



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

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

**WEDNESDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2015**

**ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

**Present:** Mr Robin Swann MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Sydney Anderson MLA  
Mr Phil Flanagan MLA  
Mr David Hilditch MLA  
Mr William Irwin MLA  
Ms Anna Lo MLA  
Mr Fra McCann MLA  
Ms Bronwyn McGahan MLA  
Mr Pat Ramsey 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:** None

*The meeting opened in public session at 10:06 am.*

**1. Apologies**

Apologies are detailed above.

**2. Chairperson's Business**

None.

### **3. Minutes of the meetings held on 28 January 2015, 3 February 2015 and 4 February 2015**

*Agreed:* The minutes of the meetings on 28 January 2015 were agreed.

*Agreed:* The minutes of the meeting on 3 February 2015 were agreed.

*Agreed:* The minutes of the meeting on 4 February 2015 were agreed.

### **4. Matters arising**

- The Committee noted a list of matters arising from the meeting on 28 January 2015.
- The Committee noted a list of matters arising from the meeting on 3 February 2015.

### **5. Correspondence**

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Assembly Research and Information Service briefing paper on Public Procurement Competitions in the Further Education Sector.

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

- Correspondence from the Chairpersons' Liaison Group detailing the key issues from its meeting on 27 January 2015.

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

- Assembly Research and Information Service correspondence providing a European Commission Explanatory Memorandum on the Green Employment Initiative.

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

- Ministerial response regarding North West Regional College,

*10:10 am Mr Phil Flanagan joined the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Employment and Learning to request that Mr McConnell is asked to consider the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations in his Review of Industrial Relations in North West Regional College.

- Correspondence from the Committee for the Office of First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding Statutory Committee European Priorities for 2015.

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

- Correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding the Spring Supplementary Estimates.

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

- Assembly Research and Information Service correspondence providing a European Commission Explanatory Memorandum on the Annual Accounts of the European Training Foundation.

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

- Assembly Research and Information Service correspondence providing a European Commission Explanatory Memorandum on the Annual Accounts of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training.

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

- Departmental correspondence requesting the rescheduling of a briefing.

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

- Correspondence from the Ulster University regarding the Confucius Classroom Project.

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

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding the Commissioner for Older People NI briefing.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the response and forward it to the Commissioner for Older People NI for information.

- Departmental response regarding the Assembly Research and Information Service briefing paper on Self-Employment.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the response and forward it to Assembly Research and Information Service for information.

- Correspondence from the Training for Women Network, Edwards & Co. Solicitors on behalf of Include Youth and Newstart Education Centre regarding the first round of European Social Fund 2014 -2020 applications.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and forward to the Department for information in advance of the Departmental briefing on the European Social Fund on 18 February 2015.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Minister requesting that he attend the briefing on the European Social Fund.

- Invitation to the MusED Conference 2015 in the Nerve Centre, Derry/Londonderry on 26 March 2015 at 10:00 am.

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

## **6. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted the draft Forward Work Programme to 8 April 2015.

## **7. Departmental Briefing - Programme for Government Update**

*10:15 am The Departmental officials joined the meeting.*

The Committee was briefed by Mrs Catherine Bell CBE, Deputy Secretary, Mr Billy Lyttle, Head of Higher Education Finance and Mr Bobby Clulow, Senior Principal Economist on Commitment 20 in the Programme for Government

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*Agreed:* The officials agreed to provide the Committee with the latest statistics on the uptake of higher education places when available.

*Agreed:* The officials agreed to provide the Committee with further information regarding Targets for Social Clauses for the Department and other Departments.

*10:21 am Mr Fra McCann joined the meeting.*

*10:24 am Mr Billy Little left the meeting.*

*10:24 am Dr Mary McIvor joined the meeting*

The officials briefed the Committee on Commitment 25 in the Programme for Government.

*10:27 am Ms Bronwyn McGahan joined the meeting.*

*10:28 am Ms Claire Sugden joined the meeting.*

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*10:30 am Mr Fra McCann left the meeting.*

*10:33 am Mr Phil Flanagan left the meeting.*

*10:39 am Mr William Irwin joined the meeting.*

*10:41 am Mr David Hilditch joined the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The officials agreed to provide the Committee with information on the schools using further education lecturers to deliver essential skills courses.

*11:00 am Dr Mary McIvor left the meeting.*

*11:01 am Mr Rory Muldrew joined the meeting.*

The officials briefed the Committee on Commitment 27 in the Programme for Government,

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*Agreed:* The Departmental officials agreed to provide the Committee with a written update on the Economic Inactivity Strategy.

*11:13 am Mr Rory Muldrew left the meeting.*

*11:13 am Mrs Sheila McNeil joined the meeting.*

The officials briefed the Committee on Commitment 36 in the Programme for Government.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*Agreed:* The officials agreed to provide the Committee with an update on the Departmental position in relation to the NEET's Strategy.

*11:22 am The Departmental officials left the meeting.*

#### **8. Departmental Briefing - Subordinate Legislation - Work and Families Act Northern Ireland 2015**

*11:22 am The Departmental officials joined the meeting.*

The Committee was briefed by Mr Tom Evans, Deputy Director, Strategy, European and Employment Relations Division and Mrs Geraldine Lavery, Employment Relations Policy and Legislation.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

#### **9. SL1 - The Work and Families Act 2015 (Commencement, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered the SL1 - The Work and Families Act 2015 (Commencement, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015

*11:39 am Mr Pat Ramsey left the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Committee was content with the proposals.

#### **10. SL1 - The Paternity and Adoption Leave (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered the SL1 - The Paternity and Adoption Leave (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

*Agreed:* The Committee was content with the proposals.

**11. SL1 - The Shared Parental Leave Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered the SL1 - The Shared Parental Leave Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

*Agreed:* The Committee was content with the proposals.

**12. SL1 - The Statutory Shared Parental Pay (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered the SL1 - The Statutory Shared Parental Pay (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

*Agreed:* The Committee was content with the proposals.

**13. SL1 - The Maternity and Adoption Leave (Curtailement of Statutory Rights to Leave) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered the SL1 - The Maternity and Adoption Leave (Curtailement of Statutory Rights to Leave) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

*Agreed:* The Committee was content with the proposals.

**14. SL1 - The Employment Rights (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (Application of Articles 107G and 107I to Adoptions from Overseas) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered the SL1 - The Employment Rights (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (Application of Articles 107G and 107I to Adoptions from Overseas) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

*11:42 am Mr Pat Ramsey re-joined the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Committee was content with the proposals.

**15. SL1 - The Shared Parental Leave and Paternity and Adoption Leave (Adoptions from Overseas) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014**

The Committee considered the SL1 - The Shared Parental Leave and Paternity and Adoption Leave (Adoptions from Overseas) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

*Agreed:* The Committee was content with the proposals.

**16. SL1 - The Statutory Shared Parental Pay (Adoption from Overseas) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014**

The Committee considered the SL1 - The Statutory Shared Parental Pay (Adoption from Overseas) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

*Agreed:* The Committee was content with the proposals.

**17. SL1 - The Employment Rights (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (Application of Articles 107A, 107B, 107G, 107I, 112A and 112B to Parental Order Cases) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered the SL1 - The Employment Rights (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (Application of Articles 107A, 107B, 107G, 107I, 112A and 112B to Parental Order Cases) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

*Agreed:* The Committee was content with the proposals.

**18. SL1 - The Paternity, Adoption and Shared Parental Leave (Parental Order Cases) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered the SL1 - The Paternity, Adoption and Shared Parental Leave (Parental Order Cases) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

*Agreed:* The Committee was content with the proposals.

**19. SL1 - The Statutory Shared Parental Pay (Parental Order Cases) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014**

The Committee considered the SL1 - The Statutory Shared Parental Pay (Parental Order Cases) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

*Agreed:* The Committee was content with the proposals.

**20. SL1 - The Paternity and Adoption Leave (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered the SL1 - The Paternity and Adoption Leave (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to request a written explanation on the SL1 from Department and to consider the proposals further at its meeting on 18 February 2015.

**21. SL1 - The Maternity and Parental Leave etc. (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered the SL1 - The Maternity and Parental Leave etc. (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

*Agreed:* The Committee was content with the proposals.

**22. SL1 - The Flexible Working Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered the SL1 - The Flexible Working Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

*Agreed:* The Committee was content with the proposals.

**23. SL1 - The Statutory Shared Parental Pay (Persons Abroad and Mariners) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered the SL1 - The Statutory Shared Parental Pay (Persons Abroad and Mariners) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

*Agreed:* The Committee was content with the proposals.

**24. SL1 - The Statutory Adoption Pay (Curtailment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered the SL1 - The Statutory Adoption Pay (Curtailment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

*Agreed:* The Committee was content with the proposals.

**25. SL1 - The Statutory Shared Parental Pay (Administration) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered the SL1 - The Statutory Shared Parental Pay (Administration) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

*Agreed:* The Committee was content with the proposals.

*11:54 am Mr Pat Ramsey left the meeting.*

**26. SL1 - The Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 (Application of Parts 12ZA, 12ZB and 12ZC to Parental Order Cases) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered the SL1 - The Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 (Application of Parts 12ZA, 12ZB and 12ZC to Parental Order Cases) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to request a written explanation on the SL1 from Department and to consider the proposals further at its meeting on 18 February 2015.



**27. SL1 - The Statutory Paternity Pay and Statutory Adoption Pay (General) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered the SL1 - The Statutory Paternity Pay and Statutory Adoption Pay (General) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

*Agreed:* The Committee was content with the proposals.

**28. SL1 - The Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 (Application of Parts 12ZA and 12ZB to Adoptions from Overseas) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered the SL1 - The Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 (Application of Parts 12ZA and 12ZB to Adoptions from Overseas) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

*Agreed:* The Committee was content with the proposals.

**29. SL1 - The Statutory Paternity Pay and Statutory Adoption Pay (Parental Orders and Prospective Adopters) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered the SL1 - The Statutory Paternity Pay and Statutory Adoption Pay (Parental Orders and Prospective Adopters) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

*Agreed:* The Committee was content with the proposals.

**30. SL1 - The Shared Parental Leave and Statutory Shared Parental Pay (Consequential Amendments to Subordinate Legislation) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered the SL1 - The Shared Parental Leave and Statutory Shared Parental Pay (Consequential Amendments to Subordinate Legislation) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015

*Agreed:* The Committee was content with the proposals.

*11:56 am The Departmental officials left the meeting.*

**31. Departmental Briefing - Students with learning difficulty and/or disability (SLDD) provision in Further Education including transport issues.**

*11:57 am The Departmental officials joined the meeting.*

*11:57 am Mr Sydney Anderson left the meeting.*

The Committee was briefed by Mr Andy Cole, Head of Further Education Policy and Strategic Development and Ms Donna Crothers, Further Education Policy and Strategy Branch.

*12:13 pm Ms Bronwyn McGahan left the meeting.*

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to invite the Children's and Young People Strategic Partnership to brief the Committee as part of its on-going Inquiry into Post Special Educational Need in Northern Ireland.

*12:31 pm Mr David Hilditch left the meeting.*

*12:33 pm The Departmental officials left the meeting.*

### **32. Any other business**

None.

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

The Committee noted that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday 18 February 2015 at 10.00 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

*12:33 pm The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.*

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

**18 February 2015**