



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

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

MONDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2015

ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA (Deputy-Chairperson)

Mr Sydney Anderson MLA
Mr Alex Easton MLA
Mr Phil Flanagan MLA
Mr David Hilditch MLA
Ms Anna Lo MLA
Mr Fra McCann MLA
Ms Bronwyn McGahan MLA
Ms Claire Sugden MLA

In Attendance: Mrs Cathie White (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Vincent Gribbin (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Johnny Lawless (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Marion Johnson (Clerical Officer)
Ms Amy Barr (Legislative Studies & Practice Student)

Apologies: Mr Robin Swann MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Pat Ramsey MLA

1:05 pm The meeting opened in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Committee Inquiry into post Special Educational Need Provision in education, employment and training for those with Learning Disabilities - Briefing from Assembly Research and Information Service - Costs of Special Educational Needs Provision for ages 16 - 25 in England and Wales

1:06 pm The Researcher joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Eoin Murphy, Assembly Researcher.

1:07 pm Mr Phil Flanagan joined the meeting.

1:08 pm Ms Anna Lo joined the meeting.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

1:19 pm Ms Bronwyn McGahan joined the meeting.

1:36 pm The Researcher left the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a research briefing providing evidence of the benefits of extending the Special Educational Need Statement to individuals up the age of 25 years old.

3. Committee Inquiry into post Special Educational Need Provision in education, employment and training for those with Learning Disabilities - Joint Department for Employment and Learning and Department of Education Briefing - Special Education Needs and Disability Bill

1:37 pm The Departmental officials joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Mr Andy Cole, Head of Further Education Policy and Strategic Development, Department for Employment and Learning and Mrs Caroline Gillen, Director of Access, Inclusion and Wellbeing, Department of Education.

1:39 pm Ms Bronwyn McGahan left the meeting.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

2:07 pm Mr David Hilditch left the meeting.

2:38 pm The Departmental officials left the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it would not propose an amendment to the Special Education Needs and Disability Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting the DEL official's presentation, the new Bamford Action Plan as soon as it is available and the Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for Education requesting the report on Special Needs Schools.

4. Date, time and place of next meeting

The Committee noted that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday, 21 October 2015 at 10.00 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

2:42 pm The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Mr Robin Swann MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Employment & Learning

11 November 2015