



Northern Ireland  
Assembly  
Committee for Education  
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS  
TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2014  
SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

**Present:**

Michelle McIlveen MLA (Chairperson)  
Danny Kinahan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Chris Hazzard MLA  
Nelson McCausland MLA  
Maeve McLaughlin MLA  
Robin Newton MLA  
Sandra Overend MLA  
Seán Rogers MLA

**In Attendance:**

Peter McCallion (Assembly Clerk)  
Paula Best (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Kevin Marks (Clerical Supervisor)  
Alicia Muldoon (Clerical Officer)

**Apologies:**

Jonathan Craig MLA

*The meeting commenced in public session at 3.43pm.*

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were as indicated above.

**2. Chairperson's Business**

There was no Chairperson's business.

**3. Matters Arising**

There were no Matters Arising.

**4. Independent Review of Home to School Transport**

*The witness joined the meeting at 3.50pm.*

Sian Thornthwaite, Chairperson of the Independent Review of Home to School Transport briefed the Committee on the Report on the Independent Review of Home to School Transport.

*3.50pm Chris Hazzard joined the meeting.*

*3.55pm Nelson McCausland joined the meeting.*

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*4.17pm Seán Rogers joined the meeting.*

*4.29pm Chris Hazzard left the meeting.*

*The witness left the meeting at 4.37pm*

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to the Department seeking clarification on: the legal definition of minimum walking distance and the treatment of different categories of school for transport purposes. The Committee also agreed to seek a further briefing from the Department on the related consultation process.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to seek further clarification from the author of the report in respect of the reference to the provision of free transport in England from “reasonably near” home to “reasonably near” school for eligible pupils.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister of Education regarding the North Eastern Education and Library Board (NEELB) report on a recent serious road accident.

**Agreed:** Owing to data protection and other considerations, the Committee agreed to treat the relevant report as confidential.

## **5. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **6. Date, Time, Place of Next Meeting**

The Committee will meet again on Wednesday 4 February 2015 at 10.00am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*The meeting was adjourned at 4.42pm.*

**Michelle McIlveen**  
**Chairperson, Committee for Education**  
**11 February 2015**