



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

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

**WEDNESDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2013**

**ROOM 29, 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  
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  
Mr Pat Ramsey MLA

*The meeting opened in public session at 10:16 am.*

**Election of a Temporary Chairperson**

In the absence of the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson, the Clerk asked Members to nominate a temporary Chairperson.

Mr Fra McCann MLA moved the motion, "*That Mr Alastair Ross MLA does take the Chair of the Committee*". Mr Sammy Douglas MLA seconded the motion.

There were no other nominations.

Mr Ross took the chair.

## **1. Ministerial briefing on Youth Training and the Review of Apprenticeships**

*The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 7.*

*The Minister and Departmental officials joined the meeting at 10:17 am.*

The Committee was briefed by Dr Stephen Farry, Minister of the Department for Employment and Learning, Mrs Catherine Bell CBE, Deputy Secretary and Ms Yvonne Croskery, Head of Apprenticeship Review Team.

*Mr David Hilditch joined the meeting at 10:20 am.*

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*Mr Robin Swann joined the meeting at 10:29 am.*

*Mr Robin Swann took the chair at 10:31am.*

*Mr Chris Lyttle joined the meeting at 10:33 am.*

*Agreed:* The Minister agreed to provide the Committee with further information on the names of the employers involved in the Stakeholder event held in Cookstown.

*Mr Thomas Buchanan joined the meeting at 10:53 am.*

*Mrs Catherine Bell CBE left the meeting at 11:04 am.*

*Mrs McCroskery left the meeting at 11:20 am.*

## **2. Ministerial briefing on current issues**

*The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 8.*

*Departmental official joined the meeting at 11:21 am.*

The Committee was briefed by Dr Stephen Farry, Minister of the Department for Employment and Learning and Ms Heather Cousins, Deputy Secretary, Department for Employment and Learning.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*Mr David Hilditch left the meeting at 11:30 am.*

*The Minister and Departmental official left the meeting at 11:44 am.*

## **3. Apologies**

*The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 1.*

Apologies are detailed above.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to Mr Ramsey wishing him a speedy recovery from his current illness.

#### **4. Chairperson's Business**

*The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 2.*

- The Chairperson advised the Committee that the briefing on the North West Regional College's Action Plans scheduled for today's has been rescheduled for Tuesday 26 November 2013.
- The Committee considered a Draft Press Release for the publication of the Report on the Committee Inquiry into Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance in Northern Ireland on 25 November 2013.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to issue the Press Release.

- The Committee considered a Draft Press Release for the Committee Work Experience Event for People with Learning Difficulties in Parliament Buildings on 20 November 2013.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to issue the Press Release.

- The Committee considered the sending of Christmas cards to those organisations that had briefed the Committee this year.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to issue Christmas cards electronically.

- The Chairperson advised the Committee that the debate on the Committee Report into Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance in Northern Ireland will take place on Monday 25 November 2013.

#### **5. Minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2013**

*The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 3.*

*Agreed:* The minutes of the meeting were agreed.

#### **6. Matters arising**

*The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 4.*

- The Committee noted a list of matters arising from the previous meeting.

## 7. Correspondence

*The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 5.*

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Departmental response to a Committee query regarding female participation in STEM Education and Careers.

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

- Departmental response to a Committee correspondence requesting comment on issues raised during the Copius Resources Briefing.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the response and forward to Copius for information and comment.

- Correspondence from Mr David McIlveen MLA regarding the Condition Management Programme.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting information on the outcome of the Review of the Programme.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to Mr David McIlveen MLA informing him of the action to be taken by the Committee and to advise him that a copy of the Departmental response would be forwarded to him when received.

- Departmental response to a Committee correspondence regarding Belfast Metropolitan College Football Academy.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the response and forward to Belfast Metropolitan College for information.

- Response from Belfast Metropolitan College providing further information following the briefing session on 23 October 2013.

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

- Ministerial correspondence regarding the NISRA Labour Force Survey Statistics provided at the briefing on 18 September 2013.

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

- Departmental briefing paper on the Capital Budget Exercise 2014 - 2015.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the briefing paper.

- Assembly Research and Information Service Briefing Paper on Council Led Employment Schemes.

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

- Correspondence from the Committee Review Group regarding the Review of the Committee System of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

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

- Assembly Research and Information Service Briefing Paper on ZERO Hours Contracts and Northern Ireland.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the paper to the Minister for information and comment.

- Copy correspondence from the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure to the Minister for Employment and Learning regarding the Performing Arts Centre at South East Regional College Bangor.

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

- Copy of the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment Report on its Committee visit to Brussels.

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

- Correspondence from the Chairperson's Liaison Group noting the key issues discussed and decisions taken at the meeting on 22 October 2013.

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

- Invitation to the Fuel Poverty Coalition Conference Programme "Running on empty".

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

- Invitation from the Simon Community to the launch of Homeless Not Voiceless: Human Rights, Participation and Change.

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

- Invitation to the launch of a Private Members Bill for Rates Relief.

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

- Invitation to the Policy Forum for Northern Ireland's Keynote Seminar: Qualifications, Apprenticeships and training for young people in Northern Ireland.

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

*Mr David Hilditch re-joined the meeting 11:56 am.*

## **8. Forward Work Programme**

*The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 6.*

The Committee noted the draft Forward Work Programme up to 11 December 2013.

## **9. Departmental briefing on the Programme for Government Targets and Savings Delivery Plans**

*The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 11:56 am.*

The Committee was briefed by Mr John Smith, Director of Finance and Mr Jim Russell, Deputy Director Employment Service.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*Mr Alastair Ross left the meeting at 12:03 pm.*

*Mr Fra McCann left the meeting at 12:16pm.*

*Mr Jim Russell left the meeting at 12:21 pm.*

*Ms Bronwyn McGahan left the meeting at 12:26 pm.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to Further Education and Higher Education Sectors regarding the impact of Savings Delivery Plan B/7.

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

## **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 Tuesday 26 November at 12.45 am in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

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

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

**4 December 2013**