



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

# Committee for Education

## Minutes of Proceedings

31 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 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)  
Ms Denise Morgan (Bill Clerk)



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**Apologies:** Mr Daniel McCrossan MLA

The meeting commenced at 9:10am in Closed session.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies as above.

### **2. 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 Butler left the meeting at 10:00am

Mrs Dodds left the meeting at 10:07am

Mr Harvey left the meeting at 10:07am

The meeting adjourned at 10:25am

The meeting resumed at 10:37am with the following members present: Mr Lyttle, Mr Sheehan, Ms Brogan, Mr McNulty and Mr Newton.

The meeting moved to public session at 10:44am.



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### **3. Period Products (Free Provision) Bill – Formal Clause by Clause consideration of the Period Products (Free Provision) Bill**

The Committee commenced its formal clause by clause consideration of the Period Products (Free Provision) Bill.

#### **Clause 1 - Provision of free period products: Department scheme**

The Sponsor's amendment text was considered:

The Committee considered clause 1 as drafted. Committee members expressed concerns that further amendment to the clause may be required.

**Agreed:** The Committee expressed qualified support for amendment 1 and clause 1 at this time, subject to further advice, amendment and liaison with the Bill Sponsor.

A number of Committee members did not agree with the amendment or the clause.

#### **Clause 2 - Provision of free period products: public service bodies**

**Agreed:** The Committee expressed qualified support for clause 2 at this time, subject to further advice, amendment and liaison with the Bill Sponsor.

A number of Committee members did not agree with the clause.

#### **Clause 3 - Arrangements under sections 1 and 2: particular requirements**

The Committee considered clause 3 as drafted. Committee members expressed concerns that further amendment to the clause may be required.

The Committee moved to closed session at 9:48am.

The Committee moved to public session at 9:56am.

**Agreed:** The Committee expressed qualified support for the amendments and for clause 3 at this time, subject to further advice, amendment and liaison with the Bill Sponsor.

A number of Committee members did not agree with the amendments or the clause.



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### **Clause 4 - Guidance**

The Bill Sponsor's amendments were considered:

Clause 4, Page 2, Line 18

Leave out 'promote' and insert 'support'

Clause 4, Page 2, Line 23

Leave out 'promote' and insert 'support'

The Committee considered clause 4 as drafted. Committee members expressed concerns that further amendment to the clause may be required.

**Agreed:** The Committee expressed qualified support for the amendments and for clause 4 at this time, subject to further advice, amendment and liaison with the Bill Sponsor.

A number of Committee members did not agree with the amendments or the clause.

### **Clause 5 - Statement on arrangements**

The Committee considered clause 5 as drafted. Committee members expressed concerns that further amendment to the clause may be required.

**Agreed:** The Committee expressed qualified support for the amendments and for clause 5 at this time, subject to further advice, amendment and liaison with the Bill Sponsor.

A number of Committee members did not agree with the amendments or the clause.

### **Clause 6 - Duty to publish information**

The Committee considered clause 6 as drafted. Committee members expressed concerns that further amendment to the clause may be required.



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The Committee moved to closed session at 10:35am

The Committee moved to public session at 10:48am.

**Agreed:** The Committee expressed qualified support for clause 5 at this time, subject to further advice, amendment and liaison with the Bill Sponsor.

A number of Committee members did not agree with the amendments or the clause.

### **Clause 7 - Key definitions**

The Committee considered clause 7 as drafted. Committee members expressed concerns that the Bill sponsor had not yet secured a draft amendment to Clause 7 and that further amendment to the clause may be required.

**Agreed:** The Committee noted the proposed amendments and expressed qualified support for clause 7 at this time, subject to further advice, amendment and liaison with the Bill Sponsor.

A number of Committee members did not agree with the amendments or the clause.

### **Clause 8 - Interpretation**

The Committee considered clause 8 as drafted. Committee members expressed concerns that further amendment to the clause may be required.

**Agreed:** The Committee expressed qualified support for the amendments and clause 8 at this time, subject to further advice, amendment and liaison with the Bill Sponsor.

A number of Committee members did not agree with the amendments or the clause.

### **Clause 9 - Commencement**



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The Committee considered clause 9 as drafted. Committee members expressed concerns that amendment to the clause may be required.

**Agreed:** The Committee expressed qualified support for clause 9 at this time, subject to further advice, amendment and liaison with the Bill Sponsor.

A number of Committee members did not agree with the clause.

### **Clause 10 - Short title**

The Committee considered clause 10 as drafted.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed that it was content with Clause 10 as drafted.

### **Long Title**

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed that it was content with the long title of the Bill.

The Chairperson advised Members that the formal clause-by-clause scrutiny of the Period Products (Free Provision) Bill had concluded.

The session on the Period Products (Free Provision) Bill was reported by Hansard.

The Committee considered correspondence from the Department for the Economy on the Bill.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed that the correspondence should be included in the Committee report on the Bill.

## **4. Any Other Business**

No other business was discussed



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

The next formal Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 1 February 2022 by video conference at 9:00am.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52am.

**Chris Lyttle MLA**

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