



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for The Executive Office

Minutes of Proceedings

Wednesday 23 June 2021

Meeting Location: Virtually via Video Conferencing

Present by Video or Teleconference:

Mr Colin McGrath MLA (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: Ms Diane Dodds MLA

Mr John Stewart MLA

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 2:02pm in open session

1. Apologies

As Above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson extended condolences to the family of Gordon Dunne MLA.

The Chairperson acknowledged the appointment of Paul Givan MLA as First Minister and Gary Middleton MLA as junior Minister and wished them well in their appointments.

The Chairperson informed Members that Trevor Clarke MLA has been replaced on the Committee for the Executive Office by Diane Dodds MLA. The Chairperson expressed thanks to Trevor Clarke for his service on the Committee and welcomed Diane Dodds.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 09 June 2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting of the Concurrent Committee of the Committee for the Executive Office, Committee for the Economy and Committee for Finance held on Wednesday 16 June 2021.



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4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Historical Institutional Abuse: NI Assembly Research and Information Service

The researcher joined the meeting at 2:05pm

- Mr Stephen Orme, Research Officer, NI Assembly Research and Information Service

The researcher briefed Members on the Research Paper “Comparative analysis of the Historical Institutional Abuse Redress Board – NIAR 137-21”.

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

George Robinson left the meeting at 2:10pm.

Christopher Stalford left the meeting at 2:31pm.

The Chairperson thanked the researcher for their attendance.



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6. Historical Institutional Abuse – Stakeholder Groups – Oral evidence

The first witness joined the meeting at 2:38pm.

- Mr Gerry McCann, Chairperson, Rosetta Trust

The witness briefed Members on the Historical Institutional Abuse Redress Process.

Emma Sheerin left the meeting at 2:46pm.

Christopher Stalford left the meeting at 3:06pm.

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

Emma Sheerin left the meeting at 3:30pm.

George Robinson joined the meeting at 3:47pm.

The oral evidence was reported by Hansard.

The second witness joined the meeting at 3:08pm.

- Mr Jon McCourt, Chairperson, Survivors North West



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The witness briefed Members on the Historical Institutional Abuse Redress Process.

Christopher Stalford joined the meeting at 3:39pm.

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

The oral evidence was reported by Hansard.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for their attendance.

7. Historical Institutional Abuse – Redress Board – Oral evidence

The witnesses joined the meeting at 3:48pm.

- Mr Justice Ian Huddleston, President, Historical Institutional Abuse Redress Board
- Mr Jim Coffey, Secretary, Historical Institutional Abuse Redress Board
- Mr Patrick Butler, Senior Principal Legal Advisor, Historical Institutional Abuse Redress Board
- Ms Beverley Clarke, Non-Judicial Panel Member, Historical Institutional Abuse Redress Board

Christopher Stalford left the meeting at 3:48pm.



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The witnesses briefed Members on the Historical Institutional Abuse Redress Process.

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

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for their attendance.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Committee Motion laid following the Committee meeting held on 2 June 2021 should not be withdrawn.

8. Forward Work Programme

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

The Committee noted a possible meeting on Monday 28 June 2021 with EU Commission Vice President Šefčovič.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to reschedule the Executive Office briefing on the Programme for Government.

9. Correspondence

- i. The Committee noted correspondence from the First Minister and deputy First Minister to the Committee for the Economy about concerns in relation to the rigidity of ring-fenced Covid-19 support funding.
- ii. The Committee noted a written Ministerial statement from the First Minister and deputy First Minister on decisions of the Executive on Covid-19, 17 June 2021.



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- iii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Executive Office in relation to the affirmation of SR 2021 No 114 – The Departments (Transfer of Functions) Order (NI) 2021.
- iv. The Committee noted correspondence from the Head of the Civil Service announcing the appointment of Denis McMahon as Permanent Secretary of the Executive Office.
- v. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance to the Executive Office in relation to the Cross-Departmental Group on Building Fire Safety.
- vi. The Committee considered correspondence from the Committee for Communities in relation to the High Streets Task Force.
- vii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Ad Hoc Committee on a Bill of Rights to the Executive Office asking for an update on the status of the panel of experts.
- viii. The Committee noted a European Commission Statement “Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland: Statement by the European Commission following the UK’s Request to Extend the Grace Periods for Chilled Meats”.
- ix. The Committee noted correspondence from the NI Assembly Speaker confirming the appointment of Gary Middleton MLA as junior Minister.
- x. The Committee noted the Executive Office news release “35th British-Irish Council Summit, Northern Ireland Executive 11 June 2021 – Communiqué”.
- xi. The Committee noted correspondence from the Victims and Survivors Service in relation to the co-design process to develop support and services for victims and survivors of Mother and Baby Institutions, Magdalene Laundries and Workhouses in Northern Ireland.
- xii. The Committee considered correspondence from the Special EU Programmes Body providing clarity in relation of the development of the PEACE PLUS Programme.



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Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Executive Office to ask that they ensure that, proposals for the PEACE PLUS Programme are submitted for approval by the North South Ministerial Council without delay and that the Executive carry out its approval process for the programme expediently to ensure there is no gap between PEACE IV and PEACE PLUS funding.

- xiii. The Committee considered correspondence from the Community Foundation NI asking what actions the Committee intends to take in relation to the three asks raised by the Community Foundation NI during their oral briefing on 9 June 2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Executive Office to ask that they ensure that the commitment to civic engagement within the Open Government Action Plan 2019-21 be retained in any future action plans and to request an update on the commitment to civic engagement in the New Decade New Approach Agreement.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to the Department of Finance to ask what participatory budgeting is being undertaken.

- xiv. The Committee noted the Executive Office response in relation to European Commission Proposal on Pay Transparency.

- xv. The Committee considered correspondence from the Committee for Communities expressing disappointment that they were not included in the Concurrent Committee meeting held on 16 June 2021, and requesting that the Committee for the Executive Office share their work in relation to the establishment of a High Streets Task Force with them.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to share work conducted on the establishment of a High Streets Task Force with the Committee for Communities.

- xvi. The Committee noted the UK Open Government National Action Plan 2019-2021 – Northern Ireland Commitments.



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- xvii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Women's Policy Group NI inviting Members to attend the re-launch of the Women's Policy Group Covid 19 Feminist Recovery Plan on 28 July 2021.

10. Any Other Business

None.

11. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting

An extra-ordinary meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday 28 June 2021 to meet with EU Commission Vice President Šefčovič, however this is to be confirmed.

The next Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday 30 June 2021 at 2:00pm, virtually via Starleaf.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

Colin McGrath MLA

Chairperson, Committee for the Executive Office