



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for The Executive Office

Minutes of Proceedings

Wednesday 10 March 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 Lunn MLA
Mr Pat Sheehan MLA
Ms Emma Sheerin 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 Andrienne Magee (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced at 2:03pm in open session



Northern Ireland
Assembly

1. Apologies

As Above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chair acknowledged the passing of Mr Jimmy Spratt, former MLA and Chair of the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister. The Committee expressed its condolences to Mr Spratt's family.

The Chair informed Members that Mr Edwin Poots MLA had resumed his position as Minister for Agriculture and, as a result, Mr Gordon Lyons MLA has returned to his position as Junior Minister. Members expressed thanks to Mr Gary Middleton MLA for his work during his time as Junior Minister.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3 March 2021.

4. Matters Arising

The Committee noted that, following the evidence session on 3 March 2021 on the High Streets Task Force, the Clerk is preparing a paper outlining the main themes and issues raised to be considered at the meeting of 24 March 2021.



Northern Ireland
Assembly

5. UK Exit from the EU and its implications – Seanad Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the UK from the EU

The Senators joined the meeting at 2:07pm

- Senator Lisa Chambers, Chairperson, Seanad Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the UK from the EU.
- Senator Timmy Dooley, Member, Seanad Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the UK from the EU.
- Senator Malcolm Byrne, Member, Seanad Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the UK from the EU.
- Senator Eileen Flynn, Member, Seanad Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the UK from the EU.
- Senator Michael McDowell, Member, Seanad Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the UK from the EU.
- Senator Joe O'Reilly, Member, Seanad Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the UK from the EU.
- Senator Mark Wall, Member, Seanad Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the UK from the EU.
- Senator Niall Ó Donnghaile, Member, Seanad Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the UK from the EU.

The Senators briefed Members on the UK Exit from the EU and its implications.

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

The oral evidence was reported by Hansard.



Northern Ireland
Assembly

The Chairperson thanked the Senators for their attendance.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a further session with the Seanad Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the UK from the EU in the future.

6. Correspondence

- i. The Committee noted a response from the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the process of deciding the level of payment awarded in respect of Historic Institutional Abuse Redress Payments.
- ii. The Committee noted a response from the Northern Ireland Office regarding meetings between the European Commission Vice-President Maros Sefcovic and Northern Ireland Business and Community leaders on 18 February 2021 to discuss post-Brexit trading arrangements.
- iii. The Committee noted a response from the Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly providing an update on the Youth Assembly.
- iv. The Committee noted a response from the Committee for the Economy highlighting the Committee's communication with the Northern Ireland Office regarding the Business Engagement Forum.
- v. The Committee noted "Northern Ireland Spring Supplementary Estimates 2020-2021 – Supplementary Page".
- vi. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance forwarding a response from the Minister for the Economy in relation to Covid-19 business support schemes supported by her Department.
- vii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Communities to the Executive Office asking what provisions have been made to ensure the



Northern Ireland
Assembly

need for labour market interventions to support people into employment in 2021-22 is addressed.

- viii. The Committee noted correspondence from the House of Lords European Union Committee to the Minister of State regarding the Joint Consultative Working Group.
- ix. The Committee noted a statement by Vice-President Maros Sefcovic following the announcement by the UK Government regarding the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland.
- x. The Committee noted a press release from the Prime Minister's Office "Lord Frost call with European Commission Vice President Maros Sefcovic: 3 March 2021.
- xi. The Committee noted the Investment Strategy Northern Ireland Investing Activity Report – February 2021.
- xii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Council for the Homeless NI expressing concern at the lack of a specific housing outcome in the proposed Programme for Government draft Outcomes Framework.
- xiii. The Committee considered correspondence from Hospitality Ulster requesting an opportunity to meet with the Committee to discuss the Hospitality Recovery Plan.
Agreed: The Committee agreed that the request should be directed to the Committee for the Economy as the Hospitality Recovery Plan is within its remit.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to propose a joint meeting with the Committee for the Economy to receive an update from the Interim Head of the Civil Service on the Pathway to Recovery.
- xiv. The Committee noted correspondence from the Competition and Markets Authority regarding the establishment of an Office for the Internal Market.
- xv. The Committee noted correspondence from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds regarding green recovery proposals and request to establish a green recovery fund in the Northern Ireland budget 2021-22.



Northern Ireland
Assembly

- xvi. The Committee noted correspondence from Parent Action to the Executive Office regarding vaccination of educational staff in schools.
- xvii. The Committee noted correspondence from an individual regarding support for exams invigilators.
- xviii. The Committee considered a response from the Executive Office regarding the issue of public liability insurance that may have been held by the Institutions investigated by the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Executive Office to ask for clarity on the progression of the formal negotiations process.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to request an update from the Executive Office on the formal negotiations process in June 2021.
- xix. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Economy to the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the Executive's Pathways out of Restrictions document.
- xx. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Education to the Executive Office regarding FETO Exemption.
- xxi. The Committee noted the Victims and Survivors Service Annual Report and Accounts 2019/2020.
- xxii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Scottish Parliament to Lord Kinnoull regarding Parliamentary Partnership Assembly.
- xxiii. The Committee considered the Redress Board Statistics as at 28 February 2021.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Commissioner for Survivors of Institutional Childhood Abuse for to raise concerns and ask for views on the pace of the redress panels work and the lack of direct engagement between the redress panels and survivors.
- xxiv. The Committee noted correspondence from Hillmount Garden Centre regarding Covid-19 restrictions.



Northern Ireland
Assembly

7. Forward Work Programme

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

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule an oral briefing session with the Interim Head of the Civil Service.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a Committee Planning Session on 5 May 2021.

8. Any Other Business

None.

9. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 24 March 2021 at 2:00pm, virtually via Starleaf.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:56pm.

Colin McGrath MLA



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Chairperson, Committee for the Executive Office