

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

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Wednesday 14 January 2015
Room 30, Parliament Buildings**

Present: Ms Paula Bradley MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Mickey Brady MLA
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA
Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson MLA
Mr Paul Givan MLA
Ms Rosie McCorley MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Mr Michael McGimpsey MLA
Mr Fearghal McKinney MLA
Mr George Robinson MLA

Apologies: Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA (Chairperson)

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 2.05 p.m. in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

None.

3. Draft Minutes of the meeting on 10 December 2014

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 10 December 2014 were *agreed*.

4. Food Hygiene Rating Bill: Briefing by the Chief Environmental Health Officers Group

The Committee considered proposals in relation to oral evidence sessions on the Food Hygiene Rating Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to take oral evidence on the Bill from The Co-operative Food, Pubs of Ulster, Fermanagh District Council and Ballymoney Borough Council.

2.07 p.m. Mr Fearghal McKinney joined the meeting.

The Committee considered the report of the Assembly Examiner of Statutory Rules on the delegated powers contained in the Food Hygiene Rating Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules to the Food Standards Agency and the Department.

The Committee took evidence from:

Ms Fiona McClements Acting Director of Environmental Health,
Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough
Council

Mr Larry Dargan Principal Environmental Health Officer,
Western Group Environmental Health
Committee

Mr Damien Connolly Environmental Health Officer, Belfast City
Council

A question and answer session ensued.

The Deputy Chairperson thanked officials for attending.

2.56 p.m. The meeting was suspended.

3.05 p.m. The meeting resumed.

The Committee agreed to bring forward items 6 to 11 on the agenda.

5. SL1: The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No.3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee considered the Department's proposal to make a Statutory Rule to amend the Firefighters' Pension Scheme to provide retained firefighters with comparable pension rights to whole time firefighters.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the proposed Statutory Rule.

6. SL1: The New Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No.3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee considered the Department's proposal to make a Statutory Rule to amend the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme to provide retained firefighters with comparable pension rights to whole time firefighters.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the proposed Statutory Rule.

7. SL1: The Firefighters' Compensation Scheme (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee considered the Department's proposal to make a Statutory Rule to amend the Firefighters' Compensation Scheme to provide retained firefighters with comparable pension rights to whole time firefighters.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the proposed Statutory Rule

8. SL1: The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No.4) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee considered the Department's proposal to make a Statutory Rule to amend some minor drafting errors and revoke changes that were made in July 2014 in the Firefighters' Pension Scheme Order (Northern Ireland) 2007.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the proposed Statutory Rule.

9. SL1: The New Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No.4) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee considered the Department's proposal to make a Statutory Rule to amend some minor drafting errors and revoke changes that were made in July 2014 in the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme Order (Northern Ireland) 2007.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the proposed Statutory Rule.

10. SL1: The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Consequential Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

The Committee considered the Department's proposal to make a Statutory Rule to make consequential modifications to primary legislation which are required to ensure new public service pension schemes operate as intended.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the proposed Statutory Rule.

11. Regional Taskforce on Unscheduled Care: Briefing by Departmental Officials

The Committee took evidence from:

Ms Charlotte McArdle	Joint Chair of the Regional Task Force, Chief Nursing Officer, DHSSPS
Dr Michael McBride	Joint Chair of the Regional Task Force, Chief Medical Officer, DHSSPS
Mr Jackie Johnston	Director of Secondary Care, DHSSPS
Mr Michael Bloomfield	Director of Performance Management and Service Improvement, HSCB

A question and answer session ensued.

4.19 p.m. Mr Paul Givan left the meeting.

4.23 p.m. Mrs Pam Cameron left the meeting.

5.17 p.m. Mr George Robinson left the meeting.

5.18 p.m. Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson left the meeting.

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

The Deputy Chairperson thanked officials for attending.

12. Matters Arising

- i. The Committee considered the Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Westminster Health and Social Care (Safety and Quality) Bill which was laid in the Business Office on 18 December 2014.

Agreed: That the Committee is content to support the Department in seeking the Assembly's endorsement of the legislative consent motion.

- ii. The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the services and support available for people with Huntington's Disease and their families.
- iii. The Committee noted a response from the Minister providing clarification on issues in relation to the appointment of the Chief Medical Officer as Chief Executive of the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.
- iv. The Committee noted a response from the Minister providing further information on the Department's Programme for Government commitments.
- v. The Committee considered a response from the Minister regarding the Physiotherapy Self-Referral Project.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the response to the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy who raised the issues.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department in relation to the postponement of the Project Board meetings.
- vi. The Committee noted a response from the Minister providing further information on the review of administrative structures within the Health and Social Care System.
- vii. The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the Private Members' Bill, the Children's Services Co-operation Bill.

5.30 p.m. Mr Michael McGimpsey left the meeting.

- viii. The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding Dalriada Hospital.
- ix. The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding S.R. 2014 No. 267: The Health and Social Care (Disciplinary Procedures) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.
- x. The Committee noted a correction slip in relation to S.R. 2014 No. 286: The Food Hygiene and Official Feed and Food (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

13. Correspondence

- i. The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding a consultation on amending Health and Social Care Pension Scheme regulations.
- ii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding a consultation on draft legislation to introduce the new Health and Social Care Pension Scheme from 1 April 2015.
- iii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding proposed amendments to the Statutory Branded Medicines Pricing Scheme.
- iv. The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding the General Medical Council (Fitness to Practise) and the Professional Standards Authority (Referrals to Court) Order 2014.
- v. The Committee noted the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland - Procurement Activity Report: November 2014.
- vi. The Committee noted the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland - Investing Activity Report: December 2014.
- vii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsperson Bill.
- viii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding Post Project Evaluations.
- ix. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Regional Development regarding its Committee meeting on 14 January 2015.
- x. The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from Mr Daithí McKay, MLA to the Minister regarding Children's Heart Surgery provision.
- xi. The Committee noted correspondence from the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority providing a copy of its report: *Review of Implementation of GAIN Guidelines on Caring for People with a Learning Disability in General Hospital Settings*.
- xii. The Committee considered correspondence from the British Medical Association and the Royal College of General Practitioners regarding funding for GP Services.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to seek its understanding of the position in relation to funding for GP Services following the Autumn Statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.
- xiii. The Committee considered correspondence from the Voice of Young People in Care (VOYPIC) requesting to meet with the Committee.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite VOYPIC to the next informal stakeholder event.
- xiv. The Committee noted correspondence from the British Heart Foundation, Tesco, and Diabetes UK regarding its new partnership health initiative.
- xv. The Committee considered correspondence from Genomic Health regarding Oncotype DX testing.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Genomic Health to advise that it does not become involved in procurement arrangements between the Health and Social Care Board and companies and suggest that it continues to liaise directly with the Board.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for details of its policy in relation to the consideration of innovative diagnostic tests for cancer and other diseases.

- xvi. The Committee considered correspondence from Creative Local Action Response and Engagement (C.L.A.R.E.) requesting to meet with the Committee.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite C.L.A.R.E. to the next informal stakeholder event.

- xvii. The Committee noted correspondence from an individual to the Minister regarding the application process for Disability Living Allowance.

14. Forward Work Programme

The Committee *agreed* to consider its Forward Work Programme at its next meeting.

15. Any Other Business

- i. The reduction in the budget for hospital chaplaincy services was raised. Members expressed disappointment in relation to the matter.
- ii. The recent recruitment process for specialist nurses who deal with Huntingdon's Disease was raised.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for further details.

16. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 21 January 2015 at 2.00pm in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Deputy Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 5.40 p.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____