



Northern Ireland
Assembly

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

WEDNESDAY, 17 JUNE 2015

ROOM 29 PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Mr Robin Swann MLA (Chairperson)

Mr Sydney Anderson MLA
Mr Phil Flanagan MLA
Mr David Hilditch MLA
Mr William Irwin MLA
Ms Anna Lo MLA
Ms Bronwyn McGahan MLA
Mr Pat Ramsey MLA
Ms Claire Sugden MLA

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

Apologies: Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA (Deputy-Chairperson)

The meeting opened in public session at 10:10 am with the following Members present:

Mr Robin Swann (Chairperson), Mr Pat Ramsey, Ms Bronwyn McGahan and Ms Anna Lo.

In the absence of a decision-making quorum proceedings commenced in line with Standing Order 49(5), and the Committee moved to the first evidence session.

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 8.

1. Departmental Briefing - Structured to Deliver Success & Assured Skills

10:10 am The Departmental officials joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Ms June Ingram, Director of Skills Industry Division, Mr Michael Gould, Assistant Director Skills and Industry Division and Ms Michelle Bell, Head of Assured Skills.

10:13 am Mr William Irwin joined the meeting.

10:20 am Mr Sydney Anderson joined the meeting.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

10:23 am Ms Claire Sugden joined the meeting.

Agreed: The officials agreed to provide details on how the various strategies help people with physical and/or learning disabilities.

Agreed: The officials agreed to update the Committee on the outcome of the meeting that Departmental officials are going to have with Edge Innovate.

10:41 am The Departmental officials left the meeting.

2. Apologies

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 1.

Apologies are detailed above.

3. Chairperson's Business

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 2.

- The Chairperson advised Members that the second event for young people for the Committee Inquiry into post Special Educational Need Provision in education, employment and training for those with Learning Disabilities took place in South Eastern Regional College, Bangor Campus on Thursday 4 June. The Deputy Chairperson attended.
- The Chairperson advised that some Members from the Committee met with Gerri Fiala, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Employment & Training in the US on Tuesday 9 June 2015
- The Chairperson advised Members that the Committee visited Hawthorne's Day Centre in Carrickfergus as part of its Committee Inquiry into post Special Educational Need Provision in education, employment and training for those with Learning Disabilities on Wednesday 10 June 2015.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2015

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 3.

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting on 3 June were agreed.

5. Matters arising

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 4.

- The Committee noted a list of matters arising from the meeting on 3 June 2015.

6. Correspondence

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 5.

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Correspondence from the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure to the Minister for Employment and Learning regarding the discontinuation of performing arts courses at Belfast Metropolitan College.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Department for Employment and Learning consultation paper on part-time and postgraduate student finance.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the consultation paper.

- Assembly Research and Information Service paper detailing a list of potential consultees for consideration for the Employment Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the research paper.

- Departmental response detailing how barriers to employment are addressed under Steps 2 Success.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Correspondence from the University and College Union requesting a meeting with the Chairperson to discuss the discontinuation of performing arts at Belfast Metropolitan College.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule an informal meeting and to forward the correspondence to the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure for information.

- Correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the Delivering Social Change Signature Programmes

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding the issues raised during the Kinship Care briefing

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response and forward it to Kinship Care NI for information.

- Correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel requesting to be kept informed of correspondence with the Department for Finance and Personnel regarding Social Clause in Contracts.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Department for Finance and Personnel regarding Social Clauses in Contracts.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and forward it to the Committee for Finance and Personnel for information.

- Correspondence from Dan Gordon requesting to give a briefing to the Committee on the issue of performing arts.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule an informal meeting.

- Correspondence Abbey Upholsterers regarding the Great Britain Fit to Work Scheme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and forward it to the Department for comment.

- Correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister providing the Joint Ministerial Committee (Europe) Report for March 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Health and Social Care Board response to queries raised at the briefing session on 27 May 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response and include it in the Committee Inquiry Report.

- Correspondence from Investing Strategy for Northern Ireland providing the Department for Employment and Learning's Investing Activity Report for May 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Minister for Employment and Learning written statement on the Launch of the Consultation on Part-Time and Postgraduate Student Finance Arrangements.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the statement.

- Correspondence from Elluminate Our Lives regarding the provision of E-Learning for Students.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and forward it to the Committee for Education for information.

- Correspondence from South West College requesting the opportunity for the Good Relations Team to visit Parliament Buildings.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and forward it to the Education Service to make the necessary arrangements.

- Invitation from Queen's University Belfast to the Northern Ireland Economy Debate: How to Build a Vibrant and Sustainable Economy.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from the Ulster University to the launch of Access Ulster.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from the Centre for Effective Services to the launch of 'A Primer on Implementing Whole of Government Approaches'.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from the University and College Union to a Seminar on Higher Education.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

7. Forward Work Programme

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 6.

- The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme to 1 July 2015.
- The Committee agreed to reschedule the Departmental briefing on the Programme for Government on 1 July 2015 to the autumn.
- The Committee agreed to reschedule the briefing on Pathways to Success on 1 July 2015 to the autumn

8. SL1 - The Industrial Training Levy (Construction Industry) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 7.

The Committee considered the SL1 The Industrial Training Levy (Construction Industry) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015.

10:48 am Mr Pat Ramsey left the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the proposals.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request details on what the Construction Industry Training Board does, names of the companies involved and a geographical breakdown of the locations of those companies.

9. Departmental Briefing - Review of Leadership and Management

10:50 am The Departmental officials joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Ms June Ingram, Director of Skills Industry Division, Mr Michael Gould, Assistant Director Skills and Industry Division and Mr Mervyn Langtry, Head of Skills Delivery Branch.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

10:57 am Mr Phil Flanagan joined the meeting.

11:00 am Mr David Hilditch joined the meeting.

Mr Phil Flanagan declared an interest as he is undertaking a Post-Graduate degree.

11:07 am The Departmental officials left the meeting.

10. Any other business

None

11. Date, time and place of next meeting

The Committee noted that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday 24 June 2015 at 10.00 am in the Boardroom, Stranmillis University College, Belfast.

11:08 am The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

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

24 June 2015