



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

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

WEDNESDAY, 12 MARCH 2014

SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

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

Mr Sammy Douglas MLA
Mr David Hilditch MLA
Mr Chris Lyttle MLA
Mr Fra McCann MLA
Ms Bronwyn McGahan 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 Phil Flanagan MLA
Mr David McClarty MLA
Mr Pat Ramsey MLA
Mr Alastair Ross MLA

10:08 am The meeting opened in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Chairpersons Business

- The Chairperson advised Members that he had met with a representative of the Dungannon Rotary Club on 26 February 2014 to discuss the Rotary Club Technology Tournament.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to host a Technology Tournament event in the Long Gallery after summer recess.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Committee for Education to ask it if it wishes to co-host the event.

- The Committee considered visit reports for its visits to Glenveagh Special School and Ulster Supported Employment Limited on 5 March 2014.

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

Agreed: The Committee agreed to reschedule its visits to The Appleby Trust and Sperrinview Special School to 14 May 2014 due to an additional Plenary session scheduled for next week.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a visit to the Springvale Training Centre pilot project into the Forward Work Programme.

- The Committee considered options for taking the Inquiry forward.

10:13 am Mr David Hilditch joined the meeting.

10:16 am Mr Tom Buchanan joined the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to take evidence for the Inquiry through a number of evidence events.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to gain the assistance of a Specialist Advisor to assist with the Inquiry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider conducting a survey via survey monkey to supplement the evidence at a future meeting.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2014

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting on 26 February 2014 were agreed.

4. Matters arising

- The Committee noted a list of matters arising from the meeting on 26 February 2014.
- The Committee considered a Departmental response to correspondence regarding a tracking system for those young people not in education, employment or training.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

5. Correspondence

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Departmental response regarding the Education (Student Support) (no. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence requesting comment on the Explanatory Memorandum on the European Commission proposal for a Council Recommendation on a Quality Framework for Traineeship.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Paper on issues discussed and decisions taken at the Assembly Chairpersons Liaison Group meeting on 18 February 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Queen's University Belfast press release regarding the awarding of the UK Student Volunteer of the year to one of its students.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the press release and send a letter of congratulations to the student.

- Response from the Minister for the Environment to the Committee Inquiry into Post Special Educational Need in Northern Ireland.

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

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding Level 3 training in coded welding.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding the briefing on the Review of Youth Training.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Correspondence from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions requesting to brief the Committee on the proposed TUPE Regulations.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing in the Forward Work Programme.

- Correspondence from Assembly Research and Information Service providing a European Union Explanatory Memorandum on a Report from the European Commission on the implementation of the Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for Vocational Education and Training (EQAVET).

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from Assembly Research and Information Service providing a European Union Explanatory Memorandum on a proposal to make the existing European Employment Service (EURES) network a more effective instrument for job seekers across the EU.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Assembly Research and Information Service briefing paper on Post-Secondary School Provision for People with Special Educational Needs in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to receive oral briefing from the Research and Information Service on research on Post-school Special Educational Need Provision.

- Correspondence from the Confederation of British Industry regarding its Report on Evaluation of Education and Employer Partnership in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Response from the Minister for Finance and Personnel to the Committee Inquiry into Post Special Educational Need in Northern Ireland.

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

- Ministerial response to Committee correspondence regarding the recommendations made in the Committee Inquiry into Careers Education, Information, Advice and Learning in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding the number of hits to the parents' portal.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Correspondence from the Department for Finance and Personnel regarding Post Project Evaluations.

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

- Correspondence from Michael McKibbin regarding Northern Ireland Student fees at Scottish Universities.

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

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Student Loans Company on the issue raised regarding student loans.

- Correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding the Carnegie Trust's Report on Measuring Wellbeing in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence requesting that the Committee views are incorporated into the Departmental Review of Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding Recommendation 22 of the Committee Inquiry into Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Response from Queen's University Belfast to Committee correspondence regarding jobs within the Students' Union.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Invitation from Queen's University Belfast to attend a lecture by Professor Antoin E. Murphy, Department of Economics, Trinity College, Dublin on the Fall of the Celtic Tiger: Ireland and the European Debt on 31 March 2014 at 5.30 pm in the Riddel Hall Stranmillis Road, Belfast.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

10:19 am Mr David Hilditch left the meeting.

- Invitation from the Commissioner for Older People Northern Ireland to attend a breakfast meeting on Valuing an Ageing Workforce in room 115, Parliament Buildings on Wednesday 26 March 2014 at 8.30 am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding the qualifications required for teaching technology in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence requesting that it be kept updated on examples of good practice in careers provision from other jurisdictions, as the review of careers progresses.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

10:21am Mr David Hilditch re-joined the meeting.

- Invitation from Colleges NI to attend the BEST Awards and to hold the weekly Committee meeting on 28 May 2014 in the Tullyglass Hotel, Ballymena.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Correspondence from the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure to the Department for Employment and Learning regarding its Terms of Reference for its Inquiry into Inclusion in the Arts of Working Class Communities.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Invitation from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions Northern Ireland Committee for the Chairperson to attend a seminar on public procurement and tackling social disadvantage on 8 April 2014 at 5.30 pm in the Stormont Hotel, Belfast.

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 reschedule the Departmental briefing on 9 April 2014 on Steps 2 Success until after the Easter recess.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule briefings from St Mary's College and Stranmillis College on the Review of Teacher Training Infrastructure on 4 June 2014.

7. Subordinate Legislation

Agreed: That the Committee for Employment and Learning has considered SR 2014 - 48 The Public Interest Disclosure (Prescribed Persons) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014 and has no objection to the rule.

8. Briefing from Colleges NI on the Review of the Industrial Relations Framework in FE Colleges

10:26 am The representatives joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Mr Gerard Campbell, Chief Executive, Colleges NI, Mr Trevor Neilands, Acting Chair of Colleges NI, Mrs Barbara Lavery, Chair of the Human Resource Working Group, Colleges NI and Ms Karen Lennon, Policy and Public Affairs Managers, Colleges NI.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

10:58 am The representatives left the meeting.

9. Departmental Briefing on the Disability Employment Service Strategic Review

11:00 am The officials joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Mr Terry Park, Head of Disability Employment Service, Department for Employment and Learning, Mrs Margaret Haddock, Deputy Chief Executive, The Orchardville Society and Mr Sam Humphries, Chief Executive, Ulster Supported Employment Limited.

11:15 am Mr Fra McCann left the meeting.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

11:42 am The officials left the meeting.

10. Departmental Briefing on the proposed consultation on the Conduct of Employment Agencies and Employment Businesses Regulations

11:43 am The Departmental officials joined the meeting.

11:43 am Mr David Hilditch left the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Mr Conor Brady, Head of Employment Relations Policy and Legislation Branch, Ms Deirdre Walsh, Employment Relations Policy and Legislation.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

11:58 am The Departmental officials left the meeting.

11. Any other business

The Committee considered an article in the Belfast Telegraph regarding its plan for “50 Jobs in 50 days”.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Belfast Telegraph in support of its plan.

12. Date, time and place of next meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday 26 March 2014 at 10.00 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

11:59 am The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Mr Robin Swann MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Employment & Learning

26 March 2014