

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

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Wednesday 4th December 2013
Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings**

Present: Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Roy Beggs MLA
Mr Mickey Brady MLA
Ms Pam Brown MLA
Mr Gordon Dunne MLA
Mr Sam Gardiner MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Mr David McIlveen MLA
Mr Fearghal McKinney MLA
Mr Jim Wells MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

Apologies: None

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 2.06 p.m. in open session.

1. Apologies.

No apologies were received.

2. Chair's Business.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding guidelines on the termination of pregnancy and *agreed* to write to the Department for further information.

3. Draft minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 27th November 2013.

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 27th November 2013 were *agreed*.

4. The Health & Social Care (Amendment) Bill.

The Committee considered the draft report on the Committee Stage of the Health & Social Care (Amendment) Bill paragraph by paragraph.

The Committee *agreed* the Executive Summary:

Paragraph 1-5, read and *agreed*.

The Committee *agreed* the main body of the report:

Paragraph 1-13, read and *agreed*.

Paragraph 14-31, read and *agreed*.

Paragraph 32-39, read and *agreed*.

The Committee *agreed* that the Committee Membership & Powers, Table of Contents and Appendix 1 to 4 be included in the report.

The Committee *agreed* that an extract of today's Minutes of Proceedings should be included in Appendix 1 of the report and were content that the Chairperson agrees the minute relating to this.

The Committee ordered the Report on the Health & Social Care (Amendment) Bill NIA 27/11-15 to be printed.

5. Evidence session on proposed changes to existing legislation on overseas visitors access to free healthcare in Northern Ireland with the Law Centre NI.

The Committee took evidence from:

Ms Liz Griffith Law Centre (NI), Policy Officer

Mr Justin Kouame NI Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers
(NICRAS), Chair

Mr Neil McKittrick British Red Cross, Refugee Services Manager

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

3.26 p.m. Mr Sam Gardiner left the meeting.

6. Evidence session on proposed changes to existing legislation on overseas visitors access to free healthcare in Northern Ireland with Departmental officials.

The Committee took evidence from:

Ms Heather Stevens	Director of Service Delivery, DHSSPS
Mr Stephen Galway	Primary Care Medical Services Branch, DHSSPS
Mr Robert Kirkwood	Primary Care Medical Services Branch, DHSSPS

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

The Committee *agreed* to defer consideration of this matter to its next meeting.

4.13 p.m. Mr Fearghal McKinney left the meeting.

4.14 p.m. Ms Maeve McLaughlin left the meeting.

4.14 p.m. Mr Jim Wells took the Chair.

7. Evidence session with the Public Health Agency on the results of the organ donation survey.

The Committee took evidence from:

Dr Eddie Rooney	Chief Executive, Public Health Agency
Dr Paul Glover	Regional Clinical Lead for Organ Donation, Belfast Health & Social Care Trust
Ms Naomi McCay	Health Intelligence Manager, Public Health Agency

Mr Jim Wells made a declaration of interest that he was a member of the All Party Group on Organ Donation.

Mr Roy Beggs made a declaration of interest that he was a member of the All Party Group on Organ Donation.

A question and answer session ensued.

4.45 p.m. Mr David McIlveen left the meeting.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

8. Forward Work Programme.

The Committee noted its Forward Work Programme.

9. Matters arising.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the checks carried out by the Business Services Organisation before issuing Medical Cards.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the new Children's Hospital on the Royal site.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding Health and Social Care Trusts' saving plans.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the Commissioning Plan Direction.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding Emergency Department waiting times.

The Committee noted a response from the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust regarding Muckamore Abbey Hospital.

10. Correspondence.

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister regarding services for older people and *agreed* to invite officials to brief it on this matter.

5.10 p.m. Mr Roy Beggs left the meeting.

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister regarding a proposed Food Hygiene Rating Bill and *agreed* to invite officials to brief it on the proposals.

The Committee noted the DHSSPS Investment Strategy for NI Investing Activity Report for November 2013.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development regarding a Farm Safety Event it is organising.

The Committee noted correspondence from the British Heart Foundation regarding smoking and standardised packaging for cigarettes.

The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from Ms Coulter to the Prime Minister.

11. Any Other Business.

No other business was discussed.

12. Date, time and place of next meeting.

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 11th December 2013 at 2.00pm in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 5.11 p.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____