



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Minutes of Proceedings

Wednesday 13 May 2020

Room 30, Parliament Buildings, Belfast

Present: 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*
Mr Christopher Stalford MLA

Apologies: None.

In Attendance: Ms Marie Austin (Assembly Clerk)
Ms Andrienne Magee (Clerical Officer)

** Members who attended the meeting via telephone conferencing.*

The meeting commenced at 2.04pm.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6 May 2020.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Brexit – Oral Evidence Session on the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee

The Junior Ministers joined the meeting at 2.05pm:

Gordon Lyons MLA, Junior Minister, The Executive Office
Declan Kearney MLA, Junior Minister, The Executive Office

The Junior Ministers briefed the Committee on the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee and other Brexit matters.

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

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

The Chairperson thanked the Junior Ministers for their attendance.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request information/clarification on a range of issues.

5. Equality Commission for Northern Ireland – Overview Briefing

The following representatives from the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland joined the meeting via telephone conferencing at 3.19pm:

Ms Geraldine McGahey OBE, Chief Commissioner, Equality Commission for Northern Ireland
Dr Evelyn Collins CBE, Chief Executive, Equality Commission for Northern Ireland.

The representatives briefed the Committee on the work of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland.

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

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their attendance.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule briefings from the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission on the implementation of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland with a focus on Article 2(1) – *Rights of individuals*.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request research on inequalities that exist in Northern Ireland.

6. Functioning of Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill – Proposals for handling Committee consideration of the Bill

The Committee considered a draft timetable for its consideration of the Functioning of Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed a timetable for its consideration of the Functioning of Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.

7. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme for May – July 2020.

8. Correspondence

- i. The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for Finance to The Executive Office requesting further information on the Functioning of Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.
- ii. The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee on Standards and Privileges to The Executive Office requesting further information on the Functioning of Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.

9. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson advised Members that he will speak in his role as Chairperson of the Committee to the debate, on Tuesday 19 May 2020, on the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020.

10. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 20 May 2020 at 2.00 pm in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 4.24pm.

Mr Colin McGrath MLA
Chairperson, Committee for the Executive Office