



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

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

**WEDNESDAY, 2 JULY 2014**

**ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

**Present:** Mr Robin Swann MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

Mr Sammy Douglas MLA  
Mr David Hilditch 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 Johnny Lawless (Clerical Supervisor)  
Ms Noreen Hayward (Clerical Officer)

**Apologies:** None

*10:02 am The meeting opened in public session with the Deputy Chairperson in the Chair.*

**1. Apologies**

Apologies are detailed above.

**2. Chairperson's Business**

- The Deputy Chairperson advised Members that further submissions to the Committee Inquiry into Post School Educational Need Provision have been received and are available in the inquiry folder.

- The Committee discussed arrangements for dealing with Committee issues during the Summer Recess.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson would submit views on releasing or withholding information in any non-routine or contentious Freedom of Information requests during the Recess period and that they would advise the Committee of any such requests at the first meeting back in September.

### **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2014**

*Agreed:* The minutes of the meeting on 25 June were agreed.

### **4. Matters arising**

- The Committee noted a list of matters arising from the meeting on 25 June 2014.

### **5. Correspondence**

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Correspondence from Tapestry of Colours regarding their new Educational Programme.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Committee for Education for information.

- Response from the University of Ulster regarding an individual's concerns relating to the governance of the students' union at the University of Ulster.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the response and forward to the individual for information.

- Response from the University of Ulster Students' Union regarding an individual's concerns relating to the governance of the students' union at the University of Ulster.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the response and forward to the individual for information.

- Response from the NUS-USI regarding an individual's concerns relating to the governance of the students' union at the University of Ulster.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the response and forward to the individual for information.

- Departmental response regarding the engagement with students during the development of the pilot for the Destination of FE Leavers Survey.

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

- Ministerial correspondence providing notice of his intention to make an oral statement on the Review of Initial Teacher Education Infrastructure.

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

- Correspondence from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment regarding the European Thematic Desk Officers.

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

- Correspondence from NISRA providing an update on the latest Labour Market Statistics at June 2014.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to NISRA requesting that the statistics provided be broken down by council and/or constituency area.

- Note of the key issues discussed and decisions taken at the Chairpersons' Liaison Group Meeting on 17 June 2014

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

- Correspondence from the Committee for Education to the Department for Employment and Learning regarding the General Teaching Council Northern Ireland Bill.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to seek a joint briefing with the Committee for Education from the Department for Education and the Department for Employment and Learning on the Bill.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write the Department of Education and the Department for Employment and Learning requesting a joint briefing.

- Correspondence from the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland providing the Departmental Investing Activity Report for June 2014.

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

- Departmental response regarding the review of transport barriers faced by people with learning difficulties.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and include it in the Committee inquiry folder.

- Departmental response regarding the impact of the Department's Savings Delivery Plan B7 on Section 75 groups and front line services.

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

- Departmental response regarding the inclusion of level one programmes in the Review of Youth Training.

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

- Correspondence from an individual regarding his Level 3 NVQ in Electro-Technical Engineering.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and forward it to the Electrical Training Trust for information and comment.

- Departmental response regarding the Review of Agency Workers and the Impact of the Agency Workers Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011.

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

- Invitation from Queen's University Belfast to attend an InterTrade Ireland All Island Innovation Programme Lecture and Masterclass.

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

## **6. Forward Work Programme**

*10:07 am Mr Alastair Ross joined the meeting.*

The Committee noted the draft Forward Work Programme to 24 September 2014.

## **7. Subordinate Legislation**

*Agreed:* That the Committee for Employment and Learning has considered SR 2014 - 173 The Industrial Training Levy (Construction Industry) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014 and has no objection to the rule.

## **8. Briefing from the Vice-Chancellor of Queen's University Belfast on his vision for the University**

*10:10 am The representative joined the meeting.*

The Committee was briefed by Professor Patrick Johnston, President and Vice-Chancellor, Queen's University Belfast.

*10:14 am Ms Claire Sugden joined the meeting.*

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*Agreed:* The representative agreed to provide the Committee with a geographical breakdown of where the 92% of graduates gained employment.

*10:59 am The representative left the meeting.*

## **9. Departmental Briefing - Employer Skills Survey**

*11:00 am The Departmental officials joined the meeting.*

The Committee was briefed by Mr Michael Gould, Deputy Director of Skills Industry and Mr Victor Dukelow, Deputy Director Analytical Services.

*11:06 am Mr Chris Lyttle joined the meeting.*

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*Agreed:* The representatives agreed to provide the Committee with a breakdown of the skills shortages by types of occupation in each sector.

*11:33 am The Departmental officials left the meeting.*

## **10. Departmental Briefing - Review of Initial Teacher Education Infrastructure**

*11:34 am The Departmental officials joined the meeting.*

The Committee was briefed by Mrs Nuala Kerr, Director of Higher Education and Mrs Carol McCabe, Head of Quality and Initial Teacher Education Branch.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*11:49 am Mr Robin Swann joined the meeting.*

*11:59 am Mr Pat Ramsey left the meeting.*

*12:01 pm Mr Alastair Ross left the meeting.*

*12:04 pm The Departmental officials left the meeting.*

## **11. Any other business**

- Ms Bronwyn McGahan MLA raised an issue regarding funding for ESF Projects that she received via email from the First Steps Women's Centre.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Department for information and comment.

- Ms Bronwyn McGahan MLA raised an issue regarding correspondence received from the Department in respect of the impact of Savings Delivery Plan B7 on Section 75 groups and front line services.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting an explanation on how the efficiencies as detailed in the Savings Delivery Plans have not had an impact on Section 75 groups.

Specifically to provide detail on the following:

- shared services;
- investment in staff development, has this been reduced;
- flexible course delivery, are more courses delivered now during the day rather than in the evening;
- and are more part time lecturers being employed; and
- people with disabilities.

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

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday 9 July 2014 at 11.30 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

*12:07 am The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.*

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

**10 September 2014**