

COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday 16 September 2015
Room 29, Parliament Buildings

Present: Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Alex Easton MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA
Mr Paul Givan MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Ms Rosie McCorley MLA
Mr Michael McGimpsey MLA
Mr Daithí McKay MLA
Mr Fearghal McKinney MLA
Mr George Robinson MLA

Apologies: Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson MLA

In Attendance: Dr Kathryn Aiken (Clerk)
Ms Marie Austin (Senior Assistant Clerk)
Ms Deirdre Farry (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Ms Sharon McGurk (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Craig Mealey (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced at 3.01 p.m. in closed session.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Committee Review on Workforce Planning in the Context of Transforming Your Care – Consideration of Draft Recommendations

The Committee considered revised draft recommendations in relation to its Review on Workforce Planning in the Context of Transforming Your Care.

15.07pm Mr Robinson joined the meeting.

3.08pm The meeting moved to public session.

3. Chairperson's Business

- i. The Chairperson advised Members that the motion to extend the Committee Stage of the Health and Social Care (Control of Data Processing) Bill to 20 November 2015 is scheduled for 21 September 2015.
- ii. The Chairperson referred to investment in and development of a Children's Heart Centre in Belfast; the Commissioning Plan for 2015/16; the Department's response to the Donaldson Report; and, the 1% pay rise for health service staff which was recommended by the independent Pay Review Body in 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for i) an update on: a) investment in and development of a Children's Heart Centre in Belfast; b) progress in relation to the production of a Commissioning Plan for 2015/16; c) the Department's response to the Donaldson Report; d) the 1% pay rise for health service staff which was recommended by the independent Pay Review Body in 2014; and ii) details of the impact, if any, the absence of a Minister will have on progress.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for a list of projects or other matters that have been delayed in any way due to the absence of a Minister.

4. Forward Work Programme

The Committee discussed its Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to discuss the matter further at its strategic planning meeting on 30 September 2015.

15.19pm MrMcGimpsey joined the meeting.

5. Draft Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 9 September 2015

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 9 September 2015 were agreed.

6. Health and Social Care (Control of Data Processing) Bill: Briefing by the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission

The Committee heard evidence from:

Mr Les Allamby	Chief Commissioner
Dr. David Russell	Deputy Director
Mrs Fiona O'Connell	Researcher

A question and answer session ensued.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

7. Health and Social Care (Control of Data Processing) Bill: Briefing by the Rare Disease Partnership, Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and Northern Ireland Cancer Registry

The Committee heard evidence from:

Dr. Amy Jayne Knight	Director, Northern Ireland Rare Disease Partnership
Dr. Anna Gavin	Director, Northern Ireland Cancer Registry
Mr. Dale Ashford	Interim Fire Officer, Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service

A question and answer session ensued.

4.08pm Mr Givan left the meeting.

4.08pm Mr McGimpsey left the meeting.

4.25pm Mr Easton left the meeting.

4.29pm Mr McKay left the meeting.

4.35pm Mr McKinney left the meeting.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to: i) outline a range of concerns in relation to the Health and Social Care (Control of Data Processing) Bill, including the Department's failure to provide a response to issues raised in written evidence; and ii) request a detailed human rights memorandum, giving a full explanation of the view that the Bill is compatible with Article 8 of the Human Rights Act.

8. Draft End of Session Report

The Committee considered its draft End of Session Report for 2014-2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed its End of Session Report for 2014-2015.

9. Matters Arising

- i. The Committee considered a response from the Minister regarding Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM).

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to: i) highlight the vital work of the GUM Clinic and the urgent need to find suitable accommodation for it; ii) request that the commissioning plan for 2015/16 is produced urgently; and iii) emphasise the need to address the flawed commissioning process and integrate commissioning in relation to the two sexual health services.

- ii. The Committee noted a proposed departmental amendment to the Food Hygiene Bill to tabled at Further Consideration Stage.
- iii. The Committee noted a newspaper article referred to by Mr McKinney regarding a data breach in England.

10. Correspondence

- i. The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding the Draft Human Trafficking and Exploitation Regulations.
- ii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding Leaving Prostitution – a strategy for help and support.
- iii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding transposition of the revised Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications (MRPQ).
- iv. The Committee noted correspondence from the Office of the Speaker regarding a Public Petition on the Helicopter Emergency Medical Service.
- v. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Environment regarding Northern Ireland Environment Week.
- vi. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding European Policy Dossiers.
- vii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding departmental engagement with committees.
- viii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission regarding its report on Emergency Healthcare.

11. Any Other Business

None.

12. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 23 September 2015, at 2.00 p.m. in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.46p.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____