

**COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES
AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Wednesday 15th January 2014
Room 29, Parliament Buildings**

Present: Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Roy Beggs MLA
Mr Mickey Brady MLA
Mr Gordon Dunne MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Mr David McIlveen MLA

Apologies: Ms Pam Cameron MLA
Mr Sam Gardiner MLA
Mr Fearghal McKinney MLA
Mr Jim Wells MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

In Attendance: Dr Kathryn Aiken (Clerk)
Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Clerk)
Ms Leanne Johnston (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Craig Mealey (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced at 2.03 p.m. in open session.

1. Apologies.

Apologies as above.

2. Chairperson's Business.

The Committee *agreed* to meet informally to discuss its Forward Work Programme.

3. Draft minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 11th December 2013.

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 11th December 2013 were *agreed*.

4. Evidence session on the proposed Legislative Consent Motion on Standardised Packaging of Tobacco Products.

The Committee took evidence from:

Mr Gerard Collins Health Improvement Policy Branch, DHSSPS

Mrs Jenny McAlarney Health Improvement Policy Branch, DHSSPS

2.07 p.m. Mr Roy Beggs joined the meeting.

A question and answer session ensued. The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Minister to advise that it supports the legislative consent motion in principle, pending sight of the final wording, and to ask the Minister to convey this view to his Executive colleagues.

5. Learning Disability & Health Inequalities.

The Committee *agreed* a letter to the Minister outlining its findings and recommendations regarding health inequalities experienced by people with a learning disability.

The Committee *agreed* to consider a draft motion on this matter at its next meeting.

6. Proposed Statutory Rule. The Food with added Phytosterols or Phytostanols (Labelling) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The Committee considered the proposals for the Food with added Phytosterols or Phytostanols (Labelling) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and *agreed* that it was content for the Food Standards Agency to prepare the statutory rule.

7. Statutory Rule. SR 2013/291. The Food Safety, Food Hygiene and Official Controls (Sprouting Seeds and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013.

The Committee considered SR 2013/291 - The Food Safety, Food Hygiene and Official Controls (Sprouting Seeds and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 and had no objection to the Rule subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules.

8. Statutory Rule. SR 2013/294. The Feed (Hygiene and Enforcement) Regulations and the Animal Feed (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2013.

The Committee considered SR 2013/294 - The Feed (Hygiene and Enforcement) Regulations and the Animal Feed (Amendment) Regulations (NI)

2013 and had no objection to the Rule subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules.

9. Statutory Rule. SR 2013/296. The Contaminants in Food (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013.

The Committee considered SR 2013/296 - The Contaminants in Food (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 and had no objection to the Rule subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules.

10. Statutory Rule. SR 2013/ 299. The Health Services (Cross-Border Health Care) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013.

The Committee considered SR 2013/ 299 - The Health Services (Cross-Border Health Care) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 and had no objection to the Rule subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules.

11. Statutory Rule. SR 2013/ 300. The General Dental Services (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013.

Mr Roy Beggs made a declaration of interest that a family member is a dentist.

The Committee considered SR 2013/ 300 - The General Dental Services (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 and had no objection to the Rule subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules.

12. Statutory Rule. SR 2013/ 301. The Health and Personal Social Services (General Medical Services Contracts) (Amendment No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013.

The Committee considered SR 2013/ 301- The Health and Personal Social Services (General Medical Services Contracts) (Amendment No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 and had no objection to the Rule subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules.

13. Statutory Rule. SR 2013/ 302. Provision of Health Services to Persons Not Ordinarily Resident (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013.

The Committee considered SR 2013/ 302- Provision of Health Services to Persons Not Ordinarily Resident (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 and had no objection to the Rule subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules.

14. Forward Work Programme.

The Committee noted its - work programme for 22 January 2014.

15. Matters arising.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the College of Emergency Medicine's report on the Belfast Trust and *agreed* to write to the Department for further information.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding 24 hour breaches at Emergency Departments and *agreed* to seek further information in relation to November and December 2013.

The Committee noted correspondence from the College of Emergency Medicine regarding emergency departments.

The Committee *agreed* to invite the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency to give evidence to it on the recruitment of accident and emergency doctors.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding cancelled hospital appointments.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding funding for the Condition Management Programme.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding guidance on the termination of pregnancy.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding osteoporosis services.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding Muckamore Abbey Hospital and *agreed* to forward this to the Parents and Friends of Muckamore Abbey.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding a review of care at Cherry Tree House nursing & residential home, Carrickfergus.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the 'Health for All' and 'Early Intervention' action plans and *agreed* to forward this to Derry Healthy Cities.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding cardiac services and *agreed* to forward this to the NI Cardiac Patients Forum.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Food Standards Agency providing an update on the contamination of beef products with horsemeat.

16. Correspondence.

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister regarding the Commissioning Plan Direction and Indicators of Performance Direction.

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister regarding a proposal to amend Health and Personal Social Services Regulations.

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister regarding draft Council of the Pharmaceutical Society Regulations.

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister regarding a Review of Paediatric Services.

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister regarding the Health and Social Care Pension Scheme.

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister regarding the Foster Placement and Fostering Agencies Regulations (NI) 2014.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister regarding Competitive European Funding.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister regarding Delivering Social Change Signature Programmes.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister regarding the European Commission Work Programme for 2014 and *agreed* that a draft response would be prepared for consideration at the its next meeting.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding post project evaluations.

The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for Employment and Learning to the Department regarding funding for the Kestrel Pilot Project.

The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for Employment and Learning to the Minister regarding the Condition Management Programme.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Environment on its Inquiry into Wind Energy.

The Committee noted correspondence from Mr Chris Hazzard MLA regarding the Accident and Emergency Unit at Downe Hospital and *agreed* a response.

The Committee noted the DHSSPS Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland Investing Activity Report for December 2013.

The Committee noted correspondence from Professor Osborne regarding tobacco industry funding for the Ulster Orchestra.

The Committee noted correspondence from ME Support NI regarding the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome clinic at Belfast City Hospital and *agreed* to forward this to the Department for a response.

The Committee noted correspondence from Brain Injury Matters and *agreed* a response.

The Committee noted correspondence from Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust regarding cervical cancer screening and *agreed* to forward this to the Department for a response.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Save the Mid campaign.

The Committee noted correspondence from Save the Children.

The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from Mr Murtagh to the Minister.

17. Any Other Business.

No other business was discussed.

18. Date, time and place of next meeting.

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 22th January 2014 at 2.00pm in room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 2.54 p.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____