



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

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

WEDNESDAY, 20 MAY 2015

ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

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

Mr Sydney Anderson MLA
Mr David Hilditch MLA
Mr William Irwin MLA
Ms Anna Lo MLA
Mr Fra McCann MLA
Ms Bronwyn McGahan MLA

In Attendance: Mrs Cathie White (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Johnny Lawless (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mrs Marion Johnson (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Phil Flanagan MLA
Mr Pat Ramsey MLA
Ms Claire Sugden MLA

The meeting opened in public session at 10:09 am.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

- The Chairperson advised Members that the Committee sponsored Colleges NI Showcase Further Education – key driver of the NI economy took place on Tuesday 19 May 2015.
- The Chairperson advised Members that there is an informal meeting with the new Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People at 4:00 pm on Wednesday 20 May 2015.
- The Chairperson advised Members that the annual Belfast Metropolitan College Fashion Show will take place on Friday 22 May 2015.
- The Chairperson advised Members that the Steps 2 Success contracted companies have failed to respond to a research paper that was forwarded to them for comment on 19 November 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting that the three Steps 2 Success Contractors respond to the issues raised in the research paper.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2015

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting on 13 May were agreed.

10:11 am Mr David Hilditch joined the meeting.

4. Matters arising

- The Committee noted a list of matters arising from the meeting on 13 May 2015.

5. Correspondence

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Assembly Research and Information Service briefing paper on the Living Wage in the Public and Private Sectors of Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request that the Researcher brief the Committee at its meeting on 27 May 2015.

- Correspondence from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment regarding its visit to Stuttgart.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding issues around Enabling Success.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding Social Clauses.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response and agreed to write to the Department of Finance and Personnel for further information.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the response to the Committee for Finance and Personnel for information.

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding inflationary increases in student grants and loans.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Ministerial response to Committee correspondence regarding funding for the Bytes Project.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Examiner of Statutory Rules 13th Report of the 2014-2015 session.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Examiner of Statutory Rules 14th Report of the 2014-2015 session.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

10:12 am Mr William Irwin joined the meeting.

- Colleges NI response to Committee correspondence regarding the Northern Ireland Public Service Ombudsperson Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and forward it to the Ad Hoc Committee for its consideration.

- The Open University response to Committee correspondence regarding the Northern Ireland Public Service Ombudsperson Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and forward it to the Ad Hoc Committee for its consideration.

- Queen's University Belfast Students' Union response to Committee correspondence regarding the Northern Ireland Public Service Ombudsperson Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and forward it to the Ad Hoc Committee for its consideration.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward any other responses received to the Ad Hoc Committee.

- Departmental correspondence regarding the Careers Strategy Action Plan 2015-2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Invitation from FALNI to a seminar to celebrate Adult Learners' Week.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from the Chairs' Forum to a breakfast briefing on the Economic Outlook for Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation to a dinner to mark the Trans-Atlantic Technology and Training Alliance Conference.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from Queen's University Belfast to an Adults with Autism Employment Skills Training Seminar.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation to a Co3 Co-Design and Co-Production Event

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation to a Cross Border Conference: Education and the Law.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

6. Forward Work Programme

- The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme to 1 July 2015.
- The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from Kinship Care NI at its meeting on 27 May 2015.

7. SR 2015-243 The Student Fees (Amounts) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Agreed: That the Committee for Employment and Learning has considered SR 2015-243 The Student Fees (Amounts) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules Report has no objection to the rule.

8. Departmental Briefing - June Monitoring Round

10:15 am The Departmental officials joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Mr Stephen McMurray, Director of Finance, Mr Michael Camplisson, Head of Further Education Finance and Funding, Mrs Maura McKee, Head of Client Offer Branch and Mr Billy Lyttle, Head of Higher Education Finance.

10:22 am Mr Sydney Anderson joined the meeting.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

10:36 am The Departmental officials left the meeting.

9. Departmental Briefing - Steps 2 Success

10:37 am The Departmental officials joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Mr Brendan McCann, Head of New Employment Team, Mrs Angela Whiteside, Quality Improvement Adviser and Mr Kieran Ennis, Contract Management Branch.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

Agreed: The Departmental officials agreed to provide detail on how the contractors assess need and barriers to work in their contract areas.

11:32 am Mr Sydney Anderson left the meeting

11:36 am The Departmental officials left the meeting.

10. Any other business

None

11. Date, time and place of next meeting

The Committee noted that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday 27 May 2015 at 10.00 am in the Ramada Plaza Hotel, Shawsbridge, Belfast.

11:37 am The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Mr Robin Swann MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Employment & Learning

27 May 2015