



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

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

WEDNESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2015

MINOR HALL, ULSTER UNIVERSITY MAGEE CAMPUS

- Present:** Mr Robin Swann MLA (Chairperson)
- Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Alex Easton 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 Assembly Clerk)
Mr Johnny Lawless (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Marion Johnson (Clerical Officer)
Ms Amy Barr (Legislative Studies & Practice Student)
- Apologies:** Mr Sydney Anderson MLA
Mr Phil Flanagan MLA
Mr David Hilditch MLA
Ms Anna Lo MLA

10:15 am The meeting opened in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

- The Chairperson advised Members that the Committee motions on ESF Funding and Higher Education and Further Education have been provisionally scheduled for 23 and 30 November 2015 respectively.
- The Chairperson advised Members that, on the Speakers direction, the Committee meeting would suspend at 11:00 to observe two minutes silence to commemorate Armistice Day.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 19 & 21 October 2015

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting on 19 October were agreed.

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting on 21 October were agreed.

4. Matters arising

The Committee noted a list of matters arising from the meeting on 19 October 2015.

The Committee noted a list of matters arising from the meeting on 21 October 2015.

10:17 am Mr McCann Joined the meeting.

5. Correspondence

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Correspondence from the Committee for Education and the Department regarding the establishment and make-up of the Careers Advisory Forum.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental response regarding Pathways to Success.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Departmental correspondence regarding the Savings Delivery Plans 2015 - 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and to consider it further during a briefing on 9 December 2015.

- Departmental response regarding the NIACRO Jobtrack Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Correspondence from a former member of the Languages staff and the Ulster University regarding the modern language provision at the Ulster University.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the issues raised in the correspondence and other issues raised by Members to the Ulster University for comment.

- Correspondence from Unite the Union regarding course provision at the Ulster University.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule an informal meeting with Unite.

- Departmental response to issues raised by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions relating to the Union Learn Programme qualifications and funding.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and forward to the Department for Education regarding the issues raised for which it has responsibility.

- Response from the Ulster University regarding Departmental Budget Cuts.

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

- Correspondence from NICEM regarding ESOL provision in Northern Ireland and Scotland.

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

- Correspondence from the Committee for Office of First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding a briefing on the Vulnerable Person Relocation Scheme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland providing the Departmental Procurement Activity Report for October 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Department of Justice regarding the Judicial Pensions (Amendment) Regulations 2015 consultation.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Speaker regarding the suspension of Committee meetings on Armistice Day.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from an individual regarding Student Finance and the NHS Bursary differences in Northern Ireland and Great Britain.

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

- Correspondence from an individual regarding the Employment Support and Training Agency (ESTA).

Agreed: The Committee agreed that a member of the Committee staff should meet with the individual to discuss the ESTA.

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

- Response from the Department of Education regarding the Special Schools Provision Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Committee for Education regarding the Committee stage of The Shared Education Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental response regarding the UK Government policy on international students and immigration.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response and forward it to Queen's University Belfast and NICEM for information.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department regarding the impact of immigration rules on attracting people to veterinary positions in Northern Ireland.

- Departmental response regarding the Barnett consequential impact that the removal of maintenance grants in England will have on the Northern Ireland budget.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Chairpersons' Liaison Group regarding key issues discussed and decisions taken at the meeting on 20 October 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding a Legislative Consent Motion on the Proposed Cap on Public Sector Exit Payments.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from Colleges NI thanking the Committee for hosting a showcase event.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment to the Minister for Employment and Learning requesting a meeting with him regarding the recent job losses at Michelin.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Response from NISRA providing further information following the briefing on the Labour Force Survey.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Committee for Employment and Learning Inquiry Visit Report – Alternative Angles Ballymena.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the report and include in the Inquiry Report.

- Invitation from NICEM to attend their annual general meeting on 20 November 2015 at Wellington Park Hotel, Belfast.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from the Labour Relations Agency to attend the public board meeting on 26 November 2015 at Spires Conference Centre, Belfast.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from the Centre for Cross Border Studies to attend a Public Policy Briefing Event 18 November 2015 at Parliament Buildings.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from the Chief Executives Forum to attend a Gender Equality Briefing 26 November 2015 at Guildhall, Derry/Londonderry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

6. Forward Work Programme

- The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme to 9 December 2015.

7. Briefing from PeoplePlus NI - Steps 2 Success

10:23 am The representatives joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Ms Tina McKenzie, Managing Director, Mr Andrew O'Driscoll, Operations Director, Mrs Isobel McWilliams, People Development Director, Mrs Joanne Cameron, Strategic Development Director.

10:30 am Mr Alex Easton joined the meeting.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

The Committee was suspended at 10:55 am.

The Committee reconvened at 11:02 am.

11:11 am Isobel McWilliams left the meeting.

11:33 am Ms McGahan left the meeting.

Agreed: The representatives agreed to provide information on the employment sectors and employers where jobs are available.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department on issues raised in the Assembly by Ms Sugden regarding Steps 2 Success.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister seeking clarification on why PeoplePlus NI were unable to provide figures for the number of clients successfully placed into work.

11:40 am The representatives left the meeting.

8. Any other business

None.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting

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

11:42 am The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

**Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA,
Deputy Chairperson,
Committee for Employment & Learning**

18 November 2015