



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2020

Room 30, Parliament Buildings, Belfast

Present: Mr Colin McGrath MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Doug Beattie MLA (Deputy Chairperson)*
Ms Martina Anderson MLA
Mr George Robinson MLA*
Mr Pat Sheehan MLA
Ms Emma Sheerin MLA*
Mr Christopher Stalford MLA

Apologies: Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
Mr Trevor Lunn MLA

In Attendance: Ms Marie Austin (Assembly Clerk)
Ms Carla Campbell (Assistant Clerk)
Ms Sarah-Anne McKinley (Assistant Clerk)
Ms Andrienne Magee (Clerical Officer)

* Members who attended the meeting via video conferencing.

The meeting commenced at 2:08pm in closed session.

1. Brexit Issues – Briefing by the Northern Ireland Assembly European Affairs Manager

The Northern Ireland Assembly European Affairs Manager, Ms Shauna Mageean, joined the meeting at 2:08pm.

The European Affairs Manager briefed Members on recent developments in relation to Brexit.

During the session, the European Affairs Manager agreed to provide information on the Westminster Bills for which legislative consent was or will be sought from the Northern Ireland Assembly, and the purpose and timing of the Health and Social Care (Cross Border) Healthcare 2020 Bill.

The Chairperson thanked Ms Mageean for her briefing.

The meeting was suspended at 2:25pm.

The meeting resumed in open session at 2:29pm.

2. Apologies

As above.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 7 October 2020.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Article 2 of the Ireland/Northern Ireland Protocol – Joint Committee of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Irish Human Rights Commission and the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission.

The following representatives from the Joint Committee of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission joined the meeting at 2:31pm:

Les Allamby, Chief Commissioner, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission

Sinéad Gibney, Chief Commissioner, Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission.

The representatives briefed Members on the role of the Joint Committee in relation to Article 2 of the Ireland/Northern Ireland Protocol.

The oral evidence was followed by a question and answer session.

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their attendance.

Ms Emma Sheerin left the meeting at 3:39pm.

Mr Christopher Stalford left the meeting at 3:39pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a further evidence session with the Joint Committee of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission in December 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek the views of the First Minister and deputy First Minister on the joint statement issued by the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, on the Internal Market Bill and human rights and equality concerns.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask for details of any discussions that have taken place between the First Minister and deputy First Minister and the UK Government in relation to the Internal Market Bill and any possible adverse effects on human rights and equality for people in Northern Ireland.

The meeting was suspended at 3:39pm.

The meeting resumed at 3:42pm.

6. UK Command Paper – Departmental Oral Evidence Session

The following officials joined the meeting remotely via StarLeaf at 3:43pm:

Lynsey Moore, Director of European Division and Head of the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels, The Executive Office

Lorraine Lynas, EU Future Relations Division, The Executive Office

Tom Reid, Director, EU Relations, The Executive Office.

Mr Christopher Stalford rejoined the meeting at 3:50pm.

The officials briefed the Committee on the UK Command Paper: The UK's Approach to the Northern Ireland Protocol.

The oral evidence was followed by a question and answer session.

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

The Chairperson thanked officials for their attendance.

7. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Forward Work Programme for October to November 2020, and a response from the Executive Office in relation to Brexit briefings requested.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule an oral evidence session with departmental officials, for 13 January 2021, on the work being undertaken to assess the impact of Brexit on the institutions and North/South and East/West relationships.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a written briefing on the Executive's High Street Task Force for 11 November 2020.

8. Correspondence

- i. The Committee noted a copy of a response from the First Minister and deputy First Minister to the Committee for Justice on the Victims' Payment Scheme.
- ii. The Committee considered a response from the Executive Office in relation to staffing within the Office of the Interim Advocate for Victims and Survivors of Historical Institutional Abuse.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to raise the issue of staffing with the Commissioner for Survivors of Institutional Childhood Abuse when she appears before the Committee in the new year.

- iii. The Committee noted a response from the Executive Office regarding the review of Civil Contingencies: C3 COVID-19 Response, Lessons Learned Review.
- iv. The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for Finance to the First Minister and deputy First Minister requesting details of bids for capital and resource funding during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- v. The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for the Economy to First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the impact of live music restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

9. Chairperson's Business

The Committee noted correspondence from the Rosetta Trust and Survivors North West following their informal meeting with the Deputy Chairperson on Thursday 1 October 2020.

10. Any Other Business

None.

11. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 21 October 2020, at 2:00pm in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17pm.

Mr Colin McGrath MLA
Chairperson, Committee for the Executive Office