



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**AD-HOC COMMITTEE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND PUBLIC SERVICES
OMBUDSPERSON BILL**

**TUESDAY 2 JUNE 2015, 10.30 AM ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,
BALLYMISCAW, STORMONT**

Present: Lord Morrow (Chairperson)
Pat Sheehan (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Cathal Boylan
Mr Leslie Cree
Mr Colum Eastwood
Mr David Hilditch
Mr Trevor Lunn
Ms Maeve McLaughlin
Mr Jim Wells

In Attendance: Ms Claire McCanny (Senior Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Ms Kate McCullough (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Jim Nulty (Clerical Supervisor)

The meeting opened at 10.31am in public session.

Jim Wells and David Hilditch joined the meeting at 10.33am

1. Apologies

There were no apologies

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26 May 2015.

3. Matters Arising

The Chairperson updated the Committee on the stakeholder event which was held on 28 May 2015.

4. NIPSO Bill – Evidence Session by Mr Peter Tyndall, Ireland’s Ombudsman and Information Commissioner

Mr Peter Tyndall joined the meeting at 10.35am

Mr Colum Eastwood joined the meeting at 10.36am

The Committee received evidence on the draft Bill from Mr Peter Tyndall, Ireland’s Ombudsman and Information Commissioner.

Key issues discussed included the definition of maladministration, the importance of timescales in dealing with complaints, power to carry out own initiative investigations, cases in Ireland of university maladministration, publication of reports and the power of the Ombudsman to deal with procurement and planning issues.

Ms Maeve McLaughlin joined the meeting at 11.13am

Mr Peter Tyndall left the meeting at 11.34am

5. NIPSO Bill – Committee Consideration of Responses to ‘Call for Evidence’

The Committee considered the main issues raised in the thirty submissions received through the ‘Call for Evidence’.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Committee for the First Minister and deputy First Minister seeking clarification on issues identified in the submissions and arising from the stakeholder event on 28 May 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Ombudsman to seek clarification in respect of the establishment of a Complaints Standards Authority and issues arising from the stakeholder event on 28 May 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek legal advice in respect of a number of Clauses in the Bill.

6. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

7. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee agreed the updated Forward Work Programme

8. Any Other Business

There was no further business.

9. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be 9 June 2015 at 10.30am in Room 21.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.39am

LORD MORROW

Chairperson to the Ad Hoc Committee of the NIPSO Bill