



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY 25 NOVEMBER 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 George Robinson MLA\*  
Mr Pat Sheehan MLA  
Ms Emma Sheerin MLA\*  
Mr Christopher Stalford MLA

**Apologies:** Mr Trevor Lunn MLA

**In Attendance:** Ms Marie Austin (Assembly Clerk)  
Ms Sarah-Anne McKinley (Assistant Clerk)  
Mr Craig Mealey (Clerical Supervisor)  
Ms Andrienne Magee (Clerical Officer)

\* Members who attended the meeting via video conferencing.

*The meeting commenced at 2:05pm.*

**1. Apologies**

As above.

## **2. Draft Minutes**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18 November 2020.

## **3. Matters Arising**

None.

## **4. Brexit Issues –Joint Oireachtas Committee on European Affairs**

The following Members of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on European Affairs joined the meeting at 2:09pm, to discuss the impact of Brexit on the institutions and North/South relationships:

Deputy Joe McHugh (Chairperson), Joint Oireachtas Committee on European Affairs  
Deputy Neale Richmond, Joint Oireachtas Committee on European Affairs  
Deputy Ruairí Ó Murchú, Joint Oireachtas Committee on European Affairs  
Senator Vincent P Martin, Joint Oireachtas Committee on European Affairs.

The session was reported by Hansard.

The Chairperson thanked the Members of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on European Affairs for their attendance and the informative discussion.

## **5. Brexit – Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement**

The Chairperson informed Members that, due to essential Oireachtas business, Members of the Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement were unable to attend today's meeting.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to reschedule the session with the Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement for early 2021, when the impact of the UK Internal Market legislation on the Good Friday Agreement should be more clear.

## **6. Brexit Issues – Oral Evidence Session with Junior Ministers on Brexit Issues**

The Junior Ministers joined the meeting at 3:07pm:

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

The Junior Ministers briefed the Committee on Brexit issues.

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

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

The Junior Ministers agreed to provide information on any modelling/assessments that have been carried out in relation to tariff levels for both a negotiated outcome and a non-negotiated outcome.

The Chairperson thanked the Junior Ministers for their attendance.

## **7. Brexit – Consideration of draft report on the evidence received from local councils on the impact of the United Kingdom’s exit from the European Union.**

The Committee considered a draft ‘Report on the evidence received from local councils on the impact of the United Kingdom’s exit from the European Union’.

### **Title Page, Committee Membership and Powers, Table of Contents**

The Committee considered the Title Page, Committee Membership and Powers and Table of Contents.

“Question: That the Committee is content with the Title Page, Committee Membership and Powers, and Table of Contents as drafted put and agreed to”.

### **Introduction**

The Committee considered the Introduction section of the report.

“Question: That the Committee is content with the Introduction section, paragraphs 1 to 8, as drafted put and agreed to”

### **Summary of the Main Issues Raised**

The Committee considered the Summary of the Main Issues Raised section of the report.

“Question: That the Committee is content with the Summary of the Main Issues Raised section of the report, paragraphs 9 to 105, as drafted put and agreed to”.

### **Appendices**

The Committee considered the Appendices section of the report.

“Question: That the Committee is content with the contents of the Appendices to be included in the report put and agreed to”.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it was content for the Chairperson to approve the Minutes of Proceedings of today’s meeting for inclusion in the report.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to order the *Report on the evidence received from local councils on the impact of the United Kingdom’s exit from the European Union (NIA 58/17-22)* to be published.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that an electronic copy of the report should be sent to all local councils, the Executive Office and the Committee for Communities.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the following motion to be tabled in the Business Office:

*“That this Assembly notes the evidence from local councils to the Committee for the Executive Office in its Report on the evidence received from local councils on the impact of the United Kingdom’s exit from the European Union (NIA 58/17-22); and calls on the First Minister and deputy First Minister to urge the UK Government to provide clarity on the implementation of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland to allow local councils to prepare for the post-transition period.”*

## **8. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee considered the Forward Work Programme for November 2020 to February 2021.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that a departmental written briefing paper on Historical Institutional Abuse, Engagement with Institutions, should be provided for the meeting on 2 December 2020, and an oral briefing should be scheduled for early 2021.

## 9. Correspondence

- i. The Committee noted a response from the Executive Office providing information on the steps being taken to secure future funding for Shared Future Funding programmes.
- ii. The Committee considered correspondence from the Committee for the Economy requesting a copy of written evidence from Michael Gove MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, on issues relating to the UK's future relationship with the European Union.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the written evidence, when received, to all statutory committees.

- iii. The Committee noted a call for evidence from the Committee for Communities on The Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Bill.
- iv. The Committee noted the Northern Ireland Assembly Brexit Brief Newsletter (16 November 2020).
- v. The Committee considered the Northern Ireland Youth Forum report: *"Our Voices: Speaking Truth to Power"*.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule a presentation from the Northern Ireland Youth Forum to hear about the views of young people on the response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

- vi. The Committee considered a written briefing from the Community Foundation *"Building Back Better: Public Participation in Northern Ireland's post-COVID Recovery"*.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the written briefing to the Executive Office requesting views on the initiatives proposed in the document.

- vii. The Committee noted an invitation to the Clerk from the Working Group on Unification Referendums on the Island of Ireland, to attend a private briefing to discuss the contents and conclusions of a report it intends to launch in the near future.

**10. Chairperson's Business**

None.

**11. Any Other Business**

None.

**12. Date, Time and Place of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 2 December 2020, at 2:00pm in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

*The meeting was adjourned at 4:34pm.*

**Mr Colin McGrath MLA**  
**Chairperson, Committee for the Executive Office**