



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

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

WEDNESDAY, 9 APRIL 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

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

10:01 am The meeting opened in closed session.

1. Committee Inquiry into Post Special Educational Need Provision in education, employment and training for those with Learning Difficulties

The Committee considered an Assembly Research and Information Service briefing paper on a Potential Specialist Adviser for the Inquiry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to approach Professor Roy McConkey, to act as a Specialist Adviser on the Inquiry for a maximum of 12 days.

10:07 am The meeting moved into public session.

2. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

3. Chairpersons Business

- The Committee considered a list of organisations that have provided written submissions to its Inquiry into Post School Special Educational Need Provision in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to include the submissions as part of the Inquiry.

- The Committee considered a visit report for its visit to Castle Tower School on 2 April 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to include the visit report as part of the Inquiry.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2014

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting on 26 March 2014 were agreed.

5. Matters arising

- The Committee noted a list of matters arising from the meeting on 26 March 2014.

6. Correspondence

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Correspondence from the Compass Advocacy Network inviting the Committee to visit projects working with people who have learning difficulties.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a visit to the Compass Advocacy Network projects into its Forward Work Programme.

10:10 am Mr Chris Lyttle joined the meeting.

- Correspondence from the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland providing the Department for Employment and Learning's Investing Activity Report for March 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the report.

- Correspondence from the Committee for Education providing a copy of the report on their STEM is Cool Event.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the report.

- Departmental response providing an update on the on-going discussions with Copius Resources.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Departmental response regarding the issues raised by an individual surrounding student financial support for those with dual nationality wishing to attend Scottish Universities.

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

- Departmental response to the Committee's request for input to the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure's Inclusion in the Arts Inquiry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response and forward it to the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure for information.

- Departmental response regarding Post Project Evaluations.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Correspondence regarding the European Commission's call for proposals under the Erasmus + Programme to support the introduction or modernisation of apprenticeships within initial Vocational Education and Training (VET) systems.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the European Union Integration Forum regarding its Conference on Europe's lost generation – how to combat the scourge of youth unemployment on 29-30 September 2014 in Barcelona.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister providing details on European Union Events in 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from Derry City Council providing a progress report on the Collaboration and Innovation Fund.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental correspondence providing an update on the procurement of Steps 2 Success programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Ministerial response regarding the Review of the Teacher Training Education Infrastructure.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Response from NISRA providing additional information following the briefing on the Labour Force Survey on 26 March 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Assembly Research and Information Service briefing paper Scottish Universities – Proof of Residence - Update.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the briefing paper.

7. Forward Work Programme

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

Agreed: The Committee agreed to visit Oakridge Day Care Centre in Dungannon on Wednesday 14 May 2014.

10:12 am Mr Alastair Ross joined the meeting.

10:13 am Mr Phil Flanagan joined the meeting.

8. Subordinate Legislation - SL1 - The Student Fees (Amounts) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

Agreed: That the Committee for Employment and Learning has considered the SL1 - The Student Fees (Amounts) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and has agreed that it is content for the Department to make the rule.

9. Subordinate Legislation - SR 2014 - 88 The Employment Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (Blacklists) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

Agreed: That the Committee for Employment and Learning has considered SR 2014 - 88 The Employment Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (Blacklists) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and has no objection to the rule.

10. Subordinate Legislation - SR 2014 - 97 The Education (Student Support) (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

Agreed: That the Committee for Employment and Learning has considered SR 2014 - 97 The Education (Student Support) (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and has no objection to the rule.

11. Ministerial Briefing on Structured to Deliver Success and current issues

10:19 am The Minister and his Departmental official joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Dr Stephen Farry, Minister for Employment and Learning and Mrs Catherine Bell OBE, Deputy Secretary, Department for Employment and Learning.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

Agreed: The Minister agreed to the following:

- To provide information on the number of Agency Workers in the Northern Ireland Economy.
- To provide an update on the demand for training, up skilling and certification of coded welders in Northern Ireland.

11:32 am Mr Phil Flanagan left the meeting.

- To provide an update on addressing transport related barriers to access further education for people with learning difficulties in rural areas.

11:35 am Mr Chris Lyttle left the meeting.

11:38 am The Minister and Departmental official left the meeting.

12. Briefing from the University of Ulster on the establishment of a School of Veterinary Medicine

11:39 am The representatives joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Professor Richard Barnett, Vice Chancellor, Professor Carol Curran, Dean of the Faculty of Life & Health Sciences and Professor John Callan, Norbrook Chair in Pharmaceutical Science.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting that it keeps the Committee updated on the progress with the University of Ulster's economic appraisal for a School of Veterinary Medicine.

12:14 pm The representatives left the meeting.

13. Any other business

The Committee considered the work of Include Youth and Business in the Community on the Aiming Higher Project.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the schedule a briefing on the project in the Forward Work Programme.

14. Date, time and place of next meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday 7 May 2014 at 10.00 am in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

12:15 pm The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Mr Robin Swann MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Employment & Learning

7 May 2014