

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

## **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Wednesday, 25 February 2015  
Room 29, 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  
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA  
Ms Rosie McCorley MLA  
Mr Michael McGimpsey MLA  
Mr George Robinson MLA

**Apologies:** Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA (Chairperson)

**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 2.10 pm in closed session.*

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies are detailed above.

### **2. Food Hygiene Rating Bill – Discussion of Evidence**

*Mr Paul Givan joined the meeting at 2.16pm.*

*Mr Michael McGimpsey joined the meeting at 2.21pm.*

Members discussed the written/oral evidence received on the Food Hygiene Rating Bill.

*The meeting moved into public session at 2.52pm.*

**3. Chairperson's Business**

The Deputy Chairperson advised that it may be useful to request an update from the Department on progress against the Committee's report on health inequalities, published in January 2013, in advance of the Committee visit to Scotland.

*Agreed:* To write to the Department requesting the update.

The Deputy Chairperson advised Members that the next stakeholder event has been arranged to be held on 20 May 2015 in the Long Gallery, Parliament Buildings.

*Agreed:* To hold the event.

**4. Draft Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 18 February 2015**

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

**5. Marshall Report on Child Sexual Exploitation – Departmental Briefing**

The Committee took evidence from:

Ms Eilís McDaniel	Director of Family and Children Policy, DHSSPS
Mr Bernie McNally	Head of CSE Implementation Group, DHSSPS
Mr Martin Quinn	Safeguarding Officer, DHSSPS

*Ms Rosie McCorley joined the meeting at 3pm.*

A question and answer session ensued.

*Mr Paul Givan left the meeting at 3.11pm.*

The Deputy Chairperson thanked officials for attending.

**6. Forward work programme**

The Deputy Chairperson advised Members that the Minister is unavailable for the meeting of 4 March 2015 to brief the Committee on issues relating to the PPRS and the proposals for prescription charges.

*Agreed:* To explore the Department's proposals for use of the PPRS receipts for 2015, and possible funding mechanisms for a Specialist Medicines Fund at the meeting with senior Departmental officials on 11 March 2015.

## **7. Matters Arising**

The Committee noted the following:

- i. A response from the Minister regarding the 2014/15 spending position.
- ii. A response from the Minister regarding fertility treatment.
- iii. A response from the Minister regarding workforce data on GP practices.
- iv. A response from the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Health and Children thanking the Committee for hosting the informal meeting.
- v. A statement from the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Health and Children regarding an invitation for submissions on Heads of Alcohol Bill.

## **8. Correspondence**

The Committee noted the following:

- i. Correspondence from the Minister regarding PfG Delivery Plans.
- ii. Correspondence to the Minister regarding the Human Medicines (Amendment) Regulations 2014.
- iii. Correspondence from the Committee for OFMDFM regarding the European Commission Work Programme.
- iv. Correspondence from Cancer Focus NI regarding a revised submission on Evaluation of IFR process.
- v. The NI Assembly EU Matters newsletter for February 2015.
- vi. Correspondence from a member of the public regarding the Firefighters Pension Scheme.

## **9. Any Other Business**

Mr Kieran McCarthy raised the issue of the number of 12 hour breaches in the Emergency Department (ED) at Ulster Hospital in January 2015.

*Agreed:* To receive a written update on the reasons for the 12 hour breaches at the Ulster hospital and steps being taken to address the situation.

Mr Kieran McCarthy raised the issue of a reduction in the budget of the Public Health Agency for 2015/2016.

*Agreed:* To raise this issue during the Departmental briefing on the Budget 2015/2016 on 11 March 2015.

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

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, 4 March 2015 at 2.00pm in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*The Deputy Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.24pm.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Deputy Chairperson*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_