the proposed EU Equal Treatment Directive.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to issue the letter to the House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee and the House of Lords EU Select Committee.

Outstanding Correspondence

The Committee noted the list of outstanding correspondence.

6. Correspondence

Committee for Education

The Committee noted copy correspondence from OFMDFM to the Committee for Education regarding the Investigating Links in Attainment and Deprivation Report.

Committee for Justice

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Justice regarding the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland Report 'Monitoring of Progress on Implementation of the Youth Justice Review Recommendations', which includes references to Delivering Social Change.

Northern Ireland Assembly European Affairs Manager

The Committee noted correspondence from the Assembly's European Affairs Manager regarding the continuation of the Northern Ireland Task Force.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask OFMDFM for further information on this issue.

Departmental engagement on EU Reform

The Committee noted correspondence from the Assembly's European Affairs Manager regarding the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee inquiry into Northern Ireland and the EU Referendum.

The Committee noted correspondence from the following Executive Departments with regard to departmental engagement on EU Reform: Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment; Department of Finance and Personnel; Department of Justice; and the Department for Social Development.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to OFMDFM to request details of the issues raised by departments in respect of EU Reform for the meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee (Europe) meeting on 7 December 2015; and for an update on that meeting.

Committee for Finance and Personnel

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding the Northern Ireland Civil Service Voluntary Exit Scheme.

Committee for Finance and Personnel

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding Northern Ireland Investment Fund and Financial Transactions Capital.

Committee for Employment and Learning

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Employment and Learning providing an Assembly Research paper on the Together: Building a United Community Strategy.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask all Statutory Committees for an update on committee scrutiny of departmental activity with regard to good relations and Together: Building a United Community.

Committee for Regional Development

The Committee noted copy correspondence from the Committee for Regional Development to Ministers and the Head of the Civil Service regarding Schemes to Alleviate Flooding and Storm Water.

2014-15 European Priorities Implementation Report

The Committee noted the 2014-15 European Priorities Implementation Report.

7. Draft Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Draft Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it would not meet on 3 February 2016.

Mr Chris Lyttle MLA joined the meeting at 2.17 pm.

8. SL1 – The Salaries (Assembly Ombudsman and Commissioner for Complaints) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Committee considered a proposal for an increase in the annual salary paid to the Assembly Ombudsman and Commissioner for Complaints.

Agreed: The Committee was content for the rule to be made.

Mr Alex Maskey, MLA left the meeting at 2.19 pm.

9. SL1 – Draft Departments (Transfer of Functions) Order (NI) 2015 – Departmental Briefing

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.20 pm.

Mr Tony Canavan, Director of Institutional Review Division, and Mr Geoffrey Simpson, Head of Institutional Review Division, OFMDFM, briefed the Committee on the Draft Departments (Transfer of Functions) Order (NI) 2015. A question and answer session followed. The briefing was recorded by Hansard.

Mr David McIlveen, MLA joined the meeting at 2.31 pm.

Mr Paul Frew, MLA left the meeting at 2.45 pm.

The officials left the meeting at 2.59 pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to reconsider the proposals contained within the draft Transfer of Functions Order at the meeting on 10 February.

Mr Paul Frew returned to the meeting at 3.01pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the Draft Departments (Transfer of Functions) Order (NI) 2015 to statutory committees for information.

10. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Date, Time and Location of next meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee is at 2pm in Room 30 on Wednesday 10 February 2016.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.02 pm.

Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister