



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

**TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2015, 10.30 AM ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT
BUILDINGS, BALLYMISCAW, STORMONT**

Present: Lord Morrow (Chairperson)
Mr Pat Sheehan (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr David Hilditch
Mr Trevor Lunn
Mr Alban Maginness
Mr Gary Middleton
Ms Maeve McLaughlin
Mr Jim Wells

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

The meeting opened at 10.38am in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Mr Cathal Boylan, Mr Leslie Cree and Mr Colum Eastwood

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15 September 2015.

Pat Sheehan joined the meeting at 10.42am

3. Matters Arising

Members noted the correspondence received from the Committee for the Office First Minister and deputy First Minister with amendments regarding the establishment of a

Complaints Standards Authority and provisions for students in the theological colleges.

David Hilditch joined the meeting at 10.45am

4. Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsperson Bill – Draft Report

Question put and agreed: that the Committee was content with the ‘Introduction’ in the draft report

Question put and agreed: that the Committee was content with the ‘Background’ in the draft report

Question put and agreed: that the Committee was content with the ‘Call for Evidence’ in the draft report

Part 1 The Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsperson – Clauses 1-4

Question put and agreed: that the Committee was content with commentary on Clauses 1-4 in the draft report

Part 2 Investigations – Powers of Investigation – Clauses 5-11

Question put and agreed: that the Committee was content with commentary on Clauses 5-11 in the draft report

Listed authorities – Clauses 12-13

Question put and agreed: that the Committee was content with commentary on Clauses 12-13 in the draft report

Matters which may be investigated – Clauses 14-23

Question put and agreed: that the Committee was content with commentary on Clauses 14-17 in the draft report

Question put and agreed: that the Committee was content with commentary on Clause 18 in the draft report

Agreed: To seek clarification of the difference between the remit of the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education and the Public Services Ombudsperson

Question put and agreed: that the Committee was content with commentary on Clauses 19-23 in the draft report.

Procedure for making complaint to the Ombudsperson – Clauses 24-27

Question put and agreed: that the Committee was content with commentary on Clauses 24-27 in the draft report

Procedure for complaint referred to the Ombudsperson – Clause 28

Question put and agreed: that the Committee was content with commentary on Clause 28 in the draft report

Procedure for own initiative investigations

Question put and agreed: that the Committee was content with commentary on Clause 29 in the draft report

Conduct of investigations – Clauses 30-33

Question put and agreed: that the Committee was content with commentary on Clauses 30-33 in the draft report

Part 3 Miscellaneous and General – Clauses 34-48

Question put and agreed: that the Committee was content with commentary on Clauses 34-48 in the draft report

Part 4 The Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Ombudsman – Clause 49

Question put and agreed: that the Committee was content with commentary on Clause 49 in the draft report

Part 5 Supplementary Provisions Clauses 50-57

Question put and agreed: that the Committee was content with commentary on Clauses 50-57 in the draft report

Schedule 1

Agreed: The Committee agreed to insert a new paragraph after paragraph 326 of the report to include a Committee recommendation in respect of the budget of the NIPSO.

Schedules 2-9 and Long Title

Question put and agreed: that the Committee was content with commentary on Schedules 2-9 and the Long Title

Agreed: The Committee agreed to insert a new paragraph after paragraph 326 of the report to include a Committee recommendation in respect of the budget of the NIPSO. .

Other Issues

Question put and agreed: that the Committee was content with commentary on ‘Other Issues’ in the report

Clause by Clause consideration of the Bill

Question put and agreed: that the Committee was content with commentary on 'Clause by Clause Consideration of the Bill' in the report

Appendices 1- 4

Question put and agreed: that the Committee was content with Appendices 1- 4 which include minutes of proceedings, minutes of evidence, written submissions and other correspondence and papers considered by the Committee in the report

Executive Summary

Question put and agreed: that the Committee was content with the 'Executive Summary' including the 'key issues' in the draft report.

Jim Wells joined the meeting at 11.32am

5. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

6. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be 29 September 2015 at 10.30m in Room 21.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.33am

LORD MORROW

Chairperson to the Ad Hoc Committee for the NIPSO Bill