



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

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

**WEDNESDAY, 18 JUNE 2014**

**ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

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

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

*10:01 am The meeting opened public session.*

**1. Apologies**

Apologies are detailed above.

## **2. Chairpersons Business**

- The Chairperson advised Members that he, the Deputy Chairperson and the Committee Clerk attended a Belfast Metropolitan College event at Belfast Harbour Commissioner's Office, last week as part of the College's Creative Week.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to host an event in the autumn in the Long Gallery to display the artwork created by Belfast Metropolitan College students with learning disabilities.

- The Chairperson advised Members that he hosted the FALNI Adult Learners Week Event in the Long Gallery on Monday 16 June 2014.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing by FALNI to the Committee in the new session on its proposals for how to progress Adult Learning in Northern Ireland.

## **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2014**

*Agreed:* The minutes of the meeting on 11 June 2014 were agreed.

## **4. Matters arising**

- The Committee noted a list of matters arising from the meeting on 11 June 2014.

## **5. Correspondence**

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence requesting further information on Departmental transfers with the Republic of Ireland and Great Britain in the 2014/15 Main Estimates.

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

- Departmental response regarding the disparity between skills solutions and occupations sought or on offer in Jobs and Benefits Offices.

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

- Departmental correspondence providing information regarding the success of the Jobs Fund from Invest NI.

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

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding Post Project Evaluations.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting that it provide a more detailed response on the reasons why each of the 6 outstanding PPEs are delayed.

- Departmental response regarding issues raised by Adair and Milliken Ltd in respect of electrical apprenticeships training.

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

- Departmental correspondence informing the Committee of the delay in publication of the Annual Report and Accounts.

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

- Departmental response regarding transport related barriers to young people with learning difficulties.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department and request that it advises the Committee when the review on transport barriers for those with learning difficulties is scheduled to be completed.

- Departmental correspondence to the Public Accounts Committee regarding the disposal of surplus properties in Belfast Metropolitan College.

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

- Correspondence from the Committee for the Office of First Minister and deputy First Minister providing an Assembly Research and Information Service briefing paper on Refugee and Asylum Seekers in Northern Ireland.

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

- Departmental response regarding queries following the briefing session on the Review of Apprenticeships.

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

- Ministerial correspondence informing the Committee of his intention to make an Oral Statement to the Assembly on the Consultation on Zero Hours Contracts on 23 June 2014.

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

- Departmental correspondence providing the Consultation document on Zero Hours Contracts.

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

- Invitation from the Department for Employment and Learning to the Cloud Academy Graduation in the Long Gallery on 30 June 2014.

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

- Invitation from Belfast Metropolitan College to the Apprenticeships and Training Awards on 26 June 2014.

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

- Invitation from Queen's University Belfast to attend the Higher Education Democratic Innovation Conference Reception at Belfast City Hall on 26 June 2014.

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

## **6. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted the draft Forward Work Programme to 2 July 2014.

## **7. Departmental Briefing - Update on the Savings Delivery Plans**

*10:07 am The Departmental official joined the meeting.*

The Committee was briefed by Mr John Smith, Director of Finance.

*10:10 am Ms Claire Sugden joined the meeting.*

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*Agreed:* The official agreed to provide further information on the impact of Savings Delivery Plan B/7 on section 75 groups and on front line services.

*10:21 am Mr Phil Flanagan joined the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The official agreed to provide a breakdown on Savings Delivery Plan B/4 in respect of Adult Apprenticeships.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting clarification on why there are cuts to the budget for Apprenticeships given that it is a priority area for the Department.

*10:28 am The Departmental official left the meeting.*

## **8. Departmental Briefing - Agency Workers Regulations**

*10:29 am The Departmental officials joined the meeting.*

The Committee was briefed by Mr Tom Evans, Deputy Director, Strategy, European and Employment Relations Division, Mr John McKeown, Head of Employment Relations Policy and Legislation Branch and Ms Deirdre Walsh, Employment Relations Policy and Legislation.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*Agreed:* The officials agreed to discuss with the Report authors if it is possible to provide a breakdown of their research for those aged 16-17 years.

*11:05 am Mr Fra McCann left the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The officials agreed to discuss with the Report authors if it is possible to provide a breakdown of their research by nationality and whether they are less likely to know their rights due to language barriers etc.

*11:10 am Mr Fra McCann re-joined the meeting.*

*11:10 am The Departmental officials left the meeting.*

## **9. Departmental Briefing - North West Regional College Action Plan Update**

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

The Committee was briefed by Dr Mary McIvor, Director of Further Education, Department for Employment and Learning, Mr Andy Cole, Head of Corporate Governance and Accountability, Department for Employment and Learning and Mr William Lavery, Change Manager, North West Regional College.

*11:22 am Mr Chris Lyttle joined the meeting.*

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*Agreed:* The officials agreed to provide the Committee with details on areas where the Unions agreed and disagreed with the outcomes in the action plan.

*Agreed:* The officials agreed to provide the Committee with a progress report on the issues raised in the McConnell Report that are not including in the action plan.

*11:42 am The Departmental officials left the meeting.*

## **10. Any other business**

None.

**11. Date, time and place of next meeting**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday 25 June 2014 at 10.00 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

*11:43 am The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.*

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

**25 June 2014**