

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

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Wednesday 5 November 2014
Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings**

Present: Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA (Chairperson)
Ms Paula Bradley MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Mickey Brady MLA
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA
Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson MLA
Mr Gordon Dunne MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Mr Fearghal McKinney MLA
Ms Rosie McCorley MLA
Mr George Robinson MLA

Apologies: Mr Michael McGimpsey MLA

In Attendance: Dr Kathryn Aiken (Clerk)
Ms Marie Austin (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Innis Mennie (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Craig Mealey (Clerical Officer)

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

1. Apologies

Apologies are listed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

- i The Chairperson advised that information on Members' attendance at Committee meetings during the 2013/14 session would be published on the Committee webpage on 7 November 2014.
- ii The Chairperson referred to the Minister of Finance and Personnel's Oral Statement on the draft Budget 2015/2016.

2.04 p.m. Ms Paula Bradley joined the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department of Finance and Personnel to seek further clarity on the terms of reference and timescale for the work being carried out by the Head of the Civil Service in relation to departmental spend on frontline services, and on the OECD review.

3. Draft Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 22 October 2014

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 22 October 2014 were *agreed*.

The Committee agreed to bring forward Item 5 on the agenda.

4. Proposed Legislative Consent Motion: Private Members' Bill on the Regulation of Healthcare Professionals

The Committee took evidence from:

Ms Heather Stevens	Director of Human Resources, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Ms Joyce Cairns	Human Resources Directorate, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Mr Kieran McAteer	Human Resources Directorate, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Dr Mark Timoney	Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

2.07 p.m. Ms Rosie McCorley joined the meeting.

A question and answer session ensued.

The Chairperson thanked the officials for attending.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider the matter further when the Department lays the Legislative Consent Memorandum before the Assembly.

5. Outcome of June and October Monitoring Rounds: Departmental Spending Plans

2.26 p.m. Mr Gordon Dunne joined the meeting.

The Committee took evidence from:

Mr Richard Pengelly	Permanent Secretary, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Ms Julie Thompson	Deputy Secretary, Resources and Performance Management, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

A question and answer session ensued.

2.52 p.m. Mrs JoAnne Dobson joined the meeting.

The officials agreed to provide further information on a number of issues.

The Chairperson thanked the officials for attending.

6. Food Hygiene Rating Bill: Proposals for Handling Committee Stage

The Committee considered proposals for handling the Committee Stage of the Food Hygiene Rating Bill pending the completion of its Second Stage.

Agreed: The Committee agreed a closing date of 12 December 2014 for written evidence.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft media sign-posting notice and list of key stakeholders.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that written submissions received should be published on the Committee web page.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Delegated Powers Memorandum should be sent to the Assembly Examiner of Statutory Rules.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that an oral evidence session with the Food Standards Agency should be arranged for 26 November 2014, and with the Chief Environmental Health Officers Group for 14 January 2015.

The Committee *noted* the Bill timetable.

7. SL1: Proposed amendments to the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland Regulations

The Committee considered the Department's proposal to make a Statutory Rule to amend the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland Regulations which make provision concerning the membership, procedure, functions and committees of the Safeguarding Board.

Mr Gordon Dunne *proposed the motion:*

“That the Committee is content with the Department’s proposal to make the Statutory Rule.”

The Chairperson *put the question:*

“That the Committee is content with the Department’s proposal to make the Statutory Rule.”

The Committee divided: Ayes 6; Noes 4; Abstain 0

AYES

Ms Paula Bradley
Mrs Pam Cameron
Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson
Mr Gordon Dunne
Mr Kieran McCarthy
Mr George Robinson

NOES

Ms Maeve McLaughlin
Mr Mickey Brady
Ms Rosie McCorley
Mr Fearghal McKinney

Question accordingly agreed to.

8. Review of Department’s Benefits Management Framework for Transforming Your Care: Expert Adviser

The Committee agreed to bring forward Item 13 on the agenda.

The Committee considered the Chairperson’s and Deputy Chairperson’s recommendation that Ms A Watts be appointed as the Expert Adviser to assist the Committee in its scrutiny of the Department’s Benefits Management Framework for Transforming Your Care.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the appointment of Ms A Watts as the Expert Adviser to assist the Committee in its scrutiny of the Department’s Benefits Management Framework for Transforming Your Care.

9. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Forward Work Programme for the period November to December 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the Forward Work Programme for the period November to December 2014.

10. Matters Arising

- i. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister regarding the October Monitoring Round.

- ii. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister regarding the Adult Safeguarding Policy.
- iii. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister regarding the Early Access to Medicines Scheme and Cancer Drugs Fund.
- iv. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister regarding Community Services Funding.
- v. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister regarding the Mental Capacity Bill.
- vi. The Committee *noted* a copy of a response from the Minister to the Committee for Education regarding the Mental Capacity Bill.
- vii. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister regarding Commitment 80 of the Programme for Government.
- viii. The Committee considered a response from the Minister regarding suicide prevention and bereavement support.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the response to the Family Voices Forum who raised the issues.

- ix. The Committee considered a response from the Minister regarding the Annual Cancer Patient Experience Survey.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the response to Pancreatic Cancer UK who raised the issues.

- x. The Committee considered a response from the Minister regarding the Choose Well Campaign.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the response to the Mental Health Rights Group who raised the issues

- xi. The Committee considered a response from the Department of Education regarding Child Visual Impairment.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the response to Guide Dogs NI who raised the issues.

- xii. The Committee considered a response from the Department of Justice regarding legal highs.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the response to Beechmount Mums Against Drugs who raised the issues.

11. Correspondence

- i. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Minister regarding the Health Service Workers Draft Regulations Consultation.
- ii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Minister regarding Ebola.
- iii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from Belfast HSC Trust on the relocation of podiatry services from Grove Health and Wellbeing Centre.
- iv. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Committee for Education regarding the Mental Capacity Bill.
- v. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding the proposed Legislative Consent Motion on Public Service Pension Schemes.
- vi. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment regarding the NI Economic Strategy.
- vii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from Chris Hazzard MLA regarding Mental Health staffing issues in the South Eastern HSC Trust.
- viii. The Committee *noted* the EU Matters Newsletter for October 2014.
- ix. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Criminal Justice Inspection (NI) regarding the safety of prisoners held by the PSNI.
- x. The Committee *noted* correspondence dated 21 October from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting regarding the Chairs' Forum Annual Governance Conference.
- xi. The Committee *noted* correspondence dated 23 October from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting regarding the Chairs' Forum Annual Governance Conference.
- xii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Centre for Mental Health regarding the cost of perinatal mental health problems.
- xiii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from Children in Northern Ireland inviting Members to its AGM and launch of its 5 Year Plan.
- xiv. The Committee *noted* correspondence from a Mr Nellins regarding unregistered tattooing.

- xv. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Minister regarding Congenital Cardiac Services.
- xvi. The Committee *noted* a copy of correspondence from the Minister to the Minister of Justice regarding the Justice Bill.
- xvii. The Committee *noted* a copy of a response from the Minister to the Committee for Justice regarding the Justice Bill.
- xviii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Department regarding the Investment Strategy Investing Activity Report, October 2014.
- xix. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Department on the Draft NI Rare Diseases Implementation Plan Consultation.
- xx. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Department of Finance and Personnel on Departmental Resource Accounts.
- xxi. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Committee for Employment and Learning regarding its Inquiry into Post Special Educational Need Provision in Education, Employment and Training for those with Learning Disabilities.
- xxii. The Committee *noted* a copy of correspondence from Mr Paul Maskey MP to the Minister.
- xxiii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the General Medical Council and Nursing and Midwifery Council regarding the launch of a consultation on guidance to ensure doctors, nurses and midwives comply with their professional duty to be open and honest with people in their care when things go wrong.
- xxiv. The Committee considered correspondence from Cancer Focus regarding a request to brief the Committee.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite Cancer Focus to present jointly with the ABPI NI on the issues involved in due course.

- xxv. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Community Development Health Network regarding its visit to the Assembly.
- xxvi. The Committee considered correspondence from a Ms Nellis regarding brain injury support services.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Ms Nellis advising her to contact her constituency MLAs in relation to the matter.

12. Any Other Business

- i. An issue regarding the cancellation of planned surgical procedures at short notice was raised.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request information on planned surgical procedures cancelled on the day of, or on the day before, the planned surgery.

- ii. The Chairperson thanked all those involved in the Committee's Review of Waiting Times for Elective Care.

13. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

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

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.05 p.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____