



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

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

WEDNESDAY, 22 JANUARY 2014

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 Fra McCann 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 10:01 am.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Mr McClarty wishing him a speedy recovery.

2. Chairpersons Business

Mr Fra McCann joined the meeting at 10.02 am.

- The Chairperson informed Members that the Deputy Chairman and the Clerk met with Mr Mark Langhammer, Director, (Northern Ireland) Association of Teachers and Lecturers & Association of Managers in Education, on 15 January 2014.

3. Minutes of the meetings held on 15 January 2014

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting on 15 January 2014 were agreed.

4. Matters arising

- The Committee noted a list of matters arising from the meeting on 15 January 2014.
- The Committee considered a draft press release for the Committee Inquiry into post Special Educational Need Provision in education, employment and training for those with Learning Disabilities.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to issue the press release.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to all Statutory Committees and Departments seeking submissions to the Inquiry.

5. Correspondence

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Response from Queen's University Belfast regarding the impact of the Department's Savings Delivery Plan B6.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Response from The Open University regarding the impact of the Department's Savings Delivery Plan B6.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Response from the University of Ulster regarding the Committee's briefing from CLIC Sargent.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response and forward it to CLIC Sargent for information.

- Response from The Open University regarding the Committee's briefing from CLIC Sargent.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response and forward it to CLIC Sargent for information.

- Departmental correspondence on the Evaluation of the Strengthening of the All-Ireland Research Base Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting that the Committee be kept updated on the Collaboration Agreement for the new SFI-DEL Investigators Programme Partnership.

- Departmental correspondence on the Evaluation of the Second Round of the Higher and Further Education Collaboration Fund - Connected 2.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Response from the University of Ulster regarding the impact of the Department's Savings Delivery Plan B6.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Response from the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety regarding the future of the Condition Management Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response and forward it to Mr David McIlveen MLA for information.

- Correspondence from the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure to the Minister for Employment and Learning regarding the development of a Performing Arts and Technology Innovation Centre in the South Eastern Regional College, Bangor Campus.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Committee for the Office of First Minister and deputy First Minister providing a progress report on the Barroso Task Force Desk Officers from July - September 2013.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental correspondence requesting the postponement of its briefing to the Committee on the United Youth Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and reschedule the briefing after Easter recess.

- Departmental consultation paper on Enabling Success - A New Strategic Framework to tackle Economic Inactivity in Northern Ireland - Driving Social Change through Economic Participation.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the consultation paper.

- Correspondence from Mrs Irene McMahon detailing proposals to DELNI for Cultural Skills Training for Businesses.

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

- Departmental response regarding the Committee's briefing from CLIC Sargent.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response and forward it to CLIC Sargent for information.

- Departmental response regarding the Committee's briefing on the European Social Fund 2014 - 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Explanatory Memorandum European Union Document – Commission Proposal for a Council Recommendation on a Quality Framework for Traineeships.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the Explanatory Memorandum and forward it to the Department for comment.

- Department for Finance and Personnel response to Committee for Finance and Personnel's correspondence regarding the Procurement Process for the "Steps 2 Success" Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Correspondence from the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure regarding its inquiry entitled Inclusion in the Arts of Working Class Communities.

Agreed: The Committee agreed write to the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure advising that it had no comment to make on the Inquiry and requesting to be kept updated on the progress of the inquiry.

- Draft Press Release for the Committee for Education's STEM is Cool Event on Wednesday 29 January 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for the press release to be issued.

- Invitation to the Annual Association of Teachers and Lecturers lecture.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation to the Queen's University Belfast, Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences 'Energy for the Future' Event.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

6. Forward Work Programme

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

Mr Alastair Ross joined the meeting at 10:09 am.

7. Departmental Briefing on the Further Education (FE) Means Business Review

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

The Committee was briefed by Dr Mary McIvor, Director of Further Education and Mr Daryl Young, Deputy Director of Further Education.

Mr Thomas Buchanan joined the meeting at 10:11 am.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

Mr Pat Ramsey left the meeting at 10:58 am.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 10:59 am.

8. Departmental Briefing on the 4th Delivering Success Through Excellence Report

The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 10:59 am.

The Committee was briefed by Mr Victor Dukelow, Deputy Director Analytical Services and Mrs Angela Whiteside, Deputy Director Quality and Performance.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 11:47 am.

9. Any other business

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule an evidence session by Colleges NI into the Forward Work Programme to give it an opportunity to respond to issues raised in previous briefings relating to the availability of relevant training to meet the needs of employers.

10. Date, time and place of next meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday 5 February 2014 at 10.00 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

Agreed:

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11:51 am.

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

5 February 2014