



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

## COMMITTEE FOR EMPLOYMENT AND LEARNING MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 18 MARCH 2015

ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Mr Robin Swann MLA (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  
Mr Pat Ramsey MLA

In Attendance: Mrs Cathie White (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Johnny Lawless (Assistant Clerk)  
Ms Noreen Hayward (Clerical Officer)  
Mr Christopher Jefferies (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA (Deputy- Chairperson)  
Ms Bronwyn McGahan MLA  
Ms Claire Sugden MLA

*The meeting opened in public session at 10:12 am.*

### 1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

### 2. Ministerial Briefing - Current Issues and an Update on the European Social Fund

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

*10:12 am The Minister and Departmental officials joined the meeting.*

The Committee was briefed by Dr S Farry, Minister for Employment and Learning, Mr Derek Baker, Permanent Secretary and Mrs Catherine Bell CBE, Deputy Secretary.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*Agreed:* The officials agreed to provide the Committee with details regarding European Social Fund monies owed to the community and voluntary sector in the past year and a breakdown of monies owed due to European restrictions.

*10:50 am Mr William Irwin joined the meeting.*

*11:08 am Mr Phil Flanagan left the meeting.*

*11:16 am Mr David Hilditch joined the meeting.*

*11:32 am The Minister and Departmental officials left the meeting.*

### **3. Chairperson's Business**

*The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 2.*

- The Chairperson advised the Members that the Committee held its planned visit to Manchester as part of its on-going Inquiry into Post Special Education Need Provision in Northern Ireland and informed the Committee that a visit report would be completed in due course.
- The Chairperson advised Members that he and the Clerk met with the Principal and the Chairperson of the Board of Governors of Stranmillis University College on Friday 13 March 2015.
- The Committee noted that the Minister has asked Higher Education Division to draft a consultation document, in respect of the Upcoming Consultation on Student Support Arrangements for Part-time and Postgraduate Taught Students; for publication at the end of March on policy options for part-time and postgraduate taught student support arrangements. A copy of the consultation will be provided to the Committee three days before the launch.

### **4. Minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2015**

*The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 3.*

*Agreed:* The minutes of the meetings on 4 March 2015 were agreed.

### **5. Matters arising**

*The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 4.*

- The Committee noted a list of matters arising from the meeting on 4 March 2015.

## 6. Correspondence

*The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 5.*

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Departmental response to Committee request for comment on the European Commission Legislative Work Programme.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to re-issue the paper to the Department requesting comment on the specific issues raised.

- Correspondence from Stranmillis University College inviting the Committee to hold a meeting in the college.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to hold a meeting and visit to Stranmillis University College.

- Correspondence from NICVA regarding the European Social Fund.

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

- Correspondence from Politics Plus regarding the Leading with Impact Report.

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

- Departmental response to Committee request for further information following the briefing on Zero Hours Contracts.

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

- Departmental response to Committee request for further information on the Youth Employment Initiative.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the response and forward it to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment for information.

- Departmental response to Committee request for comment on the Northern Ireland Assembly's EU Matters Newsletter.

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

- Correspondence from the Chairperson's Liaison Group regarding key issues discussed and decisions made in its meeting on 3 March 2015.

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

- Correspondence from Colleges NI offering to host a Committee meeting and inviting the Committee to the BEST Awards.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to hold a meeting and visit at the BEST Awards.

- Ministerial correspondence regarding the European Social Fund.

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

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding the European Social Fund Panels and Guidance Notes.

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

- Correspondence from Stranmillis University College regarding Teacher Education in Northern Ireland.

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

- Copy correspondence from Stranmillis University College to Queen's University Belfast regarding the Review of Initial Teacher Education.

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

- Correspondence from MENCAP inviting the Committee to visit programmes developed to improve the employability of young people with a learning disability.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and decline the invitation.

## **7. Forward Work Programme**

*The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 6.*

The Committee noted the draft Forward Work Programme to 15 April 2015.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to reschedule the European Social Fund briefing from 25 March 2015 to 22 April 2015.

## **8. SL1 – Employment Rights (Increase of Limits) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered the SL1 – Employment Rights (Increase of Limits) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015.

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

## **9. SR 2015-86 (C. 7) The Work and Families Act 2015 (Commencement, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015**

*Agreed:* The Committee for Employment and Learning has considered SR 2015-86 (C. 7) The Work and Families Act 2015 (Commencement, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015, and has no objection to the rule.

**10. SR 2015-87 The Paternity and Adoption Leave (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

*Agreed:* The Committee for Employment and Learning has considered SR 2015-87 The Paternity and Adoption Leave (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report recommends that it be confirmed by the Assembly.

**11. SR 2015-88 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 for Employment and Learning has considered SR 2015-88 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, and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules Report has no objection to the rule

**12. SR 2015-89 The Statutory Paternity Pay and Statutory Adoption Pay (General) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

*Agreed:* The Committee for Employment and Learning has considered SR 2015-89 The Statutory Paternity Pay and Statutory Adoption Pay (General) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules Report has no objection to the rule

**13. SR 2015-90 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 for Employment and Learning has considered SR 2015-90 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, and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules Report has no objection to the rule.

*11:43 am Ms Anna Lo left the meeting*

**14. SR 2015-93 The Shared Parental Leave Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

*Agreed:* The Committee for Employment and Learning has considered SR 2015-93 The Shared Parental Leave Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report recommends that it be confirmed by the Assembly.

**15. SR 2015-95 The Maternity and Adoption Leave (Curtilment of Statutory Rights to Leave) Regulations (Northern Ireland)**

*Agreed:* The Committee for Employment and Learning has considered SR 2015-95 The Maternity and Adoption Leave (Curtilment of Statutory Rights to Leave) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report recommends that it be confirmed by the Assembly.

**16. SR 2015-96 The Statutory Adoption Pay (Curtilment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

*Agreed:* The Committee for Employment and Learning has considered SR 2015-96 The Statutory Adoption Pay (Curtilment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules Report has no objection to the rule

**17. SR 2015-97 The Employment Rights (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (Application of Articles 107G and 107I to Adoptions from Overseas) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

*11:46 am Ms Anna Lo re-joined the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Committee for Employment and Learning has considered SR 2015-97 The Employment Rights (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (Application of Articles 107G and 107I to Adoptions from Overseas) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report recommends that it be confirmed by the Assembly

**18. SR 2015-98 The Shared Parental Leave and Paternity and Adoption Leave (Adoptions from Overseas) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014**

*Agreed:* The Committee for Employment and Learning has considered SR 2015-98 The Shared Parental Leave and Paternity and Adoption Leave (Adoptions from Overseas) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report recommends that it be confirmed by the Assembly.

*11:48 am Mr Pat Ramsey left the meeting.*

**19. SR 2015-100 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 for Employment and Learning has considered 2015-100 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, and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report recommends that it be confirmed by the Assembly.

**20. SR 2015-101 The Paternity, Adoption and Shared Parental Leave (Parental Order Cases) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

*Agreed:* The Committee for Employment and Learning has considered SR 2015-101 The Paternity, Adoption and Shared Parental Leave (Parental Order Cases) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report recommends that it be confirmed by the Assembly

**21. SR 2015-104 The Maternity and Parental Leave etc. (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

*Agreed:* The Committee for Employment and Learning has considered SR 2015-104 The Maternity and Parental Leave etc. (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report recommends that it be confirmed by the Assembly.

**22. SR 2015-105 The Flexible Working Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

*Agreed:* The Committee for Employment and Learning has considered SR 2015-105 The Flexible Working Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules Report has no objection to the rule.

**23. Departmental Briefing - Delivering Success Through Excellence**

*11:53 am The Departmental officials joined the meeting.*

The Committee was briefed by Mr Bobby Clulow, Senior Principal Economist, Mrs Angela Whiteside, Quality Improvement Adviser, Mr John Baird, Assistant Chief Inspector, Education and Training Inspectorate and Mrs Wendy Lecky, Head of Economics Branch, Analytical Services.

*11:54 am Mr Pat Ramsey re-joined the meeting.*

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*12:35 pm The Departmental officials left the meeting.*

**24. Departmental Briefing – Review of Youth Training**

*12:35 pm The Departmental officials joined the meeting.*

The Committee was briefed by Ms Carol Magill, Head of New Initiatives Unit, Mr David Broadhurst, Head of Review of Youth Training, Mr Michael Armstrong, New Initiatives Unit and Ms Cathy Bradin, Review of Youth Training.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*Agreed:* The Departmental officials agreed to provide the Committee with a summary of the

feedback from the various stakeholder events held.

*12:47 pm Mr Fra McCann left the meeting.*

*12:49 pm Ms Anna Lo left the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Departmental officials agreed to update the Committee with regard to policy developments of the review.

*12:59 pm The Departmental officials left the meeting.*

## **25. Any other business**

None

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

The Committee noted that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday 25 March 2015 at 10.00 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

*12:59 pm The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.*

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

**25 March 2015**