



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

WEDNESDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2014

ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

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

Mr Phil Flanagan 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)
Mr Stephen Magee (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Noreen Hayward (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr David Hilditch MLA
Mr Alastair Ross MLA

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

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

- The Chairperson advised Members that the Minister for Employment and Learning has written to all arms-length bodies regarding the proposed budget cuts in year and for the next financial year.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting information on when all the arms-length bodies had been notified, what action has been taken and when will the cuts be confirmed.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2014

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting on 1 October 2014 were agreed.

10:04 am Mr Buchanan joined the meeting.

4. Matters arising

- The Committee noted a list of matters arising from the meeting on 1 October 2014.

5. Correspondence

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Correspondence from the Commissioner for Older People Northern Ireland regarding the Report on Valuing the Ageing Workforce.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland providing a copy of the Department for Employment and Learning Investing Activity Report for September 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Electrical Training Trust (ETT) regarding subsidies for electrical courses fees.

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

- Correspondence from St. Mary's University College providing additional information following the briefing on the Review of Initial Teacher Education Infrastructure in Northern Ireland on 17 September 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Open University providing additional information following the briefing on the Review of Initial Teacher Education Infrastructure in Northern Ireland on 17 September 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental correspondence regarding the monitoring of Post Project Evaluations.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental response regarding the briefings by the Colleges and Universities on the Review of Initial Teacher Education Infrastructure in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental response providing clarification on the delay for submitting the outstanding Post Project Evaluations.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental response to the Committee for the Office of First Minister and deputy First Minister's Inquiry into the Good Relations Strategy.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Committee for Education to the teacher education providers regarding the employment levels for teaching graduates.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding the Investment Strategy Project Delivery Portal.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Invitation from Belfast Metropolitan College to the Leading Cities to Work (RC2020) Conference.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from Belfast Metropolitan College to the Leading Cities to Work (RC2020) Dinner.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from Generator Northern Ireland to the Music Industry Conference and Showcase.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation and ask the Committee Researcher to attend on the Committee's behalf.

- National Assembly of Wales, Europe Working for Wales: Successful Approaches to Combatting Youth Unemployment Conference.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from Colleges NI to the Worldskills Cluster training Event.

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 from Steps 2 Success Contractor - Ingeus UK

10:09 am The representatives joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Mr Brendan McCann, Head of the New Employment Team, Department for Employment and Learning, Mr Tony Montgomery, Deputy Principal, Department for Employment and Learning, Mr Jack Sawyer, Chief Operating Officer, Ingeus UK and Mr Aidan Sloane, Chief Executive, Springvale Learning.

10:28 am Ms Sugden joined the meeting.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

10:35 am Mr Irwin joined the meeting.

Agreed: The Departmental officials agreed to provide the Committee with details on how many Steps to Work employees will not be included in TUPE transfer to Steps 2 Success.

Agreed: The Departmental officials agreed to provide the Committee with details of the targets set for each of the 5 groups under Steps 2 Success.

Agreed: The Department officials agreed to provide statistics on the numbers of Ingeus UK clients who have continued in employment for 3, 6, 9 months and longer.

11:07 am Mr Flanagan joined the meeting.

Agreed: The Ingeus UK officials agreed to provide details of the number of staff in the Call Centre from day one.

11:15 am Mr Montgomery left the meeting.

Agreed: The Ingeus UK officials agreed to provide the Committee with details of the salaries of the management team.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the Hansard to the Department for comment on the issues raised.

11:30 am The representatives left the meeting.

11:31 am Mr McCann left the meeting.

8. Work and Families Bill – Consideration of Draft Report

- The Chairperson welcomed Mr William Irwin to the Committee.
- The Committee considered a draft report on the Work and Families Bill as follows:

Agreed: That the Committee Remit, Powers and Membership, Table of Contents and List of Abbreviations stands part of the Report.

Agreed: That the Executive Summary, paragraphs 1 to 37, stands part of the Report.

Agreed: That the Consideration of the Bill, paragraphs 38 to 68, stands part of the Report.

Agreed: That the Clause by Clause Consideration of the Bill, paragraphs 69 to 123, stands part of the Report.

Agreed: That the Consideration of Key Issues, paragraphs 124 to 254, stands part of the Report.

Agreed: That the Appendices stand part of the Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for the Chairperson to approve the extract of the Minutes of Proceedings of today's meeting for inclusion in the report.

11:34 am Mr McCann re-joined the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to order the Report on the Work and Families Bill (NIA 198/11-16) to be printed.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that an electronic copy of the Bill report should be sent to all organisations and individuals who provided evidence to the Committee on the Bill.

9. Departmental Briefing - Labour Mobility Research

11:35 am The representatives joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Mr Colin Jack, Director of Strategy, European and Employment Relations Division, Department for Employment and Learning, Mr Victor Dukelow, Senior Principal Economist, Department for Employment and Learning and Dr Tracy Power, Director of Analysis, Department of Finance and Personnel.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

11:58 am Ms Sugden left the meeting.

Agreed: The Departmental officials agreed to provide a breakdown on the statistics by east/west split for those who are economically inactive and for those who are seeking employment.

Agreed: The Departmental officials agreed to provide its Disabilities Action Plan when available.

Agreed: The Departmental officials agreed to provide all the statistical information used to formulate the graphs included in the report.

12:26 pm Mr Ramsey left the meeting.

12:32 pm The representatives left the meeting.

10. Briefing from Assembly Research and Information Service on the European Commission Legislative Work Programme

12:32 pm The researcher joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Mr Eoin Murphy, Northern Ireland Assembly Research and Information Service.

12:36 pm Ms McGahan left the meeting.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

Agreed: The researcher agreed to provide the Committee with information on who the Competent Authorities are as noted in his paper regarding the introduction of a European Professional Card.

Agreed: The researcher agreed to provide the Committee with information on the gaps identified in existing legislation regarding Collective Redundancies Directives.

12:44 pm The researcher left the meeting.

11. Departmental Briefing - Update on DEL European Policy Developments including European Social Fund 2014 - 2020

12:44 pm The representatives joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Mr Colin Jack, Director of Strategy, European and Employment Relations Division, Mrs Briege Rainey, ESF Future Funding, Mr John Noble, Head of ESF Managing Authority and Mrs Patricia McVeigh, Head of European Policy Branch.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

Agreed: The Departmental officials agreed to provide details of the predictions of a dip for drawdown of funding from Horizon 2020.

1:12 pm The representatives left the meeting.

12. Any other business

None.

13. Date, time and place of next meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday 15 October 2014 at 10.00 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

1:13 pm The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Mr Robin Swann MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Employment & Learning

15 October 2014