



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

WEDNESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 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
Ms Bronwyn McGahan MLA
Mr Pat Ramsey MLA
Mr Alastair Ross 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 David McClarty MLA

The meeting opened in public session at 10:05 am.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Chairpersons Business

- The Chairperson advised the Committee that Queen's University Belfast has informed the Committee that one of its final year dental students, has been ranked first among more

than 1200 final year dental students across Europe who were assessed during this year's Foundation Training recruitment process.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Queen's University Belfast and the student congratulating them on this success.

10:06 am Mr Alastair Ross joined the meeting.

- The Chairperson advised the Committee that training in Microsoft One Note is being made available to Members, Secretariat and Party staff on 26 February and 13 March 2014.

3. Minutes of the meetings held on 12 February 2014

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting on 12 February 2014 were agreed.

4. Matters arising

- The Committee noted a list of matters arising from the meeting on 12 February 2014.

5. Correspondence

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Correspondence from Dungannon Rotary requesting to meet with the Committee to discuss its Technology Tournament competition.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson and any interested Member should meet with the organisation informally.

- Correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding the Northern Ireland Audit Office Report on Sickness in the Public Sector.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the Report to the Department for comment and to schedule a briefing by the Northern Ireland Audit Office on its Report in the Forward Work Programme.

- Correspondence from the Committee for Education regarding the Committee Inquiry into Post School Special Educational Need Provision in Northern Ireland.

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

- Correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister providing progress reports from the Barroso Task Force Desk Officers.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the drawdown of European Union funds.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Assembly Research and Information service identifying European Union legislation of note to the Committee.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Invitation from the Department for Employment and Learning to a number of stakeholder consultation events on the new 'Enabling Success' Strategy.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

6. Forward Work Programme

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

7. Subordinate Legislation

Agreed: That the Committee for Employment and Learning has considered the SL1 - The Education (Student Support) (No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and has agreed that it is content for the Department to make the rule.

10:10 am Mr Phil Flanagan joined the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting further information on why the Regulations have been introduced in Wales but not in England.

8. Departmental update on the North West Regional College Action Plan

The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 10:11 am.

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, Mr Gerard Finnegan, Temporary Chair, Board of Governors, North West Regional College and Mr William Laverty, Change Manager, North West Regional College.

10:15 am Mr David Hilditch joined the meeting.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

10:54 am Mr Chris Lyttle joined the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a visit to the North West Regional College into its Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The officials agreed to provide the Committee with a copy of the Staff Survey Report at North West Regional College prior to publication.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note correspondence from Mr William Coyle regarding the North West Regional College.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note correspondence from Mr Gerard Gallagher regarding the North West Regional College.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 11:35 am.

9. Any other business

None.

10. Date, time and place of next meeting

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

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11:36 am.

Mr Robin Swann MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Employment & Learning

26 February 2014