



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

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

WEDNESDAY, 29 APRIL 2015

ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

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

Mr David Hilditch MLA
Ms Anna Lo MLA
Mr Fra McCann MLA
Ms Claire Sugden MLA

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

Apologies: Mr Sydney Anderson MLA
Mr Phil Flanagan MLA
Mr William Irwin MLA
Ms Bronwyn McGahan MLA
Mr Pat Ramsey MLA

The meeting opened in public session at 10:02 am.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

- The Committee considered the visit report for its visit to Manchester as part of its on-going Inquiry into Post School Special Educational Need Provision in Northern Ireland

Agreed: The Committee agreed to include the report in the Committee Inquiry report into Post School Special Educational Need Provision in Northern Ireland.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2015

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting on 22 April 2015 were agreed.

4. Matters arising

- The Committee noted a list of matters arising from the meeting on 22 April 2015.

5. Correspondence

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Correspondence from Stranmillis University College regarding the motion in respect of Teacher Employment Inequality.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Assembly Research and Information Service paper on NUTTS III Regions.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the research paper.

- Correspondence from Northern Ireland Assembly EU Affairs Manager providing the EU Matters Issue 04/2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding the Report on Sickness Absence in the Northern Ireland Public Sector.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the Children's Services Co-operation Bill.

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

- Correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the introduction of the Public Services Ombudsperson Bill.

Agreed: The Clerk agreed to prepare a paper for Members to be considered at a future meeting.

- Investing Strategy for Northern Ireland - Departmental Procurement Activity Report for April 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the report.

- Correspondence from the Examiner of Statutory Rules providing a copy of his Fourteenth Report 2014-2015

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the report.

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding outstanding European Social Fund monies.

Agreed: This Committee agreed to note the response.

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding the long term unemployed consultation.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Invitation from Queen's University Belfast to an awards ceremony to celebrate the volunteering efforts of staff, students and alumni.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from First Steps Women's Centre to the official launch of its European Social Fund Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from St. Mary's University College to the annual Le Chéile/Together Lecture.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from the Department for Employment and Learning to the Apprenticeship of the Year Awards 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation

6. Forward Work Programme

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

7. Any other business

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 8.

None

8. Ministerial Briefing - Update on European Social Fund & Other Funding Issues

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 7.

The Committee was suspended at 10:08 am.

The Committee resumed at 10:10 am.

10:10 am The Minister and Departmental officials joined the meeting.

10:11 am Ms Claire Sugden joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Dr Stephen Farry, Minister for Employment and Learning, Mr Derek Baker, Permanent Secretary, Mrs Heather Cousins, Deputy Secretary and Mr John Noble, Head of ESF Managing Authority.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

Agreed: The Minister agreed to provide an update on the discussions regarding funding for the Bytes Project.

11:37 am The Minister and Departmental officials left the meeting.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting

The Committee noted that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday 13 May 2015 at 10.00 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

11:37 am The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Mr Robin Swann MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Employment & Learning

13 May 2015