



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

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

WEDNESDAY, 9 MARCH 2016

ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Mr Robin Swann (Chairperson)

Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Gerard Diver MLA
Mr Alex Easton MLA
Mr Phil Flanagan MLA
Ms Anna Lo MLA
Mr Fra McCann MLA
Ms Bronwyn McGahan MLA
Ms Claire Sugden MLA

In Attendance: Mrs Cathie White (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Vincent Gribbin (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Johnny Lawless (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Briege Mullan (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Sydney Anderson MLA.

The meeting opened in public session at 10:12 am

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

- The Chairperson advised Members that the informal meeting with the Minister for Employment and Learning and the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment will take place this afternoon at 2:30 pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that in the case of correspondence for Committee which arrives after next week's meeting and prior to dissolution, a standard letter will be issued stating that the Committee has no further meetings and that the correspondence has been forwarded to Members.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chairperson should sign the Minutes of today's meeting when completed if quorum for next week's meeting is not obtained.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2016

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting on 2 March 2016 were agreed.

4. Matters arising

- The Committee noted a list of matters arising from the meeting on 2 March 2016.

5. Correspondence

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Departmental response to Committee request for information on the European Social Fund.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental response regarding Securing Our Success.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the ONIEB Brussels Report November 2015 - February 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental response regarding Departmental Capital Projects.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Assembly EU Affairs Manager providing a copy of the EU Matters Newsletter – Issue 02/2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental response regarding Café One Eighty Degrees.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Invitation from Queen’s University Belfast to a debate on the Economic Implications of Brexit for Northern Ireland,

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from the Department for Employment and Learning to an event ‘Supporting Quality through Inclusive Employment’ – An Employment Strategy for People with Disabilities.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from the Northern Ireland Assembly Education Service to an event celebrating National Science and Engineering Week.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

6. Forward Work Programme

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

10:16 am Mr Phil Flanagan joined the meeting,

Agreed: The Committee agreed to brief the Law Society on the Inquiry into Post Special Education Need Provision in Education, Employment and Training for those with Learning Disabilities at a Seminar on 23 March 2016 at 12:00 noon.

7. Ministerial Briefing - Update and Legacy

10:16 am The Minister joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Dr Stephen Farry, Minister for Employment and Learning.

10:25 am Ms Bronwyn McGahan joined the meeting.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

10:33 am Mr Thomas Buchanan joined the meeting.

Agreed: The Minister agreed to provide the Committee with information on whether, if the United Kingdom leaves the European Union, regulations will be repealed.

10:57 am Mr Alex Easton joined the meeting.

Agreed: The Minister agreed to provide the Committee with a copy of a Labour Mobility Report.

Agreed: The Minister agreed to provide the Committee with information on the balance of provision at the Belfast Metropolitan E3 Campus and the Titanic Campus.

11:27: am The Minister left the meeting.

11:27 am Mr Phil Flanagan left the meeting.

8. Departmental Briefing - Implementation of Generating Our Success - The Northern Ireland Youth Strategy

11 28 am The Departmental officials joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Ms Yvonne Croskery, Director of Youth Policy and Strategy Division, Mr Philip Rodgers, Head of Apprenticeship Reform Implementation Team, Mr Clement Athanasiou, Head of Curriculum Development and Delivery Model Branch and Mr David Broadhurst, Review of Youth Training Branch.

11:45 am Mr Fra McCann left the meeting.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

11:46 am Ms Bronwyn McGahan left the meeting.

Agreed: The Departmental officials agreed to provide the Committee with information on where the courses are located and the occupational areas and progress to date for the 16 pilots.

12:02 am The Departmental officials left the meeting.

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item 10.

9. Committee for Employment and Learning - Legacy Report

12:04 pm Mr Phil Flanagan re-joined the meeting.

The Committee considered its Legacy Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the final report as amended.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to publish the final report on the Committee webpage.

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 9.

10. Departmental Briefing - Review of Leadership and Management

12:05 pm The Departmental officials joined the meeting.

The Committee was briefed by Ms June Ingram, Director of Skills & Industry Division and Mr Raymond McAuley, Skills Development Branch.

12:05 pm Ms Anna Lo left the meeting.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

12:21pm The Departmental officials left the meeting.

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 11.

11. Any other business

Agreed: The Committee agreed to cancel its informal joint meeting with the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment and the Minister for Employment and Learning to discuss job losses at Bombardier.

12. Date, time and place of next meeting

The Committee noted that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday 16 March 2016 at 10:00 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

12:22 pm The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Mr. Robin Swann MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Employment & Learning

16 March 2016