

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

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Wednesday 9 March 2016
Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings**

Present: Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Alex Easton MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
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: Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA

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

The meeting commenced at 2.09 p.m. in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

(i) The Chairperson referred to the 1% increase in pay for health service workers.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ask how the 1% pay increase fits within the living wage agenda.

3. Draft minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 2 March 2016

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 2 March 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for the Chairperson to approve the minutes of the Committee meeting on 10 March 2016.

4. Departmental briefing on SL1- The Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) (Independent Guardian) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Committee heard evidence from:

Ms Eilís McDaniel, Director of Family and Children Policy, DHSSPS

Mr Paul McConville, Social Services Officer, DHSSPS

Mrs Carol Picton-Lynas, Deputy Principal, Adoption and Children Bill Team, DHSSPS.

A question and answer session ensued.

2.23 p.m. Mr Alex Easton joined the meeting.

2.24 p.m. Mr Daithí McKay joined the meeting.

2.28 p.m. Mr Fearghal McKinney joined the meeting.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Department should re-submit the SL1 to the new Health Committee to be established following the elections for more detailed consideration.

The Committee agreed to add a number of SLIs and Statutory Rules to the agenda and to deal with all the legislative items at this point.

5. Departmental briefing on SL1s - The Foster Placement and Fostering Agencies Regulations and The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (Fees and Frequency of Inspections) (Registration) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Committee heard evidence from:

Ms Eilís McDaniel, Director of Family and Children Policy, DHSSPS

Ms Frances Nicholson, Office of Social Services, DHSSPS

Ms Elaine Lawson, Head of Looked After Children & Adoption Policy, DHSSPS.

2.48 p.m. Mr Michael McGimpsey joined the meeting.

A question and answer session ensued.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Department should re-submit the SL1s to the new Health Committee to be established following the elections for more detailed consideration.

3.00 p.m. Mr Daithí McKay left the meeting.

3.00 p.m. Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson left the meeting.

6. SR 2016/105 Recovery of Health Services Charges (Amounts) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Agreed: “The Committee considered SR 2016/105 Recovery of Health Services Charges (Amounts) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 and had no objection to the Rule, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules.”

3.09 p.m. Ms Pam Cameron left the meeting

7. S.R. 2016/97 The Tobacco Retailer (Registration and Display of Notices) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Agreed: “The Committee considered S.R. 2016/97 The Tobacco Retailer (Registration and Display of Notices) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and had no objection to the Rule, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules.”

8. SR 2016/98 The Tobacco Retailer (Fixed Penalty) (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Agreed: “The Committee considered S.R. 2016/98 The Tobacco Retailer (Fixed Penalty) (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and had no objection to the Rule, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules”.

3.10 p.m. Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson rejoined the meeting.

9. SL1 - The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (General) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Committee considered a proposal by the Department to make a Statutory Rule to increase the fees to be charged to pharmaceutical chemists and students under the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (General) Regulations 1994.

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

10. SL1- The General Dental Services (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Committee considered a proposal by the Department to make a Statutory Rule to reflect the new numbering of determinations relating to matters set out in the Statement of Dental Remuneration following the ceasing of commitment payments to General Dental Practitioners from 1 April 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Department should submit a revised SL1 to the new Health Committee to be established following the elections for consideration. The revised SL1 should include details of the outcome of the consultation with the British Dental Association.

3.13 p.m. Ms Pam Cameron rejoined the meeting.

3.14 p.m. Mr Alex Easton left the meeting.

11. Departmental briefing on the Mother and Children Hospital

The Committee heard evidence from:

Mr Bill Pauley, Director of Infrastructure and Investment, DHSSPS

Mr Martin Dillon, Deputy Chief Executive, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

A question and answer session ensued.

3.38 p.m. Mr Michael McGimpsey left the meeting.

The Department agreed to provide the Committee with information on a range of issues.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending

12. Briefing from BHSCT and DHSSPS on breast cancer referral rates

The Committee heard evidence from:

Mrs Deborah McNeilly, Deputy Secretary Healthcare Policy Group, DHSSPS

Mr Martin Dillon, Deputy Chief Executive, BHSCT

Mrs Jennifer Welsh, Director of Surgery and Specialist Services, BHSCT

Ms Samantha Sloan, Clinical Lead and Consultant Breast Surgeon, BHSCT.

A question and answer session ensued.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write the Department to request a breakdown of the uptake of breast cancer screening services in disadvantaged areas.

13. Matters Arising

- (i) The Committee noted a Ministerial response in relation to nurses' pay.
- (ii) The Committee noted a Ministerial response in relation to the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.
- (iii) The Committee noted a Ministerial response in relation to the Commissioner for Older People's report 'Changing the Culture of Care in Northern Ireland.'
- (iv) The Committee noted a Ministerial response in relation to the d-Nav system.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that any further responses received should be forwarded to Members for information.

14. Correspondence

- (i) The Committee noted correspondence from the Department regarding a consultation on the draft Diabetes Strategic Framework.
- (ii) The Committee noted a report by the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels.
- (iii) The Committee noted a paper from the Pharmacy Forum NI: 'Exploring effective professional leadership in Northern Ireland.'
- (iv) The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from an individual to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland regarding the Northern Ireland Ombudsman.
- (v) The Committee noted correspondence from the Department regarding minimum Standards for Supported Lodgings for Young People and Young Adults (Aged 16-21) in Northern Ireland.
- (vi) The Committee noted correspondence from the Chief Medical Officer regarding the Diabetes Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan.
- (vii) The Committee noted S.R. 2016 No. 101 (C. 6) The Tobacco Retailers (2014 Act) (Commencement No. 2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016.
- (viii) The Committee noted the EU Matters report No.2/2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Committee Office should respond to any further correspondence received, advising the authors to write again to new Health Committee to be established following the elections.

15. Any Other Business

- (i) The matter of cross-border cooperation with regard to fertility treatment was raised.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ask if there are any potential areas for cross-border cooperation with regard to fertility treatment.

- (ii) The matter of the annual conference of the charity Hope 4 ME & Fibro Northern Ireland was raised.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department expressing a view that there should be representation from the Department at the conference.

16. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The Chairperson advised the Committee that no further Committee meetings had been scheduled for the remainder of the mandate.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.29 p.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____