



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

WEDNESDAY, 1 OCTOBER 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
Ms Anna Lo MLA
Ms Bronwyn McGahan MLA
Mr Pat Ramsey MLA
Mr Alastair Ross MLA
Ms Claire Sugden MLA

In Attendance: Mrs Cathie White (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Vincent Gribbin (Assistant Clerk)
Mr Johnny Lawless (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Noreen Hayward (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Fra McCann MLA

The meeting opened in public session at 10:02 am.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

- The Chairperson welcomed Ms Anna Lo to the Committee.
- The Chairperson thanked Mr Sammy Douglas for his service to the Committee.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2014

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting on 24 September 2014 were agreed.

4. Matters arising

- The Committee noted a list of matters arising from the meetings on 24 September 2014.

5. Correspondence

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Assembly European Affairs Manager providing the EU Matters Newsletter for September 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

10:05 am Mr Alastair Ross joined the meeting.

- Response from the University of Ulster regarding widening access and participation.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Response from the Electrical Training Trust (ETT) regarding a complaint made by a member of the public.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and forward it to the member of the public for information.

- Correspondence from NISRA providing the latest labour market statistics for Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to NISRA requesting a breakdown by Constituency and Council Area.

- Departmental correspondence regarding a Legislative Consent Motion on the Pension Schemes Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental correspondence providing a written briefing on the Review of Youth Training.

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

- Departmental response regarding an Include Youth briefing paper.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note and forward the correspondence to Include Youth for information.

- Departmental response regarding the Disabled Students' Allowance Scheme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note and forward to Mr Humphries for information.

- Departmental response regarding the geographical breakdown of deprived areas in which people received assistance to achieve qualifications.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting clarification of what equates to a level 2 qualification and what is meant by "and above qualifications".

- Departmental response providing details of the supply chain organisations for the Steps 2 Success programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental response regarding the mergers of the initial teacher education providers.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Response from Queen's University Belfast regarding widening access and participation.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Invitation from Colleges NI to a Further Education Colleges Showcase Event.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from Sperrinview Special School to a Broadening Horizons Event.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request the Committee Research Officer attend on its behalf.

6. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the draft Forward Work Programme to 10 December 2014.

7. Work and Families Bill – Clause by Clause Consideration

The Committee commenced formal clause by clause consideration of the Work and Families Bill.

Clause 1 - Defined expressions of this Act.

Question put and agreed:

"That the Committee is content with Clause 1 as drafted"

Clause 2 - Shared Parental Leave.

Question put and agreed:

“That the Committee is content with Clause 2 as drafted”

Clause 3 - Exclusion or curtailment of other statutory rights to leave.

Question put and agreed:

“That the Committee is content with Clause 3 as drafted”

Clause 4 - Abolition of additional paternity leave.

Question put and agreed:

“That the Committee is content with Clause 4 as drafted”

Clause 5 - Statutory shared paternal pay.

Question put and agreed:

“That the Committee is content with Clause 5 as drafted”

Clause 6 - Exclusion or curtailment of other statutory rights to pay.

Question put and agreed:

“That the Committee is content with Clause 6 as drafted”

Clause 7 - Abolition of additional paternity pay.

Question put and agreed:

“That the Committee is content with Clause 7 as drafted”

Clause 8 - Other statutory rights to leave of prospective adopters with whom looked after children are placed

Question put and agreed:

“That the Committee is content with Clause 8 as drafted”

Clause 9 - Other statutory rights to pay of prospective adopters with whom looked after children are placed

Question put and agreed:

“That the Committee is content with Clause 9 as drafted”

Clause 10 - Other statutory rights to leave of applicants for parental orders

Question put and agreed:

“That the Committee is content with Clause 10 as drafted”

Clause 11 - Other statutory rights to pay of applicants for parental orders

Question put and agreed:

“That the Committee is content with Clause 11 as drafted”

Clause 12 - Statutory paternity pay: notice requirement and period of payment

Question put and agreed:

“That the Committee is content with Clause 12 as drafted”

Clause 13 - Rate of statutory adoption pay

Question put and agreed:

“That the Committee is content with Clause 13 as drafted”

Clause 14 - Further amendments

Question put and agreed:

“That the Committee is content with Clause 14 as drafted”

Clause 15 - Time off work to accompany to ante-natal appointments

Question put and agreed:

“That the Committee is content with Clause 15 as drafted”

Clause 16 - Time off work for ante-natal care: increased amount of award

Question put and agreed:

“That the Committee is content with Clause 16 as drafted”

Clause 17 - Time off work to attend adoption appointments

Question put and agreed:

“That the Committee is content with Clause 17 as drafted”

Clause 18 - Right not to be subjected to detriment: agency workers

Question put and agreed:

“That the Committee is content with Clause 18 as drafted”

Clause 19 - Flexible working: removal of requirement to be a carer

Question put and agreed:

“That the Committee is content with Clause 19 as drafted”

Clause 20 - Procedure for regulations as to prescribed amount of annual leave

Question put and agreed:

“That the Committee is content with Clause 20 as drafted”

Clause 21 - Supplementary, incidental and consequential etc. provision

Question put and agreed:

“That the Committee is content with Clause 21 as drafted”

Clause 22 - Repeals

Question put and agreed:

“That the Committee is content with Clause 22 as drafted”

Clause 23 - Commencement

Question put and agreed:

“That the Committee is content with Clause 23 as drafted”

Clause 24 - Short title

Question put and agreed:

“That the Committee is content with Clause 24 as drafted”

Schedule 1 - Minor and consequential amendments

Question put and agreed:

“That the Committee is content with Schedule 1 as drafted”

Schedule 2 - Repeals

Question put and agreed:

“That the Committee is content with Clause Schedule 2 as drafted”

Long Title of the Bill

Question put and agreed:

“That the Committee is content with the Long Title as drafted”

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a research paper on kinship carers in other jurisdictions.

8. Departmental Briefing - October Monitoring Round 2014

10:20 am The representatives joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Mr Stephen McMurray, Director of Finance, Mr Billy Lyttle, Head of Higher Education Finance and Mr Michael Camplisson, Head of Further Education Finance and Funding.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

10:24 am Ms Claire Sugden joined the meeting.

10:25 am Mr Thomas Buchanan joined the meeting.

10:28 am Mr David Hilditch joined the meeting.

Agreed: The officials agreed to provide details on the financial input from the Department for Health, Social Services and Public Services Condition Management Programme.

Agreed: The officials agreed to provide information on what assets are being transferred to the Department of Finance and Personnel.

10:55 am The representatives left the meeting.

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 8 October 2014 at 10.00 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

10:55 am The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Mr Robin Swann MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Employment & Learning

8 October 2014