

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

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Wednesday 15 April 2015
Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings**

Present: Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA (Chairperson)
Ms Paula Bradley MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Ms Rosie McCorley MLA
Mr Michael McGimpsey MLA
Mr Fearghal McKinney MLA
Mr George Robinson MLA

Apologies: Mr Mickey Brady MLA
Mr Paul Givan MLA

In Attendance: Dr Kathryn Aiken (Clerk)
Ms Sohui Yim (Assistant Clerk)
Mr Innis Mennie (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Craig Mealey (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced at 2.03 pm in closed session.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Food Hygiene Rating Bill – Consideration of Legal Advice

Members considered legal advice in relation to the Bill.

Fearghal McKinney joined the meeting at 2.05pm.

Michael McGimpsey joined the meeting at 2.15pm.

The meeting moved to public session at 2.32pm.

3. Food Hygiene Rating Bill – Evidence from the Food Standards Agency

The Committee heard evidence from:

Mr Michael Jackson	Head of Local Authority Policy and Delivery, FSA NI
Ms Kathryn Baker	Policy Lead, Food Hygiene Rating System, FSA NI

Agreed: For FSA officials to seek written confirmation from the Minister that the powers under the proposed amendment to clause 7 (in relation to online display of ratings) will be exercised in the first set of regulations drafted after the Act comes into operation.

4. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson advised the Committee that the visit to Scotland was a success and a number of relevant issues were raised.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Health and Sport Committee regarding matters raised as a result of the recent visit to Edinburgh.

The Chairperson advised the Committee that a meeting was held with the Interim Chair of the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland and that the Department has appointed an independent expert to undertake a review of the Safeguarding Board.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request the Terms of Reference for the review and timetable for bringing forward any resulting recommendations for change.

The Chairperson raised the issue of the Infrastructural Support Programme and the £4 million that is to be allocated to community/voluntary sector organisations.

Agreed: To write to the Minister to seek an update on the Programme.

The Chairperson advised Members of the "Right to Know" breakfast campaign that she attended that morning at Parliament Buildings.

Agreed: To write to the Minister to seek assurances that it endorses the campaign and what actions it is taking to progress the issues involved.

5. Draft Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 18 March 2015

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday, 18 March 2015 were agreed.

6. Update on Committee's Report on Waiting Times for Elective Care – Departmental Briefing

The Committee heard evidence from:

Ms Deborah McNeilly	Deputy Secretary, Healthcare Policy Group, DHSSPS
Mr Dean Sullivan	Director of Commissioning, HSC Board
Ms Allison Jeynes	Principal Officer, HSC Performance Unit, DHSSPS

Jo-Anne Dobson joined the meeting at 3.03pm.

A question and answer session ensued.

Michael McGimpsey left the meeting at 3.41pm.

Pam Cameron left the meeting at 3.45pm.

The Chairperson thanked officials for attending.

7. Review of Workforce Planning in the context of Transforming Your Care – Briefing from BMA and RCGP

The Committee considered a response from the Department relating to the evidence session on 11 March 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department, the Regional Workforce Planning Group and the five HSC Trusts on a number of issues.

Fearghal McKinney left the meeting at 4pm.

Pam Cameron rejoined the meeting at 4.04pm.

Michael McGimpsey rejoined the meeting at 4.08pm.

The Committee heard evidence from:

Dr John O’Kelly RCGPNI Chair

Dr Shauna Fannin RCGPNI Deputy Chair

Dr John Woods BMA NI Council Chair

Dr Tom Black BMA NI Council Deputy Chair and Chair of BMA NI GP Committee.

A question and answer session ensued.

Jo-Anne Dobson left the meeting at 4.26pm.

The Chairperson thanked officials for attending.

Paula Bradley left the meeting at 5.29pm.

8. SR 2015/186: The Recovery of Health Services Charges (Amounts) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Agreed: The Committee considered The Recovery of Health Services Charges (Amounts) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules’ report, had no objection to the Rule.

9. SR 2015/205: The Health and Social Care (Disciplinary Procedures) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Agreed: The Committee considered The Health and Social Care (Disciplinary Procedures) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules’ report, had no objection to the Rule.

10. SL1 The Animal Feed (Hygiene, Sampling etc. and Enforcement) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

The Committee considered the Department's proposal to consolidate some of the provisions of The Animal Feed (Hygiene, Sampling etc. and Enforcement) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

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

11. SL1 The Animal Feed (Composition, Marketing and Use) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

The Committee considered the Department's proposal to consolidate three of the provisions of The Animal Feed (Composition, Marketing and Use) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

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

12. SL1 The Country of Origin of Certain Meats Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

The Committee considered the Department's proposal to transpose EU Regulations regarding the country of origin and provenance of certain meats and allowing enforcement and penalties for non-compliance.

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

13. SL1 The Honey Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

The Committee considered the Department's proposal to revoke and replace the Honey Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003.

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

14. SL1 The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

The Committee considered the Department's proposal to insert MT-45 and 4,4'-DMAR into Schedule 1 of the 2002 Regulations.

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

Michael McGimpsey left the meeting at 5.33pm

Meeting adjourned.

Paula Bradley rejoined the meeting at 5.34pm.

Meeting resumed.

15. SL1 The Misuse of Drugs (Designation) (Amendment No.2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015

The Committee considered the Department's proposal to designate synthetic opioid MT-45 and chemical stimulant 4,4-DMAR as controlled drugs.

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

16. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: Content with the Forward Work Programme.

17. Matters Arising

- i. The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding Health Inequalities.
- ii. The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the Benefits Management Framework.
- iii. The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding Relationship Counselling Service for Parents.
- iv. The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the Independent Living Fund.
- v. The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding Cherry Tree House Independent Review
- vi. The Committee noted a response from the Minister to the Chair of the Committee for Employment and Learning regarding Audiology Services.
- vii. The Committee noted a response from the Minister to the Chair of the Committee for Education regarding Parents' Education as Autism Therapist petition.
- viii. The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding Termination of Pregnancy Guidance.
- ix. The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the Northern Ireland Cardiology Hub.
- x. The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding EU related issues.
- xi. The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding the Donaldson Report consultation.
- xii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding the Mental Capacity Bill.
- xiii. The Committee noted a response from the Health and Social Care Board regarding Direct Access to Physiotherapy.
Agreed: To forward the response to the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy.
- xiv. The Committee noted a report from Investment Strategy Northern Ireland on Investment Activity Report March 2015.

18. Correspondence

- i. The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding Age of Sale Provisions for nicotine products.
- ii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding the General Medical Services Contract for 2015.
- iii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding The Human Medicines (Amendment)(No.2) Regulations 2015.
- iv. The Committee noted correspondence from the Department regarding Medicines Legislation and Pharmacy Regulation.
- v. The Committee noted correspondence from the Department of Health regarding a consultation on Rebalancing of Medicines Legislation and Pharmacy Regulation.
- vi. The Committee noted correspondence from Department regarding IFR process public meetings.
- vii. The Committee considered correspondence from the Committee for Education regarding Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Bill.
Agreed: To write to the Committee for Education with the Committee's comments on the Bill.
Agreed: To write to the Department requesting comments in relation to the Bill.
- viii. The Committee noted correspondence to the Minister from the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure.
- ix. The Committee noted correspondence from Dr Janice Thompson regarding EMs.
- x. The Committee noted the NI Assembly EU Matters Newsletter.
- xi. The Committee noted correspondence from the GMC regarding changes to improve fitness and practise investigation and hearings.
- xii. The Committee noted correspondence from CARDI regarding disability in older heart disease patients.
- xiii. The Committee noted correspondence from Dr Roger O'Sullivan regarding disability in older people with heart disease.
- xiv. The Committee considered correspondence from VOYPIC asking the Committee to declare 19 February 2016 as NI Care Day.
Agreed: To forward the request to the Minister requesting his support, and write to VOYPIC to advise accordingly, and to invite VOYPIC to the next Committee stakeholder event.
- xv. The Committee noted correspondence from Carnegie UK regarding Improving Wellbeing in NI.
- xvi. The Committee noted correspondence from GlaxoSmithKline regarding Raising Awareness of the Burden of Respiratory Disease event.
- xvii. The Committee noted correspondence from the NI Audit Office regarding Conflicts of Interest – Good Practice Guide.

- xviii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Royal College of General Practitioners regarding the report into GP out of hours services.
- xix. The Committee noted correspondence from Ms Edwards regarding the Four Seasons Oakridge Care Home.
- xx. The Committee noted correspondence from Mr Belyeu regarding anencephalic pregnancies.
- xxi. The Committee considered correspondence from Ms O'Neill requesting a meeting with the Chairperson and deputy Chairperson.
Agreed: To invite Ms O'Neill to the next Committee stakeholder event.
- xxii. The Committee considered correspondence from Amnesty International requesting a meeting with the Committee.
Agreed: To invite Amnesty International to the next Committee stakeholder event.
- xxiii. The Committee considered correspondence from Parenting NI requesting the Committee hold a meeting on its premises.
Agreed: To invite Parenting NI to the next Committee stakeholder event.
- xxiv. The Committee considered correspondence from Mr Toner regarding Strangford Bay Lodge.
Agreed: To invite representatives of Strangford Bay Lodge to the next Committee stakeholder event.
- xxv. The Committee considered correspondence from Belfast HSC Trust regarding clinical psychology training budget cuts.
Agreed: To write to the Regional Workforce Planning Group to enquire how the cuts are being incorporated into workforce planning for TYC.

19. Any Other Business

Kieran McCarthy raised the issue of “legal high” drugs.

Agreed: To write to the Minister to ask for progress on tackling the issue of “legal highs”.

20. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, 22 April at 2pm in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 5.50pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____