



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

## Committee for Education

### Minutes of Proceedings

9 February 2022

**Meeting Location:** Teleconference

**Present by Video or Teleconference:**

Mr Chris Lyttle MLA (Chairperson)

Ms Nicola Brogan MLA

Mrs Diane Dodds MLA

Mr Daniel McCrossan MLA

Mr Justin McNulty MLA

Ms Aoibhinn Treanor (Assembly Clerk)

Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Clerk)

Mr Marcus Matthews (Clerical Supervisor)

Mr Craig Mealy (Clerical Officer)

**Apologies:**

Mr Pat Sheehan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

Mr Robbie Butler MLA

Mr Harry Harvey MLA

Mr Robin Newton MBE MLA



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The meeting commenced at 11:26am in closed session.

### 1. Apologies

Apologies as above.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed that the following item would be considered by members via correspondence under Standing Order 115.

### 2. Correspondence

The following actions were agreed by Committee members via correspondence.

2.2 The Committee noted a response from the Minister of Education regarding pressures facing Modern and Foreign Language (MFL) teachers in schools.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to arrange an oral briefing with the Department of Education and the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations & Assessment (CCEA) on this matter.

2.3 The Committee noted a response from the Department of Education regarding Restraint and Seclusion in Educational Settings.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to seek an update on the Department of Education's restraint and seclusion working group and public consultation, and to forward the response to the correspondent who raised this matter with the Committee.

2.4 The Committee noted a response from the Minister for Finance regarding the Period Products (Free Provision) Bill advising that the Department of Finance has no policy responsibility for the subject of Period Poverty.



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**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to forward the response to the Bill's Sponsor, Mr Pat Catney MLA.

2.5 The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance providing a Research Paper on Covid-19 Funding: Allocations & Spending in Northern Ireland.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to seek a briefing from the RaISe Public Finance Scrutiny Unit on Covid-19 spending.

2.6 The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Communities to CCEA regarding the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Amendment) Bill.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to the Committee for Communities asking to be copied into any further updates on the Bill.

2.7 The Committee noted a copy of the School Age Bill as Introduced and the Explanatory and Financial Memorandum.

2.8 The Committee noted correspondence from the Education Authority regarding two public consultations regarding Area Planning, as part of their draft Strategic Area Plan 2022-2027.

2.9 The Committee noted correspondence from the Education Authority regarding its Joint Consultative Forum meeting on 15th March 2022.

2.10 The Committee noted correspondence from CBI Northern Ireland regarding a report titled 'Software Skills for a 10x Economy'.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to invite CBI Northern Ireland to brief it on the report.

2.11 The Committee noted correspondence from a Consultancy regarding a business plan to install air filtration systems within schools.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to refer this to the Education Authority for information.

2.12 The Committee noted the Investment Strategy Northern Ireland Investing Activity Report for the Department of Education for January 2022.

2.13 The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance regarding a Department of Education Estimates Memorandum and seeking the



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Committee's feedback in respect of its analysis of Department of Education's spending in 2021-22.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to return to this matter at its next meeting.

2.14 The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Justice seeking its views on a statutory Rule - Domestic Abuse Information-sharing with Schools etc. Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2022.

2.15 The Committee noted correspondence from Dyslexia Awareness NI highlighting concerns about how services are provided by the Department of Education and the Education Authority.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Department of Education and the Education Authority seeking a response to the issues raised.

### 3. Any Other Business

No other business was discussed.

### 4. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting

The next formal Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday 16 February 2022 by video conference at 9:30am.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27pm.

**Chris Lyttle MLA**

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