



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

**WEDNESDAY, 3 JULY 2013**

**ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

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

Mr Jim Allister MLA  
Mr Sammy Douglas MLA  
Mr David Hilditch MLA  
Mr Chris Lyttle MLA  
Mr Fra McCann MLA  
Ms Bronwyn McGahan MLA  
Mr Alistair 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 Phil Flanagan MLA  
Mr Pat Ramsey MLA

*The meeting opened in public session at 10.04 am.*

**1. Apologies**

Apologies are detailed above.

**2. Chairperson's Business**

- The Committee discussed arrangements for dealing with Committee issues during the Summer Recess.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson would submit views on releasing or withholding information in any non-routine or

contentious Freedom of Information requests during the Recess period and that they would advise the Committee of any such requests at the first meeting back in September.

- The Chairperson informed Members that, during the briefing on 29 May the Department advised the Committee that it had made a bid in June Monitoring for £5 million to alleviate pressures due to increased need to employment programmes because of the economic climate but that in the Finance Ministers statement on 1 July this bid has been rejected.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department regarding the implications for the Department of the bid being unsuccessful.

### **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2013**

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

### **4. Matters arising**

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

### **5. Correspondence**

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Correspondence from Belfast Metropolitan College thanking the Committee for sponsoring the fashion show event in the Great Hall on 12 June 2013.

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

- Departmental response to the Committee request for further information on levels of educational attainment in Switzerland in comparison with Northern Ireland.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and to write to the Department for Education requesting information.

- Departmental response to the Committee request for information on the composition of the College Improvement Team at North West Regional College.

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

- Correspondence from the Speaker regarding the Public Petition 'Magee expansion: Time to Make it Happen'.

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

- Departmental correspondence providing information on third party organisations who have been awarded contracts for the provision of learner support.

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

- Departmental update on the re-contracting of Training for Success and the removal of Programme-Led Apprenticeships.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the update and to forward it to Summit Skills for information.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department for clarification on its engagement with stakeholders including Sector Skills Councils and delivery organisations.

- Note of the key issues discussed and decisions taken at the Chairpersons' Liaison Group meeting on 18 June 2013

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

- Correspondence from the Forum for Adult Learners Northern Ireland (FALNI) requesting to brief the Committee in the autumn.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to discuss at its planning day in September.

- A research paper from Assembly Research and Information Service listing additional companies in Northern Ireland who run apprenticeship programmes.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the research paper and invite the organisations in the paper and Wrightbus to take part in the Apprenticeships Showcase Event.

- Correspondence from the University and Colleges Union regarding Further Education Lecturers pay in Northern Ireland.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to discuss at its planning day in September.

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence requesting a breakdown of the 140,000 qualifications achieved in 2010/11 and 2011/12 by level and course type.

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

- Departmental response to Committee request for a breakdown of the home location of those students taking up STEM places.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request the geographic breakdown of the home location of those taking up STEM places.

- Response from the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment to Committee correspondence regarding the strategy to reduce economic inactivity.

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

- Department for Employment and Learning Investment Activity Report for June 2013.

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

- Correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel providing an Assembly Research and Information Service briefing paper Financial forecasting by Northern Ireland departments 2012-13: an analysis.

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

## **6. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee considered the draft Forward Work Programme from September 2013 to July 2014.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to the briefings scheduled for September 2013.

## **7. Subordinate Legislation - Statutory Rule 2013/166 The Industrial Training Levy (Construction Industry) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013**

*The Committee agreed to move to agenda item 9.*

*Agreed:* That the Committee for Employment and Learning has considered SR 2013 -166 The Industrial Training Levy (Construction Industry) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013, and has no objection to the rule.

## **8. Briefing from Grant Thornton on the Teacher Training Infrastructure Report**

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

*Representatives joined the meeting at 10.15 am.*

The Committee was briefed by Mr Charlie Kerlin, Head of Consultancy, Grant Thornton and Mr Richard Martin, Assistant Manager, Grant Thornton on the Teacher Training Infrastructure Report.

*Mr Lyttle joined the meeting at 10.17 am.*

*Mr Buchanan joined the meeting 10:23 am.*

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

The representatives agreed to provide the Committee with details on the cost of carrying out the Study.

*Mr Hilditch joined the meeting at 10:48 am.*

*Representatives left the meeting at 10.55 am.*

*Mr Allister left the meeting at 10.55 am.*

*Mr Douglas left the meeting at 10.55 am*

*Mt Lyttle left the meeting at 10.55 am*

## **9. Departmental briefing on the Savings Delivery Plans - Monitoring Report 2012 - 2013**

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

*The officials joined the meeting at 10.56 am.*

The Committee was briefed by Mr Daryl Young, Deputy Director of Further Education and Mr Richard Monds, Head of Higher Education Finance on the Savings Delivery Plan B/7 - Procurement: College Block Grant Efficiencies.

*Mr McCann left the meeting at 10.59 am.*

*Mr Allister re-joined the meeting at 11:03 am.*

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*The officials left the meeting at 11.11 am.*

*The official joined the meeting at 11.11 am.*

The Committee was briefed by Mr Michael Gould, Assistant Director, Skills and Industry Division on the Savings Delivery Plan B/4 - Reduced Commitments re Training.

*Mr Ross left the meeting at 11:16 am.*

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*The official left the meeting at 11.22 am.*

*The officials joined the meeting at 11.23 am.*

The Committee was briefed by Mrs Siobhan Logue, Assistant Director Employment Service and Mr Gerry Lindsay, Programme Management and Development, Employment Service on the Savings Delivery Plan B/3 - Lower Priority Programmes: Reduced Commitments re Employment provision.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*The officials left the meeting at 11.35 am.*

*The officials joined the meeting at 11.36 am.*

The Committee was briefed by Mr Billy Lyttle, Head of Higher Education Finance and Mr John Neill, Head of Student Finance Policy on the Savings Delivery Plans B/6 - Redundant Programmes: Budgetary Easements – HE Division; B/8 - Procurement: Operational Efficiency – HE Sector; and B/9 - Other: Adjustments to HE funding/Notional Loans Subsidy.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*Mr Douglas re-joined the meeting at 11:40 am.*

The officials agreed to provide the Committee with details of the 20 projects referred to in Savings Delivery Plan B/6.

*The officials left the meeting at 11.51 am.*

## **10. Any other Business**

None.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to hold an away day on Wednesday 4 September 2013 at 10.00 am in South West College, Cookstown Campus.

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

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday 11 September 2013 at 10.00 am in in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.52 am.*

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

**11 September 2013**