



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ECONOMY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

9 JUNE 2020

ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

10:00am

Present: Dr Caoímhe Archibald (Chairperson)
Ms Sinéad McLaughlin (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Gordon Dunne MBE
Mr Gary Middleton
Mr John O'Dowd
Mr John Stewart
Ms Claire Sugden

In Attendance: Mr Peter Hall (Assembly Clerk)
Ms Angela McParland (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Ms Sinead Kelly (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Michael Greer (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Thomas Manning (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Stewart Dickson
Mr Christopher Stalford

The meeting began at 10:08am in open session.

1. Apologies

As noted above.

2. Oral Briefing from Further Education Colleges & Training Providers

The witnesses joined the meeting at 10.09am

Members received a briefing from:

Mr Micheal McAllister Principal & Chief Executive, South West College;

Mr Leo Murphy Principal & Chief Executive, North West Regional College; and

Ms Louise Warde Hunter Principal and Chief Executive, Belfast Metropolitan College

Key issues discussed included: the key role the sector will play in the economic recovery, the work being undertaken to support student's complete courses and apprenticeships, impact that Brexit will have on the Labour Market, the reduction in number of applicants for courses beginning September 2020 and what social distancing procedures will have to be implemented into the classroom.

Agreed: Members agreed to write to the Minister highlighting the issues raised.

Agreed: Members agreed to write to the Committee for Education highlighting its concerns of the status of the 14-19 Skills Strategy.

The witnesses left the meeting at 11.01am

3. Any Other Business

There were no items of business.

4. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 10th June 2020 in Room 30, Parliament Buildings at 10am.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.20am

Dr Caoimhe Archibald
Chairperson
Committee for the Economy
17th June 2020