



Northern Ireland  
Assembly  
Committee for Education  
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS  
WEDNESDAY 17 October 2012  
THE SENATE CHAMBER

**Present:**

Danny Kinahan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Michaela Boyle MLA  
Jo-Anne Dobson MLA  
Brenda Hale MLA  
Chris Hazzard MLA  
Trevor Lunn MLA  
Michelle McIlveen MLA  
Sean Rogers MLA  
Pat Sheehan MLA

**In Attendance:**

Peter McCallion (Assembly Clerk)  
Sheila Mawhinney (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Paula Best (Clerical Supervisor)  
Sharon Young (Clerical Officer)  
Ursula Savage (Bursary Student)  
Caroline Perry (Research Officer) *for item 7 only*

**Apologies:**

Mervyn Storey MLA (Chairperson)  
Jonathan Craig MLA

*The meeting commenced in public session at 10.07am.*

**1. Apologies**

Apologies are detailed above.

**2. Chairperson's Business**

- 2.1. The Deputy Chairperson advised Members that, together with the Chairperson, he had met with representatives of the Education and Training Inspectorate in advance of the launch of the Chief Inspector's Report 2010-2012.

**3. Draft Minutes of 10 October 2012**

**Agreed:** The draft minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2012 were agreed by the Committee.

#### **4. Matters Arising**

- 4.1.** The Committee noted a Press Release from the Transferors' Representative Council, welcoming the progress that has been made towards the establishment of a single Education and Skills Authority.

*Trevor Lunn and Michelle McIlveen joined the meeting at 10.09am.*

- 4.2.** The Committee welcomed the announcement from the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister in respect of the planned employment of an additional 230 recently qualified teachers.

**Agreed:** Following on from previous correspondence, the Committee agreed to seek further information and a briefing from the Department on the announcement including the implications for nurture units.

*Jo-Anne Dobson joined the meeting at 10.12am.*

*Michelle McIlveen left the meeting at 10.13am.*

- 4.3.** The Committee discussed the provisions of the Education Bill that refer to the making of subordinate legislation.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to refer the Bill to the Examiner of Statutory Rules for advice on the levels of Assembly scrutiny associated with the proposed regulations.

**Agreed:** The Committee also agreed to schedule a short briefing on the Assembly processes associated with subordinate legislation.

#### **5. Briefing from the Independent Panel on the Review of the Common Funding Scheme**

*Representatives of the Panel joined the meeting at 10.14am.*

*Michelle McIlveen rejoined the meeting at 10.14am.*

Sir Robert Salisbury, Chairperson of the Independent Panel; together with Dr Emer Eivers and Mr Evan Bates, both Panel members, briefed the Committee on the work carried out to inform the Review of the Common Funding Scheme.

The briefing was followed by a discussion session.

*Michaela Boyle left the meeting at 11.03am.*

*The Panel members left the meeting at 11.04am.*

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed that the Clerk should prepare a note for Members on the points raised during the discussion with the Panel.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to seek a further briefing from the Panel when its report is available.

## **6. Departmental briefing on The Education (Levels of Progression for Key Stages 1, 2 and 3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2012**

*Departmental officials joined the meeting at 11.08am.*

Mrs Katrina Godfrey, Director of Planning & Performance Management; Mr Dale Heaney, Head of Qualifications and Assessment Team; and Mr Carl Savage, Assessment and Qualifications Team, briefed the Committee on the proposed Statutory Rule, The Education (Levels of Progression for Key Stages 1, 2 and 3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2012.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*Michaela Boyle rejoined the meeting at 11.21am.*

Some Members noted with surprise the relatively large moderation sample sizes associated with the assessment of Levels of Progression in smaller schools or smaller classes.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to the Department seeking further information on the rationale underpinning the size of moderation samples and the scope to decrease these samples for smaller schools or smaller class sizes.

*Pat Sheehan left the meeting at 11.45am.*

*The officials left the meeting at 11.50am.*

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to defer further consideration of the proposed Statutory Rule until its next meeting.

## **7. Briefing from RalSe on the Reporting of Pupil and School Performance Information**

*The briefing commenced at 11.56am.*

Ms Caroline Perry, Assembly Research Officer, briefed the Committee on proposed draft Regulations on the provision of information on pupil and school performance.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*The briefing ended at 12.05am.*

## **8. Correspondence**

- 8.1.** The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety on the provision of diabetic support nurses and the administration of medication to pupils in schools.
- 8.2.** The Committee noted a response from the Department on concerns raised by a parent regarding Special Educational Needs.
- 8.3.** Members considered correspondence from the Committee for Employment and Learning on the Northern Ireland Children's University.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to respond to the Committee for Employment and Learning, confirming that it has had no engagement with the Northern Ireland Children's University.

**8.4.** The Committee noted further information from the Committee for Employment and Learning on the recent admissions error by the University of Ulster.

**8.5.** The Committee noted correspondence from a concerned parent regarding the CCEA marking policy for AS Level Chemistry.

**8.6.** Members noted correspondence from the Department confirming that officials will brief the Committee on responses to its consultation on the General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland Bill.

**8.7.** The Committee noted a copy of the response from the Department to concerns raised by the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) in respect of the Every School a Good School policy.

**8.8.** Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Justice, enclosing responses from the Department of Justice relating to comments from statutory Committees on the Community Safety Strategy.

**8.9. and 8.13** Members noted correspondence from the Department indicating that the proposed review of the regulation of qualifications has been postponed pending the completion of the Review of GCSEs and A Levels. The Committee also noted a response from the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA), enclosing papers on The Future of CCEA Qualifications in England and The Future of Regulation.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to forward the CCEA paper on The Future of Regulation to the Committee for Employment and Learning for information.

**8.10.** The Committee considered correspondence from the National Deaf Children's Society, expressing concerns regarding the suitability of the NINA and NILA computer-based assessments for deaf children.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to forward this correspondence to the Department for a response and to schedule a briefing on the NINA and NILA computer-based assessments for its next meeting.

**8.11.** The Committee noted a response from the Department on the extent of asbestos in school buildings.

**8.12.** The Committee noted correspondence on the Prompt Payment performance of the Education and Library Boards.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting an update on the Working Group which was to be established to improve prompt payment practices by the Education and Library Boards.

**8.14.** The Committee noted correspondence from the Department outlining the arrangements for issuing post-primary placement letters to parents as part of the 2013 Transfer process.

**8.15.** The Committee considered an update from the Department on a number of policy areas related to Mapping Poverty and Social Deprivation.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to forward this response to the Committee for Social Development for information.

**8.16.** Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel, enclosing information on the accuracy of departmental financial forecasting.

**8.17.** Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Employment and Learning, sharing information arising from its inquiry into Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance.

**8.18.** Members noted an invitation from the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE) to the launch of its website, 'Facing the Past – Shaping the Future'.

**8.19.** The Committee considered correspondence from St Colmcille's High School, Crossgar, concerning the analysis of responses to the Area Planning consultation.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to forward this correspondence to the Minister for comment.

The Committee also noted a number of Department of Education News Releases which were previously emailed to Members.

## **9. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee discussed its draft Forward Work Programme.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed an amended Forward Work Programme.

## **10. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

#### **11. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 24 October 2012 at 10.00am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.12pm.*

Mervyn Storey  
Chairperson, Committee for Education  
24 October 2012