



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

# Committee for The Executive Office

## Minutes of Proceedings

Wednesday 21 April 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 Clarke 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 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 2:06pm in open session

### **1. Apologies**

As Above.

### **2. Chairperson's Business**

The Chairperson condemned the attack on a PSNI Officer in Dungiven.

The Chairperson informed Members that he attended an informal meeting between the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee and Chairpersons of the Northern Ireland Assembly Committees and advised there would be a further meeting in June 2021.

The Chairperson urged Members to continue the drive for the vaccination programme asking them to encourage people to take up the opportunity to receive the vaccine.

### **3. Draft Minutes**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14 April 2021.



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**4. Matters Arising**

None.

**5. Historical Institutional Abuse – Oral Briefing by the Commissioner for Survivors of Institutional Childhood Abuse (COSICA).**

The Commissioner for Survivors of Institutional Childhood Abuse joined the meeting at 2:09pm

- Ms Fiona Ryan, Commissioner for Survivors of Institutional Childhood Abuse.

The Commissioner briefed Members on her work to date and the work of the Redress Board.

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

The oral evidence was reported by Hansard.

The Chairperson thanked the Commissioner for Survivors of Institutional Childhood Abuse for their attendance.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Executive Office to ask for an update on discussions with the UK Government in relation to recipients of redress payments resident in mainland GB.



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*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Executive Office to ask that a review of the Redress Board be carried out in view of the experience of a number of Victims and Survivors.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Chair and deputy Chair would explore how the groups representing victims and survivors of historical institutional abuse could provide evidence and/or briefings to the Committee as a whole, at their informal meeting on 5 May 2021.

*The meeting suspended at 3:28pm.*

*The meeting resumed at 3:35pm.*

### **6. Carnegie UK Trust – Citizen Engagement and the Programme for Government – Oral Briefing**

The Representative joined the meeting at 3:36pm

- Ms Sarah Davidson, Chief Executive Officer, Carnegie UK Trust.

The representative briefed Members on citizen engagement and the Programme for Government.

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

The oral evidence was reported by Hansard.

The Chairperson thanked the representative for their attendance.



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### **7. Forward Work Programme**

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

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to invite the Community Foundation to provide an oral briefing on citizen engagement in planning for Covid recovery to Members on 9 June 2021.

### **8. Correspondence**

- i. The Committee noted a statement from the First Minister and deputy First Minister on decisions made by the Executive on the COVID-19 Restrictions.
- ii. The Committee noted a response from the Executive Office giving an update on the International Relations Strategy and detailing outcomes and indicators used to measure the performance of the Executive's international bureaux and those operated by Invest NI.
- iii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Clerk to the Assembly regarding the Public Services Ombudsman Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (Commencement) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021.
- iv. The Committee noted correspondence from the Northern Ireland Assembly European Affairs Manager giving an update on Common Frameworks.
- v. The Committee noted a statement by the UK Government following the meeting between Lord Frost and Vice President Šefčovič on 16 April 2021.



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- vi. The Committee noted a statement by Vice-President of the European Commission Maroš Šefčovič following his meeting with Lord David Frost on 16 April 2021.

**9. Any Other Business**

None.

**10. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 28 April 2021 at 2:00pm, virtually via Starleaf.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:11pm.

**Colin McGrath MLA**

**Chairperson, Committee for the Executive Office**