



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Tuesday, 22 December 2020
Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings**

Present: Mr Colm Gildernew (Chairperson)
Ms Pam Cameron MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Ms Paula Bradshaw MLA
Mr Jonathan Buckley MLA
Mr Gerry Carroll MLA*
Mr Alan Chambers MLA
Ms Órlaithí Flynn MLA*
Ms Cara Hunter MLA*
Mr Pat Sheehan MLA

In Attendance: Ms Éilís Haughey (Clerk)
Mr Brendan Miskelly (Clerical Officer)

**These Members attended the meeting via video-conference.*

The meeting commenced at 1.01 pm in public session.

1. Apologies

None.

2. Chairperson's Business

There was no Chairperson's business.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. COVID-19 Disease Response - Ministerial update

The Minister of Health, Mr Robin Swann MLA, and the Chief Medical Officer, Dr Michael McBride joined the meeting via video-conference at 1.01 pm.

The meeting was suspended momentarily to address sound issues with the video-conferencing connection.

The Minister provided an update on the Department of Health's response and planning in relation to COVID-19.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

The Chairperson thanked the Minister and Dr McBride for their attendance.

The briefing session was reported by Hansard.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister of Health, regarding further proposed amendments, by means of a UK-wide statutory instrument, to the Human Medicines Regulations 2012.

5. Correspondence

- i. The Committee considered correspondence from the Minister of Health regarding the launch of the consultation on legislative options to inform the development of an Adult Protection Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence pending future scrutiny.

- ii. The Committee considered a response from the Minister of Health providing information requested by the Committee on Department of Health budgetary pressures.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence pending future engagement with the Department of Health on budget matters.

- iii. The Committee considered correspondence from the Minister of Health providing information requested following the departmental Brexit briefing on 19 November.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence pending future Brexit briefings.

- iv. The Committee considered a response from the Minister of Health to issues raised by the Society of St Vincent de Paul regarding the increase in referrals to charity due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the Minister's response to the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

- v. The Committee considered correspondence from the Minister of Health providing summaries of the Common Frameworks for: Public Health and Health Security; Blood Safety and Quality; and Organs, Tissues and Cells. Safety and Quality.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence pending future scrutiny of Common Frameworks.

- vi. The Committee considered a copy of correspondence from the Committee for the Executive Office to the First and deputy First Minister regarding Committee scrutiny of common frameworks.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence pending future scrutiny of Common Frameworks.

6. Any Other Business

The Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Committee Members put on record their appreciation of the Clerk and her team in supporting the work of the Committee throughout the year.

7. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next committee meeting was scheduled to take place on Thursday, 14 January 2021, time to be confirmed, in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 2.42 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____