



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

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

**WEDNESDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2014**

**SEMINAR ROOM 2,  
NORTHERN IRELAND SCIENCE PARK**

Present: Mr Robin Swann MLA (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

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

Apologies: Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Phil Flanagan MLA  
Mr David McClarty MLA  
Mr Alastair Ross MLA

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

**1. Apologies**

Apologies are detailed above.

## **2. Chairpersons Business**

- The Chairperson advised the Committee that Wrightbus has indicated that it is keen to host an Apprenticeship Showcase Event in October or November 2014 when it introduces its new apprenticeship academy.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to support and attend the event arranged by Wrightbus.

## **3. Minutes of the meetings held on 5 February 2014**

*Agreed:* The minutes of the meeting on 5 February 2014 were agreed.

## **4. Matters arising**

- The Committee noted a list of matters arising from the meeting on 5 February 2014.
- The Committee considered a draft response to the request from the Committee for the First Minister and deputy First Minister for its European Priorities for 2014 and for an update on its European Priorities for 2013.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the response and to forward it to the Committee for OFMDFM and to write to the Department on the actions outlined in the response.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the Research and Information Service briefing paper on the European Legislative Programme to the Department for comment on the issues raised.

## **5. Correspondence**

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding a briefing by Department for Finance and Personnel officials on the Budget Bill 2014 and the Spring Supplementary Estimates.

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

- Correspondence from the Committee for the Office of First Minister and deputy First Minister providing a Departmental summary of a Joint Ministerial Council meeting on 7 October 2013.

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

- Departmental response regarding the procurement of the Steps 2 Success Programme briefing on 15 January 2014.

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

- Correspondence from the Committee for the Environment regarding the Committee Inquiry into Post Special Educational Need Provision.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and include in the Inquiry pack.

- Departmental correspondence requesting that the briefing on the Summary of Responses to the consultation on the Employment Bill be rescheduled.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and to reschedule the briefing for a future meeting.

- Invitation from the Northern Ireland Assembly Business Trust to the Chairperson of the Committee to attend its President's Dinner in the Long Gallery on 27 February 2014 at 7:00 pm.

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

- Invitation from Stranmillis University College to a celebration event for its Alternative Placement Programme at the Stranmillis College on 19 February 2014 12:00 pm.

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

## **6. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted the draft Forward Work Programme to 23 April 2014.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to visit Glenveagh Special School, South Belfast and USEL (Ulster Supported Employment Limited), North Belfast on 5 March 2014.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to visit the Appleby Trust, Armagh and Sperrinview Special School, Dungannon on 19 March 2014.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to visit Castle Tower School in Ballymena on 2 April 2014.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule a visit to Community Watersports CIC into the Forward Work Programme.

## **7. Subordinate Legislation**

*Agreed:* That the Committee for Employment and Learning has considered the SL1 The Public Interest Disclosure (Prescribed Persons) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014 and has agreed that it is content for the Department to make the rule.

## **8. Subordinate Legislation**

*Agreed:* That the Committee for Employment and Learning has considered the SL1 The Employment Rights (Increase of Limits) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014 and has agreed that it is content for the Department to make the rule.

## **9. Briefing from the Northern Ireland Science Park on the Northern Ireland Knowledge Economy Index Report 2013**

*The representatives joined the meeting at 10:18 am.*

The Committee was briefed by Mr Norman Apsley OBE, Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Science Park and Mr Steve Orr, Director, Northern Ireland Science Park.

*10:23 am Mr Fra McCann joined the meeting.*

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*10:42 am Mr Chris Lyttle joined the meeting.*

*The representatives left the meeting at 11:12 am.*

## **10. Briefing from Dr Joanne Stuart OBE on the Work of the STEM Review Group**

*The representative joined the meeting at 11:13 am.*

The Committee was briefed by Dr Joanne Stuart OBE, STEM Ambassador, Northern Ireland Science Park.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*Agreed:* Dr Stuart agreed to provide the Committee with details of the proposed Science Fair when available and to provide a copy of the report on the recent STEM is Cool Event.

*The representative left the meeting at 11:58 am.*

## **11. Departmental Briefing on the Review of Youth Training**

*The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 11:59 am.*

The Committee was briefed by Mr Daryl Young, Deputy Director of Further Education and Mrs Deirdre McGill, Head of Youth Training.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*Agreed:* The Departmental officials agreed to provide the Committee with information on the reasons why level 3 training in coded welding is not provided in Northern Ireland.

*12:25 pm Mr Sammy Douglas left the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Departmental officials agreed to provide the Committee with details of how those who are most marginalised and disadvantaged, including those leaving care, are tracked as part of the Pathways to Success Strategy.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the Hansard to the Department for information and comment.

*The Departmental officials left the meeting at 12:34 pm.*

## **12. Any other business**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting an update on the discussions it has had with Copius Resources.

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

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday 19 February 2014 at 10.00 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:35 pm.*

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

**19 February 2014**