

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

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Wednesday 12th February 2014
Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings**

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

Apologies: Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA (Chairperson)

In Attendance: Dr Kathryn Aiken (Clerk)
Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Clerk)
Mr Innis Mennie (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Craig Mealey (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced at 2.30 p.m. in open session with the Deputy Chairperson in the Chair.

1. Apologies.

Apologies as above.

2. Chairperson's Business.

The Committee noted a press release from the Minister regarding the framework for GP out-of-hours services and *agreed* to invite officials to brief it on this matter.

3. Draft minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 5th February 2014.

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 5th February 2014 were *agreed*.

4. Evidence session on recruitment issues relating to Emergency Department staff with the Northern Ireland Medical & Dental Training Agency.

The Committee took evidence from:

Mr Alistair Joynes	Chair of the Agency Board, Northern Ireland Medical & Dental Training Agency
Professor Keith Gardiner	Chief Executive/Postgraduate Medical Dean, Northern Ireland Medical & Dental Training Agency
Ms Margot Roberts	Administrative Director, Northern Ireland Medical & Dental Training Agency

A question and answer session ensued.

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

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

4.04 p.m. Mr Mickey Brady left the meeting.

4.04 p.m. meeting adjourned.

4.17 p.m. meeting resumed.

5. Review of Waiting Lists.

The Committee noted correspondence from Dr Findlay.

6. Statutory Rule. SR 2014/20. The Misuse of Drugs (Designation) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The Committee considered SR 2014/20 - The Misuse of Drugs (Designation) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014 and had no objection to the Rule.

4.19 p.m. Mr Mickey Brady rejoined the meeting.

7. Statutory Rule. SR 2014/21. The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The Committee considered SR 2014/21 - The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and had no objection to the Rule.

8. Forward Work Programme.

The Committee noted its Work Programme.

The Committee noted that it would take evidence from the Public Health Agency and the Department on ovarian cancer awareness at its next meeting.

9. Matters arising.

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

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the chronic fatigue syndrome clinic at the Belfast City Hospital and *agreed* to forward this to ME Support NI.

10. Correspondence.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the Joint Ministerial Council on the European Union.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding its inquiry into flexible working in the public sector and *agreed* that it should contact the Department directly for information.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Rarer Cancer Foundation regarding access to cancer medicines.

The Committee *agreed* to invite Social Enterprise NI to the Committee event on 2 April 2014.

The Committee *agreed* to invite Cancer Research UK to the Committee event on 2 April 2014.

The Committee *agreed* to invite Cancer Focus to the Committee event on 2 April 2014.

The Committee noted correspondence from Ms McMackin.

11. Any Other Business.

No other business was discussed.

4.23 p.m. meeting adjourned.

4.24 p.m. meeting resumed.

12. Evidence session with the Minister for Health, Social Services & Public Safety on Accident & Emergency services and budgetary pressures.

The Committee took evidence from:

Mr Edwin Poots MLA	Minister for Health, Social Services & Public Safety
Dr Andrew McCormick	Permanent Secretary, DHSSPS
Dr Michael McBride	Chief Medical Officer, DHSSPS
Dr David Stewart	Regulation & Quality Improvement Agency

A question and answer session ensued.

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

6.28 p.m. Mr Kieran McCarthy left the meeting.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

13. Date, time and place of next meeting.

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 19th February 2014 at 2.00pm in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Deputy Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 7.15 p.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____