



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

# Committee for Education

## Minutes of Proceedings

26 January 2022

**Meeting Location:** Teleconference

**Present by Video or Teleconference:**

Mr Chris Lyttle MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Pat Sheehan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Ms Nicola Brogan MLA  
Mr Robbie Butler MLA  
Mrs Diane Dodds MLA  
Mr Harry Harvey MLA  
Mr Daniel McCrossan MLA  
Mr Justin McNulty MLA  
Mr Robin Newton MBE MLA

Ms Aoibhinn Treanor (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Clerk)  
Mr Marcus Matthews (Clerical Supervisor)  
Ms Caroline Perry (Bill Clerk), item 10 only  
Ms Denise Morgan (Bill Clerk), item 10 only



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

**Apologies:** None

The meeting commenced at 9:44am in public session.

**1. Apologies**

No apologies were received.

**2. Chairperson's Business**

**2.1 Period Products (Free Provision) Bill – Stakeholder Engagement event**

The Committee noted a record of points raised by stakeholders in an engagement event on the Period Products (Free Provision) Bill.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to include these in the Committee's report on the Period Products (Free Provision) Bill.

**3. Draft Minutes**

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed the minutes of its meetings held on 12 January 2022, 13 January 2022, 19 January 2022 and 20 January 2022.

**4. Matters Arising**

The Committee discussed the use of abbreviations to describe children.



## Northern Ireland Assembly

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to the Minister of Education asking that abbreviations are not used when describing children.

### 5. Correspondence

5.1 The Committee noted an index of correspondence.

5.2 The Committee noted correspondence from the Department of Education regarding the launch of the Delivery Plan Consultation of the Children and Young People's Strategy 2020-2030.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to seek an oral briefing from officials on the strategy.

5.3 The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister of Health to the Committee for Health regarding Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

5.4 The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Executive Office regarding the Fair Employment (School Teachers) Bill.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to forward correspondence it had received on this matter to the Committee for the Executive Office.

5.5 The Committee noted correspondence from the Education Authority regarding a new Engagement Framework that is being developed as part of its Communication Strategy.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to the Education Authority seeking further information on its Communication Strategy.

5.6 The Committee noted a response from a response from CCEA regarding pressures facing Modern and Foreign Language Teachers in the 2021/22 academic year.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to forward the response to the correspondent that raised this matter with it.



## Northern Ireland Assembly

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to invite CCEA to provide it with an oral briefing on examinations.

5.7 The Committee noted its correspondence from the Northern Ireland Fiscal Council providing its assessment of the Executive's Draft Budget 2022-2025.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to invite the Northern Ireland Fiscal Council to brief it on its views on the education budget.

5.8 The Committee noted its correspondence from Outdoor NI providing its January 2022 update.

5.9 The Committee noted correspondence regarding concerns around the 2023 transfer test and the newly formed Schools Entrance Assessment Group (SEAG).

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to the Minister of Education seeking a response to the issues raised.

### **6. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee considered its Forward Work Programme.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed its forward work programme.

### **7. Period Products (Free Provision) Bill - Oral Briefing from Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children & Young People (NICCY)**

The Committee noted a briefing paper from NICCY.

The following witness joined the meeting by video conference at 9:57am:

Ms Koulla Yiasouma, Commissioner, Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People

The Commissioner briefed the Committee on the Period Product (Free Provision) Bill.



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

This was followed by a question and answer session.

The Chairperson thanked the witness for the briefing.

**8. Education (Curriculum Minimum Content) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022 - SL1 - Oral Briefing from the Department of Education**

The Committee noted:

- correspondence from the Department of Education;
- Correspondence from Colin McGrath MLA indicating his intention to withdraw the Education (Curriculum) (CPR and AED) Bill;
- Correspondence from the Examiner for Statutory Rules; and
- A research paper on CPR and AED in schools.

The following witness joined the meeting by video conference at 11:00am:

Mr Sam Dempster, School Admission Team, Department of Education

Dr Suzanne Kingon, Director of Curriculum, Qualifications and Standards, Department of Education.

The witnesses briefed the Committee on the Education (Curriculum Minimum Content) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022.

This was followed by a question and answer session.

Mr Sheehan left the meeting at 11:28am.

Mr Harvey left the meeting at 11:41am.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for the briefing.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed that it was content for the Department of Education to prepare the statutory rule for the Education (Curriculum Minimum Content) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022.



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

**9. Period Products (Free Provision) Bill - Oral Briefing from Pat Catney MLA,  
Bill Sponsor**

The following witnesses joined the meeting by video conference at 11:39am:

Mr Pat Catney, MLA - Lagan Valley, Northern Ireland Assembly

Mr Johnny McCarthy, Researcher, Social Democratic and Labour Party

The witnesses briefed the Committee on the Period Product (Free Provision) Bill.

This was followed by a question and answer session.

Mr Harvey left the meeting at 11:53am.

Mr McCrossan left the meeting at 12:28pm.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for the briefing.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to move to closed session.

The Committee moved to closed session at 12:34.

**10. Period Products (Free Provision) Bill - Deliberation on Period Products (Free  
Provision) Bill**

The Committee discussed the clauses of the Period Product (Free Provision) Bill.

Mr Newton left the meeting at 12:47pm.

**11. Any Other Business**

No other business was discussed



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

**12. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting**

The next formal Committee meeting will be held on Thursday 27 January 2022 by video conference at 9:30am.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm.

**Chris Lyttle MLA**

**Chairperson, Committee for Education  
2 February 2022**