



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2016
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

- Present: Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson)
Mr Cathal Boylan
Mrs Pam Cameron
Mr William Irwin
Mr Phillip Logan
Mr Seán Lynch
Mr Philip McGuigan
Mr Richie McPhillips
Mr Christopher Stalford
- Apologies: Mr Danny Kennedy (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Stewart Dickson
- In Attendance: Mrs Kathy O’Hanlon (Assembly Clerk)
Miss Karen Jardine (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Stephen Magee (Clerical Supervisor)
Mrs Andrienne Magee (Clerical Officer)

The meeting began in public session at 2.00pm.

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

2. Chair’s Business

Delegation from Kenyan Senate

The Committee noted an invitation to meet members of a delegation from the Kenyan Senate in Parliament Buildings on Tuesday 4 October.

Agreed: Members agreed to notify Committee staff of their availability to attend.

Committee invitations

The Committee noted the current list of Committee invitations,

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The draft minutes of the proceedings of 21 September 2016 were agreed by the Committee.

4. Matters Arising

Appointment of Executive Press Secretary

The Committee considered a draft letter to the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the appointment of an Executive Press Secretary.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to remove the point relating to salary; and to issue the letter, as amended, to the First Minister and deputy First Minister.

Draft Programme for Government 2016-21

The Committee discussed a proposal to hold a stakeholder event to aid its scrutiny of the draft PfG.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek views from stakeholders in writing in the first instance, once the draft Programme for Government 2016-21 is published; and to request a list of stakeholders from the Executive Office in respect of the indicators for which it has responsibility.

Meeting with Mark Friedman and closure of OBA Summit

The Committee noted that an additional meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 11 October at 6pm to allow members to hear from Mark Friedman, Fiscal Policy Studies Institute and other presenters participating in the Outcomes-based Accountability Summit on Monday 10 – Tuesday 11 October. Members were reminded that the Committee's reception to mark the closure of the summit was arranged for 7pm on Tuesday 11 October in Room 115.

Agreed: Members agreed to notify Committee staff of their availability to attend.

UK Exit from the EU

The Committee discussed media reports regarding a paper entitled ‘Preliminary Analysis on the impact of a UK referendum on its membership of the European Union’ compiled by the European Policy and Co-ordination Unit, Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister in May 2015.

Members noted the following suggested witnesses that the Committee may wish to consider inviting to provide a briefing on the UK Exit from the EU: Professor Neil Gibson, Director of the Ulster University Economic Policy Centre; Dr Graham Gudgin, Centre for Business Research, University of Cambridge; Ruth Lea CBE, Economic Adviser to the Arbuthnot Banking Group; and Professor Patrick Minford, Professor of Applied Economics, Cardiff Business School.

The Committee noted a response from the First Minister and deputy First Minister to the Committee for the Economy regarding the Executive’s response to the decision of the UK to withdraw from the European Union.

Members noted that the Head of the Civil Service, Sir Malcolm McKibbin, was no longer available to brief the Committee as scheduled at next week’s meeting. David Sterling, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Finance, and other senior NICS representatives will attend in his place.

Members noted that the Committee’s Research Officer will brief the Committee on non-EU binding treaty obligations that will pertain following the UK’s exit from the EU at the meeting of 5 October.

Urban Villages

The Committee noted that the Clerk and Assistant Clerk has attended the Belfast launch of the Urban Villages Strategic Frameworks on Thursday 22 September, and that the Strategic Framework for each designated urban village was now available to view on the Executive Office website.

Outstanding Correspondence

The Committee noted the current list of outstanding correspondence from the Executive Office.

6. Historical Institutional Abuse

Representatives from the Panel of Experts on Redress joined the meeting at 2.16pm.

Professor Patricia Lundy, Mr Patrick Corrigan, Mr Jon McCourt and Ms Margaret McGuckin from the Panel of Experts on Redress briefed the Committee on the issue of redress for survivors of Historical Institutional Abuse.

A question and answer session followed. The session was recorded by Hansard.

The witnesses left the meeting at 3.13pm

- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the briefing paper from the Panel of Experts to the Executive Office for comment.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to ask the Department of Health for an update on progress of the scoping exercises relating to victims of clerical abuse committed outside residential institutions and women who suffered abuses in Mother and Baby Homes/Magdalene Laundries in Northern Ireland.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the Official Report of the evidence session to Archbishop Eamon Martin once available, and provide an opportunity for Archbishop Martin to respond to comments made by witnesses during the evidence session if he so wishes.

The Committee noted that the Chairperson was scheduled to meet informally with representatives from the Rosetta Trust on matters related to Historical Institutional Abuse on Wednesday 5 October, and that other members were welcome to attend.

7. Equality and Good Relations

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 3.15pm.

Mrs Linsey Farrell, Director of Urban Villages, Racial Equality and Interface Issues Division; Mr Ken Fraser, Head of Racial Equality Unit; and Ms Aideen Donnelly, Deputy Principal, Racial Equality Unit, briefed the Committee on the Minority Ethnic Development Fund. A question and answer session followed.

Officials agreed to provide a comprehensive briefing paper on the context and rationale for the Minority Ethnic Development Fund; and to forward the terms of reference and timeline relating to the MEDF review once they are available.

Mr Irwin left the meeting at 3.36pm.

Departmental officials left the meeting at 3.45pm.

8. Correspondence

Programme for Government

The Committee noted an acknowledgement from the Executive Office regarding a request for the First Minister and deputy First Minister to brief the Committee on the draft Programme for Government.

Maze Long Kesh Development Corporation

The Committee noted correspondence from the Maze Long Kesh Development Corporation regarding the launch of the consultation on a draft disability action plan.

EU Matters

The Committee noted the latest edition of the EU Matters Newsletter which has been prepared by the NI Assembly's EU Affairs Manager.

Appointments to Public Bodies

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Communities regarding representation on the boards of public bodies. Members raised other matters relating to appointments to the boards of public bodies.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Executive Office for comment on the issues raised in the correspondence; and to invite the Commissioner for Public Appointments for NI to brief the Committee following receipt of the information from TEO. The Committee will subsequently consider how it wishes to proceed on this issue.

8. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the draft Forward Work programme until October 2016.

9. Any Other Business

None.

10. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next Committee meeting will be held at 2 pm in Room 30 on Wednesday 5 October 2016.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.48pm.

Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA
Chairperson
Committee for the Executive Office