

COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Wednesday 11 February 2015
Room 29, Parliament Buildings**

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

Apologies: Ms Paula Bradley MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

In Attendance: Dr Kathryn Aiken (Clerk)
Mr Oliver Bellew (Assistant 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 detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson advised members that final budget allocations had been agreed for departments for 2015-16 and suggested that officials be invited to brief the committee on departmental spending plans for the year ahead.

Agreed: Members agreed that the Department would be asked to brief the Committee on its spending plans for 2015/16.

The Chairperson updated members on the Committee's recent meeting with the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Health and Children and advised that a report on the meeting, with a number of suggested follow-up actions, would be distributed to members in due course.

3. Draft Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 4 February 2015

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 4 February 2015 were *agreed*.

4. Food Hygiene Rating Bill – Food Standards Agency briefing

The Committee took evidence from:

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| Mr Michael Jackson | Foods Standards Agency |
| Ms Kathryn Baker | Foods Standards Agency |

A question and answer session ensued.

2.27pm Mr McGimpsey joined the meeting.

2.23pm The meeting was suspended.

3.00pm The meeting resumed with the following members present:

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|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA</i> | <i>Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA</i> |
| <i>Mr Mickey Brady MLA</i> | <i>Mr Rosie McCorley MLA</i> |
| <i>Mrs Pam Cameron MLA</i> | <i>Mr Fearghal McKinney MLA</i> |
| <i>Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson MLA</i> | <i>Mr George Robinson MLA</i> |

3.01pm Mr Brady left the meeting.

3.01pm Mr Givan joined the meeting.

3.09pm Mr McGimpsey joined the meeting.

3.21pm Mr McGimpsey left the meeting.

3.29pm Mr Gvan left the meeting.

3.48pm Mr McCarthy left the meeting

3.54pm Mr McCarthy rejoined the meeting.

4.36pm Mr McKinney left the meeting

The Chairperson thanked officials for attending.

Agreed: Members agreed that the FSA responses would be considered at the meeting on 25 February 2015, in closed session.

Agreed: Members agreed to bring forward items 6 – 14 on the agenda

6. SR 2015-26: The Health and Personal Social Services (General Medical Services Contracts) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Agreed: “The Committee considered SR 2015-26: The Health and Personal Social Services (General Medical Services Contracts) (Amendment) Regulations

(Northern Ireland) 2015 and had no objection to the rule subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules.”

7. **SR 2015-27: Provision of Health Services to Persons Not Ordinarily Resident Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

Agreed: “The Committee considered SR 2015-27: Provision of Health Services to Persons Not Ordinarily Resident Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and had no objection to the rule subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules.”

8. **SL1: The Health and Personal Social Services (Superannuation), Health and Social Care (Pension Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered the Department’s proposal to make a Statutory Rule to amend pay bands for member contributions to the pension scheme.

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

9. **SL1: The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered the Department’s proposal to make a Statutory Rule to reschedule a number of compounds.

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

10. **SL1: The Misuse of Drugs (Designation) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered the Department’s proposal to make a Statutory Rule to reschedule a number of compounds.

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

11. **Forward work programme**

The Committee noted the forward work programme.

12. **Matters Arising**

- i. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister regarding the ‘*Review of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety’s Benefits Management Framework for Transforming Your Care*’.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Clerk would produce a paper containing suggestions for follow-up with the Department.

- ii. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister regarding the recruitment process for a Huntingdon's Disease Nurse.
- iii. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister regarding fertility treatment.
- iv. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister regarding the Chancellor's autumn statement.

4.43pm Mrs Cameron left the meeting.

- v. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister which indicated that he would write to the Executive to seek agreement to go to public consultation on the draft Adoption and Children Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister to ask when he intends writing to the Executive. It was also agreed to forward the Minister's response to Adoption UK.

- vi. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister regarding the Child Sexual Exploitation Response Team's progress reports.
- vii. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister regarding the Unscheduled Care Task Group.
- viii. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister regarding the Mental Capacity Bill.
- ix. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister regarding the Change Fund Projects.
- x. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister regarding its meeting with the Oireachtas Joint Committee.

13. Correspondence

- i. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Minister regarding "Rebalancing of Medicines Legislation and Pharmacy Regulation" programme.
- ii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Minister regarding the Health and Care Professions Order.
- iii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Minister regarding the introduction of Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care Regulations.
- iv. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Speaker regarding a public petition on 'Withdrawal of funding from Railway Addiction and Rehabilitation Unit, Ballymena'.
- v. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding the Budget Bill and Spring Supplementary Estimates.
- vi. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the OFMDFM Committee regarding the European Commission Work Programme and *agreed* its response.

- vii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from NIPSA regarding the HSC Central Panel 2015 annual delegate conference.
- viii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from CARDI regarding inequalities in health behaviours.
- ix. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Royal College of Emergency Medicine regarding a press statement.
- x. The Committee *noted* correspondence from Lesley Moore regarding continuing healthcare assessments.

14. **Any Other Business**

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to seek an update on the responses to the consultation on the Independent Living Fund, with the potential of scheduling an oral evidence session on this matter.

4.46pm Mrs Dobson left the meeting

5. **Secondary Uses of Patient Information legislation**

The Committee took evidence from:

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|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Ms Sharon Gallagher | Director of Corporate Services, DHSSPS |
| Mr Chris Matthews | Head of Information Management, DHSSPS |
| Professor Roy McClelland | Chairman, NI Privacy Advisory Committee, DHSSPS |

4.49pm Mr McKinney rejoined the meeting.

A question and answer session ensued.

The Chairperson thanked officials for attending.

4.48pm Mrs Cameron rejoined the meeting .

15.**Date, time and place of next meeting**

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 18 February at 2.00pm in the Senate chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 5.00 p.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____