



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Minutes of Proceedings

Wednesday 3 June 2020

Room 30, Parliament Buildings, Belfast

Present: Mr Colin McGrath MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Doug Beattie MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Ms Martina Anderson MLA*
Mr Trevor Clarke MLA*
Mr Trevor Lunn MLA
Mr Pat Sheehan MLA
Ms Emma Sheerin MLA*
Mr Christopher Stalford MLA

Apologies: Mr George Robinson MLA

In Attendance: Ms Marie Austin (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Craig Mealey (Assistant Clerk)

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

The meeting commenced at 2.03pm.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 27 May 2020.

3. Matters Arising

Victims Payment Scheme

The Committee expressed disappointment that The Executive Office had not responded to its request for formal notification of the position in relation to the Victims Payment Scheme including details of the way forward and new timescales.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request an urgent oral briefing from The Executive Office on the Victims Payment Scheme.

Brexit Issues

The Committee discussed matters around the current Brexit transition period.

The following question was put:

“That, given the unique impact of Brexit on Northern Ireland and the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee for the Executive Office writes to the First Minister and deputy First Minister asking that the Executive calls on the UK Government to request an extension to the current Brexit transition period beyond 31 December 2020.”

The Committee divided: Ayes 5; Noes 3; Abstained 0.

AYES

Mr Colin McGrath
Mr Trevor Lunn
Ms Martina Anderson
Mr Pat Sheehan
Ms Emma Sheerin

NOES

Mr Doug Beattie
Mr Trevor Clarke
Mr Christopher Stalford

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the First Minister and deputy First Minister asking that the Executive calls on the UK Government to request an extension to the current Brexit transition period beyond 31 December 2020.

4. June 2020 Monitoring Round – Departmental Oral Evidence Session

The following officials joined the meeting via telephone conferencing at 2.06pm:

Mark Browne, Director of Strategic Policy, Equality and Good Relations, The Executive Office,
Tara Kennedy, Head of Finance Branch, The Executive Office.

The officials briefed the Committee on the June 2020 Monitoring Round.

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

The officials agreed to provide a written briefing on The Executive Office's June 2020 Monitoring Round return for consideration at the Committee meeting on 10 June 2020.

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

The Chairperson thanked the officials for their attendance.

5. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme for June and July 2020.

6. Correspondence

- i. The Committee noted a response from the First Minister and deputy First Minister on a range of issues that were raised at an informal meeting with the Chairperson on 4 May 2020.
- ii. The Committee noted a response from The Executive Office regarding press officers employed in the devolved regions.
- iii. The Committee noted a response from The Executive Office regarding grant funding and Coronavirus.
- iv. The Committee noted a response from The Executive Office on Buy Social equality assessment in relation to recruitment and training.
- v. The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from The Executive Office to the Committee for Standards and Privileges regarding the Functioning of Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.
- vi. The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for Finance to The Executive Office regarding the Functioning of Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.
- vii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Ad Hoc Committee on a Bill of Rights advising that it will receive oral evidence from The Executive Office on 4 June 2020.
- viii. The Committee noted a memo from the EU Affairs Manager attaching the Institute for Government report: *Implementing Brexit: The Northern Ireland Protocol*.
- ix. The Committee noted the Northern Ireland Assembly Research and Information Service Briefing Note – *A note on the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017*.

- x. The Committee noted further correspondence from an individual on the appointment of Mr Justice Colton as President of the Historical Institutional Abuse Redress Board.
- xi. The Committee noted further correspondence from an individual regarding the recent data breach at the office of the Interim Advocate for Victims and Survivors of Historical Institutional Abuse.

7. Chairperson's Business

None.

8. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 10 June 2020 at 2.00 pm in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 3.07pm.

Mr Colin McGrath MLA
Chairperson, Committee for the Executive Office