



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR EMPLOYMENT AND LEARNING  
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**WEDNESDAY, 4 JUNE 2014**

**ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

- Present:** Mr Robin Swann MLA (Chairperson)
- Mr Sammy Douglas MLA  
Mr David Hilditch MLA  
Mr Phil Flanagan MLA  
Mr Chris Lyttle MLA  
Mr Fra McCann MLA  
Ms Bronwyn McGahan MLA  
Mr Pat Ramsey MLA  
Mr Alastair Ross MLA  
Ms Claire Sugden MLA
- In Attendance:** Mrs Cathie White (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Vincent Gribbin (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Johnny Lawless (Clerical Supervisor)  
Ms Noreen Hayward (Clerical Officer)
- Apologies:** Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

*10:00 am The meeting opened public session.*

**1. Apologies**

Apologies are detailed above.

**2. Chairpersons Business**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to publish the responses received to the consultation on the Work and Families Bill on the Committee webpage

### **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 28 May 2014**

*Agreed:* The minutes of the meeting on 28 May 2014 were agreed.

### **4. Matters arising**

- The Committee noted a list of matters arising from the meeting on 28 May 2014.

### **5. Correspondence**

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Correspondence from Adair and Milliken Ltd regarding Electrical Apprenticeships Training.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and forward it to the Department for comment and to be copied into its response to Adair and Milliken Ltd.

- Correspondence from the Strategic Investment Board providing the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland, Investment Activity Report for May 2014.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental response regarding the drawdown of EU competitive funding by Universities and Colleges in Northern Ireland.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Committee for the Office of First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding notification from the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission that it has been notified by the Northern Ireland Office that its funding for 2015/16 is to be reduced.

*10:03 am Mr Pat Ramsey joined the meeting.*

*10:07 am Mr Phil Flanagan joined the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Committee for the Office of First Minister and deputy First Minister highlighting the Committee concerns and asking that that Committee writes to NIO for information on whether it has assessed the impact of the reduction in funding on the NI Human Rights Commission and copies the Committee into any future correspondence on this issue.

- Departmental response regarding issues raised by Synergy Training NI regarding the Steps 2 Success Programme.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and forward it to

Synergy Training for information.

- Departmental correspondence requesting that the Labour Mobility Research and United Youth Programme briefings are rescheduled.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and reschedule the briefings in the forward work programme.

- Assembly Research and Information Service briefing paper on International Methods of Gathering Disability Prevalence Statistics.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the research paper and include in the Committee Special Educational Need Provision Inquiry pack.

- Invitation from the Northern Regional College to attend the Launch of the World Skills Squad UK Selection Competition on 23 June 2014 at Northern Regional College, Newtownabbey.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from the University and College Union Annual General Meeting and Conference 2014 on 18 June 2014 at the University of Ulster Art College, Belfast.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the invitation and, if possible, to hold its meeting in the University of Ulster Art College, Belfast on the 18 June 2014.

## **6. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted the draft Forward Work Programme to 2 July 2014.

## **7. Departmental Briefing - June Monitoring Round 2014**

*10:12 am The Departmental official joined the meeting.*

The Committee was briefed by Mr John Smith, Director of Finance, Department for Employment and Learning.

*10:19 am Mr Chris Lyttle joined the meeting.*

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*Agreed:* The official agreed to provide further information on Departmental transfers with Republic of Ireland and Great Britain Departments.

*Agreed:* The official agreed to provide the Committee with further information on the University of Ulster bid for additional funds for the Teaching Unit at its Magee Campus, whether the bid was prioritised in the EU bids and at what stage the bid is currently at.

*10:42 am The Departmental official left the meeting.*

## **8. Departmental Briefing - Summary of responses on the Employment Law Consultation**

*10:42 am The Departmental officials joined the meeting.*

The Committee was briefed by Mr Tom Evans, Deputy Director, Strategy, European and Employment Relations Division and Dr Alan Scott, Employment Relations Policy and Legislation Branch.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*10:51 am Ms Bronwyn McGahan left the meeting.*

*11:03 am Mr David Hilditch joined the meeting.*

*11:20 am Mr Pat Ramsey left the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the Hansard to the Minister for information.

*11:40 am The Departmental officials left the meeting.*

## **9. Any other business**

None.

## **10. Date, time and place of next meeting**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday 11 June 2014 at 10.00 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

*11:41 am The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.*

**Mr Robin Swann MLA  
Chairperson, Committee for Employment & Learning**

**11 June 2014**