

AD HOC JOINT COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE MENTAL CAPACITY BILL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Monday, 14 September 2015
Room 21, Parliament Buildings**

Present: Mr Alastair Ross MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Patsy McGlone MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA
Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson MLA
Mr Alex Easton MLA
Mr Seán Lynch MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Mr Raymond McCartney MLA
Ms Rosie McCorley MLA
Mr Neill Somerville MLA

In Attendance: Dr Kathryn Aiken (Clerk)
Ms Elaine Farrell (Assistant Clerk)
Ms Sharon McGurk (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Craig Mealey (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Colin Pidgeon (Research Officer) for agenda item 5

The meeting commenced at 12.08 pm in public session.

1. Apologies

None.

2. Chairperson's Business

None.

3. Draft Minutes of the meeting on 7 September 2015

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Monday 7 September 2015 were agreed.

4. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee agreed the list of witnesses to be called for oral evidence in October 2015.

Noted: The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

5. Briefing from RaISe

The Research Officer joined the meeting at 12.09 p.m. and briefed the Committee on research papers regarding assessing the costs of the Bill and training costs associated with the Bill. This was followed by a question and answer session.

12.20 p.m. Mr Somerville joined the meeting.

12.21 p.m. Mr Easton joined the meeting.

6. Background papers

Noted: The Committee noted the background paper in respect of the Mental Capacity Bill.

7. Evidence session on Part 1 of the Mental Capacity Bill

The following witnesses joined the meeting at 12.33 p.m. to speak on Clauses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7.

Mirjam Bader, Mindwise

Colin Caughey, NI Human Rights Commission

Dr Gavin Davidson, NI Association of Social Workers

Dr Eilionoir Flynn, The Centre for Disability, Law & Policy, University of Ireland, Galway

Karen Hall, Disability Action

Colin Harper, Law Centre NI

John Mackle, Commissioner for Older People

Mary Murnaghan, The Law Society NI

Alison McCullough, Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists

Elizabeth Byrne McCullough, Alzheimer's Society

Sorcha McGuinness, Ni Rare Disease Partnership

Dr Deirdre Shields, BMA

Dr Catherine Taggart, Royal College of Psychiatrists NI

1.07 p.m. Mr Somerville left the meeting.

1.13 p.m. Mrs Cameron left the meeting.

1.22 p.m. Mr Lynch joined the meeting.

1.37 p.m. Mrs Dobson joined the meeting.

1.51 p.m. Mr McCarthy joined the meeting.

1.53 p.m. Mr McCartney left the meeting.

1.58 p.m. Mrs Dobson left the meeting.

1.59 p.m. Mr Lynch left the meeting.

2.00 p.m. Mr McCartney re-joined the meeting.

2.02 p.m. Mr Ross left the meeting and Mr McGlone took the chair.

2.04 p.m. Mr Ross re-joined the meeting.

2.06 p.m. Mr Ross resumed the chair.
2.08 p.m. Mr Easton left the meeting.
2.09 p.m. Mr McGlone left the meeting.
2.18 p.m. Mr Lynch re-joined the meeting.
2.29 p.m. Ms McCorley left the meeting.
2.37 p.m. Mr McGlone re-joined the meeting.
2.45 p.m. Mrs Dobson re-joined the meeting.

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting 2.47 p.m. and participated in a question and answer session.

Chris Matthews, DHSSPS, Director of Mental Health, Disability & Older People
Alison McCaffrey, DHSSPS, Mental Capacity Bill Team.

3.14 p.m. Ms McCorley re-joined the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request a written response outlining the key learning points from the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

8. Any Other Business

None.

9. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on Monday, 21 September 2015 at 12pm in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.15 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____