



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

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

WEDNESDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 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 Pat Ramsey MLA
Mr Alastair Ross MLA

In Attendance: Mrs Cathie White (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Vincent Gribbin (Assistant Clerk)
Ms Noreen Hayward (Clerical Officer)
Mr Malcolm Collins (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Ms Claire Sugden MLA

The meeting opened in public session at 10:05 am.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson advised the Committee that Mr Chris Lyttle would be leaving the Committee and wished him well.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2014

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting on 17 September 2014 were agreed.

4. Matters arising

- The Committee noted a list of matters arising from the meetings on 17 September 2014.

The Committee considered correspondence from Professor Sir Desmond Rea, regarding his briefing to the Committee on 17 September 2014 as Chairman of the Governing Body of Stranmillis University College.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Stranmillis University College for an update regarding the consultation with staff as indicated in the briefing on 17 September 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to University College Union to determine if it had submitted its views to Stranmillis University College on the options put forward by the Expert Panel Report on Initial Teacher Training Infrastructure.

5. Correspondence

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Departmental response providing Hardship Fund statistics.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Committee for Education regarding its Shared and Integrated Education Inquiry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding Post-Project Evaluations

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and forward to the Department for information and comment.

- Correspondence from the NIA All Party Group on Construction regarding the Infrastructure Investment Strategy (ISNI) Portal

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and forward to the Department for comment.

- Correspondence from the University of Ulster requesting to meet the Committee to discuss the Value of Higher Education

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule an informal meeting and to request a written briefing paper in advance of that meeting.

- Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Assembly Director of Facilities advising the Committee of the need for 3 cross party signatures from MLAs in advance of all future events

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the Programme for Government Commitments Progress Report

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding Investment Strategy Implementation Report

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and include in the Inquiry Pack.

- Correspondence from the Belfast Metropolitan College requesting that the Committee hosts an event in the Members' Dining Room, Parliament Buildings on 10 October 2014 for the delegates from the annual conference for RC-2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to host the event.

- Invitation from the Committee for Education to attend a STEM Sentinus Event on 1 October at 10:30 am in the Long Gallery, Parliament Buildings, Belfast.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from the Northern Ireland Assembly Business Trust to attend a Belfast Rapid Transit system – How will it affect your business event at 5:00 pm on 14 October in the Members Dining Room, Parliament Buildings, Belfast.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from the Connected Management Committee to attend the launch of the Connected 3 Project at 12:00 pm on 15 October in the Merchant Hotel, Belfast.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from the Prince's Trust to the Celebrate Success Awards at 5:30 pm on 2 December at the Titanic Belfast.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

6. Forward Work Programme

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

7. Briefing by the Chair of the Independent Panel Review of Careers, Education and Guidance

10:13 am The representatives joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Mr Brian Ambrose, Chair of Panel, George Best Belfast City Airport and Ms Marie-Therese McGivern, Panel Member, Belfast Metropolitan College.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

11:21 am The representatives left the meeting.

8. Work and Families Bill – Deliberation

11:23 am The representatives joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Mr Tom Evans, Deputy Director, Strategy, European and Employment Relations Division and Dr Alan Scott, Employment Relations Policy and Legislation Branch.

The Committee considered the Clauses, Schedules of the Work and Families Bill, the key issues raised by Stakeholders that related to the Bill and the Department's response to the issues.

The Committee was content to note the key issues raised by the Stakeholders and the Department's response.

11:48 am The representatives left the meeting.

9. Briefing by Expert Panel on the Review of Initial Teacher Education Infrastructure

11:50 am The representatives joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Professor John Furlong, Professor of Education, University of Oxford, Professor John Coolahan, Professor of Education, National University of Ireland, Maynooth and Professor Gordon Kirk OBE, Universities' Council for the Education of Teachers.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

Agreed: The representatives agreed to provide the Committee with the A new vision of education for the children of Ireland Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting information on how denominational ethos has been protected elsewhere, where faith based education institutions have been amalgamated into a single organisation.

12:54 pm The representatives left the meeting.

10. Any other business

None.

11. Date, time and place of next meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday 1 October 2014 at 10.00 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

12:54 pm The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Mr Robin Swann MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Employment & Learning

1 October 2014