



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for The Executive Office

Minutes of Proceedings

Wednesday 12 May 2021

Meeting Location: Virtually via Video Conferencing

Present by Video or Teleconference:

Mr Colin McGrath MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Doug Beattie MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Ms Martina Anderson MLA
Mr Trevor Lunn MLA
Mr George Robinson MLA
Mr Pat Sheehan MLA
Ms Emma Sheerin MLA

Apologies: None

In Attendance by Video or Teleconference:

Mr Michael Potter (Assembly Clerk)
Ms Carla Campbell (Assistant Clerk)
Ms Sarah-Anne McKinley (Assistant Clerk)
Ms Alice O'Hare (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Andrienne Magee (Clerical Officer)



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The meeting commenced at 2:05pm in open session

1. Apologies

As Above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson and Members acknowledged and welcomed the findings of the Coroners court that the 10 victims killed in Ballymurphy in August 1971 were innocent. The Chairperson reiterated the need to continue to seek and deliver truth and accountability for victims of the troubles.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 5 May 2021.

4. Matters Arising

The Committee considered a minute of an informal meeting between the Chairperson and the Rosetta Trust in relation to Historical Institutional Abuse.



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Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite Historical Institutional Abuse groups to provide evidence to the Committee in relation to the redress process.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek to lay a Committee Motion to initiate a review of the Redress Board.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek a meeting with the Secretary of State to raise the issue of victims/survivors eligible for redress residing outside of Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Executive Office to ask for an update on the status of the publicity strategy.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to commission research from the Northern Ireland Assembly Research and Information Service to include processes and work carried out for similar schemes to the Redress Board in other countries; and the differences between the legislation for the Disabled Victims Payment Scheme and that relating to Historical Institutional Abuse in relation to redress payments.

The Committee considered a minute of the Committee Strategic Planning Session held on 5 May 2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the work plan detailed in the document.

5. Budget – 2021-22 Spending Plans – Oral Briefing by Departmental Officials

The officials joined the meeting at 2:12pm



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- Mr Chris Stewart, Deputy Secretary of Strategic Policy, Equality and Good Relations, The Executive Office.
- Ms Neelia Lloyd, Assistant Secretary of Strategic Policy, Equality and Good Relations, The Executive Office.
- Ms Tara Kennedy, Accountant, Strategic Policy, Equality and Good Relations, The Executive Office.

Trevor Lunn joined the meeting at 2:16pm.

The officials briefed Members on Executive Office spending plans for 2021-22.

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

The oral evidence was reported by Hansard.

During the evidence officials agreed to provide the Committee with further information on a number of issues.

The Chairperson thanked the officials for their attendance.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request an oral departmental briefing on the Communities in Transition and Urban Villages initiatives.

The Committee moved into closed session at 3:00pm



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6. UK Exit from EU – NI Assembly Research Briefing: EU Matters – Expert Witnesses for the NI Protocol

The researchers joined the meeting at 3:00pm

- Ms Emma Dellow-Perry, Research Officer, NI Assembly Research Office.
- Mr Aidan Stennett, Research Officer, NIA Research Office.

The Researchers briefed Members on Expert Witnesses for the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland.

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

The Committee moved into public session at 3:18pm.

7. UK Exit from EU – NI Assembly EU Affairs Manager – EU Matters Update

The NIA Affairs Manager joined the meeting at 3:19pm

- Ms Shauna Mageean, EU Affairs Manager, Northern Ireland Assembly.

The NIA Affairs Manager briefed Members on EU Matters.



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

The Chairperson informed Members that available Members from the Committee had attended the Oireachtas Joint Committee on EU Affairs on 12 May 2021 and that they had discussed the value of having quarterly meetings. Also discussed was inviting Business leaders to hear their experiences, and inviting EU Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič to meet with the Committee for the Executive Office to raise issues and concerns in relation to the Ireland/Northern Ireland Protocol.

The Committee discussed the need to ensure there is equivalent emphasis on both east-west and north-south relationships.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to share the paper provided by the NI Affairs Manager with the Oireachtas Joint Committee on EU Affairs.

8. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme for May to June 2021.

The Committee were informed that the Committee for Finance are content that the Special EU Programmes Board (SEUPB) provide an oral briefing for the Committee for the Executive Office.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that an oral briefing with SEUPB would be scheduled for 26 May 2021.



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9. Correspondence

- i. The Committee noted the Maze Long Kesh Development Corporation Annual Report and Accounts 2019-20.
- ii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Infrastructure to the First Minister and deputy First Minister requesting an update on the current position in relation to the Transfer of Functions Order in relation to Reservoirs.
- iii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance regarding the SEUPB briefing on Peace Plus Consultation.
- iv. The Committee considered correspondence from the Committee for Justice to the Executive Office requesting an update on work being taken forward in relation to the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that, as the scrutiny of the Violence against Women and Girls Strategy falls within its remit, an oral departmental briefing would be scheduled on this issue.

- v. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Economy to the First Minister and deputy First Minister highlighting concerns in relation to disadvantages that manufacturers in Northern Ireland face when competing with businesses in Britain due to Rules of Origin.
- vi. The Committee noted a joint statement by Secretary of State Brandon Lewis CBE MP and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence Simon Coveney TD.
- vii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Clerk to the Assembly to the Business Office laying the Public Services Ombudsman Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (Commencement) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021.
- viii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council advising notification of the Council's resolution in regard to a Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.
- ix. The Committee noted correspondence from the Construction Employers Federation regarding their response to ISNI 2021 Call for Evidence, April 2021.



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10. Any Other Business

None.

11. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 May 2021 at 2:00pm, virtually via Starleaf.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:46pm.

Colin McGrath MLA

Chairperson, Committee for the Executive Office