



Northern Ireland
Assembly

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

WEDNESDAY, 27 JANUARY 2016

THE HIVE, GROVESNOR ROAD, BELFAST

Present: Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

Mr Gerard Diver MLA
Mr Phil Flanagan MLA
Ms Anna Lo MLA
Ms Bronwyn McGahan MLA
Mr Fra McCann MLA

In Attendance: Mrs Cathie White (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Johnny Lawless (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Briege Mullan (Clerical Officer)
Ms Amy Barr (Legislative Studies & Practice Student)

Apologies: Mr Robin Swann (Chairperson)
Mr Sydney Anderson MLA
Mr David Hilditch MLA

10:04 am The meeting opened in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

None

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2016

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting on 20 January 2016 were agreed.

4. Matters arising

- The Committee noted a list of matters arising from the meeting on 20 January 2016.

5. Correspondence

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Copy correspondence from the Orchardville Society to the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister relating to the Transfer of Functions of the Employment Service.

Agreed: The Committee note the concerns highlighted by the Orchardville Society and agreed to respond to the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister requesting that it takes these concerns into account in its deliberation of the Transfer of Functions and keeps the Committee informed of any outcomes.

- Copy correspondence from the Committee for Regional Development to the Minister for Employment and Learning and the Permanent Secretary regarding Schemes to Alleviate Flooding and Stormwater.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding the Voluntary Exit Scheme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Invitation from EU Debate NI to a debate on the Implications of remaining in or leaving the EU for business, community and public sectors.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation to the Queen's University Belfast Annual Sir Bernard Crossland Lecture.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from NIC-ICTU to the Union Learning Representatives Conference.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation to a showcase event for the Game Development Academy at Northern Regional College.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

6. Forward Work Programme

- The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme to 16 March 2016.

7. SR 2016-000 The Working Time Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Committee considered SR 2016-000 The Working Time Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 including a technical amendment.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the proposal, subject to the Departmental amendment.

8. Employment Bill – Consideration of Draft Report

- The Committee considered a draft report on the Employment 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 stands part of the Report.

Agreed: That the Introduction stands part of the Report.

Agreed: That the Consideration of the Bill stands part of the Report.

Agreed: That the Consideration of the Key Issues stands part of the Report.

Agreed: That the Clause by Clause Consideration of the Bill 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.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to order the Report on the Employment Bill (NIA 73/11-16) to be published.

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. Briefing from the NOW Project

10:18 am The representatives joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Mrs Maeve Monaghan, Chief Executive of NOW Group and Mrs Ann Osborne, Deputy Chief Executive.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

11:14 am The representatives 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, 3 February 2016 at 10.00 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

11:14 am The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Mr. Tom Buchanan MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Employment & Learning

3 February 2016