



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

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

WEDNESDAY, 25 MARCH 2015

ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

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

Mr David Hilditch MLA
Mr William Irwin MLA
Ms Anna Lo MLA
Mr Fra McCann MLA
Ms Bronwyn McGahan MLA

In Attendance: Mrs Cathie White (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Johnny Lawless (Assistant Clerk)
Ms Noreen Hayward (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Sydney Anderson MLA
Mr Phil Flanagan MLA
Mr Pat Ramsey MLA

The meeting opened in public session at 10:07 am.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

None.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2015

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting on 18 March 2015 were agreed.

4. Matters arising

- The Committee noted a list of matters arising from the meeting on 18 March 2015.

5. Correspondence

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Correspondence from the new Commissioner for Children and Young People in Northern Ireland to meet with the Chairperson.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to arrange an informal meeting with the Commissioner.

- Response from the Open University to Committee correspondence regarding the Action on Hearing Loss briefing.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response and include it in the Committee Inquiry Report into Post Special Educational Need Provision in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the response to Action on Hearing Loss for information.

- Correspondence from the Big Lottery Fund regarding a new programme Empowering Young People.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence Action Duchenne providing a response to the Committee Inquiry into Special Educational Need.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and include it in the Committee Inquiry Report into Post Special Educational Need Provision in Northern Ireland.

- Departmental correspondence regarding the updated Disability Action Plan.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from Communitus regarding the Northern Ireland Impact Forum on Adult Learning.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from Committee for Education regarding the Special Educational Needs and Disability Bill.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.
- Response from Stranmillis University College to Committee correspondence regarding the Action on Hearing Loss briefing.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response and include it in the Committee Inquiry Report into Post Special Educational Need Provision in Northern Ireland.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the response to Action on Hearing Loss for information.
- Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Assembly EU Affairs Manager providing the EU Matters Newsletter issue 03/2015
Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and forward it to the Department for comment on its input into the consultation on the long term unemployed.
- Correspondence from Carnegie UK regarding the Improving Wellbeing in Northern Ireland Report.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.
- Response from the Department for Health, Social Services and Public Safety to Committee correspondence regarding the Action on Hearing Loss briefing.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response and include it in the Committee Inquiry Report into Post Special Educational Need Provision in Northern Ireland.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the response to Action on Hearing Loss for information.
- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding the Action on Hearing Loss briefing.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response and include it in the Committee Inquiry Report into Post Special Educational Need Provision in Northern Ireland.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the response to Action on Hearing Loss for information.
- Departmental correspondence regarding the implementation of the Careers Review Report recommendations.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and to forward to the Committee for Education for information.
- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding Pathways to Success.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding Social Clauses.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting statistics on how many people with disabilities have gained employment as a result of the use of social clauses.

- Response from the Queen's University Belfast to Committee correspondence regarding the Action on Hearing Loss briefing.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response and include it in the Committee Inquiry Report into Post Special Educational Need Provision in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the response to Action on Hearing Loss for information.

- Correspondence from the Speakers Office regarding the provision of sign language for a Parliamentary debate.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Invitation from the Northern Ireland Assembly Business Trust to a briefing on the Apprenticeship Scheme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from the NOW Project Money for Life Challenge Northern Ireland Final 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

6. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the draft Forward Work Programme to 1 July 2015.

7. SR 2015-91 The Statutory Shared Parental Pay (Administration) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Agreed: That the Committee for Employment and Learning has considered SR 2015-91 The Statutory Shared Parental Pay (Administration) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules Report has no objection to the rule.

8. SR 2015-92 The Statutory Paternity Pay and Statutory Adoption Pay (Parental Orders and Prospective Adopters) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Agreed: That the Committee for Employment and Learning has considered SR 2015-92 The Statutory Paternity Pay and Statutory Adoption Pay (Parental Orders and Prospective Adopters) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules Report has no objection to the rule.

9. SR 2015-94 The Statutory Shared Parental Pay (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Agreed: That the Committee for Employment and Learning has considered SR 2015-94 The Statutory Shared Parental Pay (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report recommends that it be confirmed by the Assembly.

10. SR 2015-99 The Statutory Shared Parental Pay (Adoption from Overseas) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Agreed: That the Committee for Employment and Learning has considered SR 2015-99 The Statutory Shared Parental Pay (Adoption from Overseas) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report recommends that it be confirmed by the Assembly.

11. SR 2015-102 The Statutory Shared Parental Pay (Parental Order Cases) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Agreed: That the Committee for Employment and Learning has considered SR 2015-102 The Statutory Shared Parental Pay (Parental Order Cases) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report recommends that it be confirmed by the Assembly.

12. SR 2015-103 The Statutory Shared Parental Pay (Persons Abroad and Mariners) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Agreed: That the Committee for Employment and Learning has considered SR 2015-103 The Statutory Shared Parental Pay (Persons Abroad and Mariners) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules Report has no objection to the rule.

13. SR 2015-146 The Shared Parental Leave and Statutory Shared Parental Pay (Consequential Amendments to Subordinate Legislation) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015

Agreed: That the Committee for Employment and Learning has considered SR 2015-146 The Shared Parental Leave and Statutory Shared Parental Pay (Consequential Amendments to Subordinate Legislation) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015, and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules Report has no objection to the rule.

14. SR 2015-169 The Employment Rights (Increase of Limits) order (Northern Ireland) 2015

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 18.

Agreed: That the Committee for Employment and Learning has considered SR 2015-169 The Employment Rights (Increase of Limits) order (Northern Ireland) 2015, and has no objection to the rule

15. Briefing from NISRA - Latest Labour Market Statistics

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 14.

10:23 am The officials joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Dr James Gillan, Head of Economic Statistics Branch, Department of Finance and Personnel, Ms Oonagh Neenan, Economic and Labour Market Statistics, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and Dr Stephen Donnelly, Senior Principal Statistician, Department for Employment and Learning.

10:28 am Mr William Irwin joined the meeting.

10:31 am Mr David Hilditch joined the meeting.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

Agreed The officials agreed to provide the Committee with further information.

11:08 am Mr William Irwin left the meeting.

11:27 am The officials left the meeting.

16. Briefing from Assembly Research and Information Service - Youth Employment Initiative and Northern Ireland.

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 15.

11:27 am The researcher joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Mr Eoin Murphy, Research Officer, Northern Ireland Assembly Research and Information Service.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

Agreed: The researcher agreed to provide information on who is responsible for setting the boundaries for each of the regions in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the paper to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment for information.

11:34 am The researcher left the meeting.

17. Any other business

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 16.

None

18. Date, time and place of next meeting

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 17.

The Committee noted that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday 22 April 2015 at 10.00 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

11:35 am The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Mr Robin Swann MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Employment & Learning

22 April 2015