

COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday 2 December 2015
Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings

Present: Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Alex Easton MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA
Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Ms Rosie McCorley MLA
Mr Michael McGimpsey MLA
Mr Daithí McKay MLA
Mr Fearghal McKinney MLA
Mr Gary Middleton MLA

Apologies: None

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

The meeting commenced at 2.03 p.m. in public session.

1. Apologies

None.

2. Chairperson's Business

(i)The Chairperson referred to the recent ruling by Justice Horner that abortion legislation here is in breach of human rights law.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask the Department what impact the ruling will have on guidance on the termination of pregnancy and for details of the timescale for publication of the guidelines.

(ii)The Committee welcomed the recent announcement by the Minister that the ban on HIV self-testing is to be lifted. Members noted that regulations will be required to revoke the HIV Testing Kits and Services Regulations 1992 and the Committee will consider the proposal for the regulations at the next meeting.

3. Draft minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 25 November 2015

The Committee noted the minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 25 November 2015.

4. Health and Personal Social Services (Amendment) Bill

2.06 pm Mr McGimpsey joined the meeting.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister outlining his reasons for proceeding with the introduction of the Health and Personal Social Services (Amendment) Bill.

The Committee considered its approach to the handling of the Health and Personal Social Services (Amendment) Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that a call for written evidence should issue on 3 December with a closing date of 17 December 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule an oral briefing with the Department on 13 January 2016 to discuss issues raised in the written evidence.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to extend the Committee Stage of the Bill to 5 February 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft media sign-posting notices and the list of key stakeholders.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the written submissions should be published on the Committee web page.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Clerk should prepare a summary of the written evidence and send it to the Department for comment.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Delegated Powers Memorandum should be sent to the Assembly Examiner of Statutory Rules when received.

5. Human Transplantation Bill - Briefing from Consultant Surgeons

Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson declared an interest as the Bill Sponsor.

2.12 pm Mr McKinney joined the meeting.

The Committee heard evidence from:

Mr John Connolly	Consultant Surgeon, BHSCT
Mr James McDaid	Consultant Surgeon, BHSCT
Mr Tim Brown	Consultant Surgeon, BHSCT
Dr. James Douglas	Retired Consultant Nephrologist

A question and answer session ensued.

2.41 pm Mr Easton joined the meeting.

2.43 pm Mr McKay joined the meeting.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

6. Human Transplantation Bill - briefing from the Department and the Public Health Agency

The Committee noted a response from the Minister providing clarification of the support the Department can provide to both the Bill Sponsor and the Committee in relation to the Human Transplantation Bill.

The Committee heard evidence from:

Dr. Eddie Rooney	Chief Executive, PHA
Ms Catherine Millman	Research Officer, PHA
Mr Jackie Johnston	Director of Secondary Care, DHSSPS
Mr Ryan Wilson	Secondary Care Directorate, DHSSPS

A question and answer session ensued.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

4.39 pm Ms McCorley left the meeting.

4.43 pm Ms Cameron left the meeting.

7. Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill

The Committee noted the timetable for the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.

8. SL1 -The Firefighters’ Pension Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 - Transitional and Consequential Provisions Regulations

The Committee considered the Department’s proposal to make a Statutory Rule to establish the Firefighters’ Pension Scheme Regulations 2015 in respect of Transitional and Consequential Provisions.

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

9. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

10. Matters Arising

(i) The Committee considered the wording of a revised Committee amendment to Clause 1 of the Health and Social Care (Control of Data Processing) Bill as follows:

Clause 1, Page 2, line 17

At end insert -

‘(5A) Regulations under subsection (1) may not make provision requiring the processing of information of a relevant person who has notified the data controller to cease, or not to begin, processing information in respect of which that person is the subject.’

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the wording of the revised amendment.

(ii) The Committee considered the Department’s response to its request for clarification of the timeframe for the implementation of the proposals contained in the Commissioner for Older People’s report: *Changing the Culture of Care Provision in Northern Ireland*.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the response to the Office of the Commissioner for Older people for comment.

11. Correspondence

(i) The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister advising of the launch of a consultation on the draft Firefighters’ Pension Scheme (Consequential Provisions) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Fire Brigades Union to seek its views on the draft regulations.

(ii) The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding the future of Pharmacy Regulation in Northern Ireland.

(iii) The Committee noted a copy of a response from the Minister to the Committee for Employment and Learning on Post Special Educational Need in Provision.

(iv) The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding the November 2015 Monitoring Round.

- (v) The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the Northern Ireland Executive Brussels Office report.
- (vi) The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the European Commission Work Programme 2016.

12. Any Other Business

The matter of re-employment following retirement in the Health and Social Care Trusts was raised.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister seeking clarification of the policy on re-employment after retirement.

13. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 9 December 2015, at 2.00 pm in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.54 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____