

COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday 9 December 2015
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 Fearghal McKinney MLA
Mr Gary Middleton MLA

Apologies: Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA

In Attendance: 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 2.03 p.m. in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson referred to the Minister's announcement that he intends to bring forward an amendment at Consideration Stage of the Miscellaneous Provisions Bill to ban smoking in cars with children.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister to seek further details on the amendment, the action he intends to take in relation to the amendment, and the likely timescale for tabling.

3. Draft minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 2 December 2015

The Committee agreed the minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 2 December 2015.

4. Human Transplantation Bill – proposals for further oral evidence sessions

The Committee considered the written evidence it had received in relation to the Human Transplantation Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite: the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust; British Heart Foundation; British Medical Association; CARE (Christian Action Research & Education); Council for Church in Society of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland; Dr John R Darling; Dr George Gardiner; Human Tissue Authority; Northern Ireland Kidney Research Fund; Northern Ireland Kidney Patients' Association; Opt for Life; Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh; Society for the Protection of Unborn Children; and Dr T J Trinder, to give oral evidence on the Bill on 6 January 2016.

5. Human Transplantation Bill- RaISe briefing

The Committee received a briefing from an Assembly Researcher on the Human Transplantation Bill.

2.08pm Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson joined the meeting.

A question and answer session ensued.

6. Human Transplantation Bill - briefing by international experts

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

The Committee heard evidence from:

Ms Patricia Vernon	Head of Healthcare Quality Legislation, Welsh Government
Dr Undine Samuel	Medical Director, Eurotransplant International Foundation
Ms Sally Johnston	Director of Organ Donation and Transplantation, NHS Blood and Transplant

2.34pm Ms Rosie McCorley joined the meeting.

2.40pm Mr Fearghal McKinney joined the meeting.

3.01pm Ms Pam Cameron left the meeting.

A question and answer session ensued.

7. Human Transplantation Bill- RaISe briefing

The Committee received a briefing from an Assembly Researcher on the Human Transplantation Bill - Review of Bill Costs.

A question and answer session ensued.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request a breakdown of the estimated costs associated with all aspects of the Human Transplantation Bill.

8. SL1- HIV Testing Kits and Services (Revocation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

The Committee considered the Department's proposal to make a Statutory Rule to revoke the HIV Testing Kits and Services Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992, which would remove the ban on the sale of HIV self-testing kits directly to the public, thereby allowing individuals to self- test for HIV and receive the results without the supervision by a medical practitioner.

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

9. SL1-The Firefighters' Compensation Scheme (Amendment) (No 2) and the New Firefighters Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No 4) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015

The Committee considered the Department's proposal to make a Statutory Rule to amend the New Firefighters Pension Scheme and the Compensation Scheme to update provisions and terminology.

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

10. SL1-The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No 3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015

The Committee considered the Department's proposal to make a Statutory Rule to make further amendments to the Firefighters Pension Scheme to update provisions and terminology.

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

The Committee considered a response from the Minister regarding Maghaberry Prison.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request an update on the position in relation to Maghaberry Prison after the RQIA follow up inspection report due to take place in January 2016.

11. Correspondence

- (i) The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding: *Leaving Prostitution: a strategy for help and support.*
- (i) The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee of the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the Departments Bill and Transfer of Functions Order.
- (ii) The Committee noted the Investing Strategy for Northern Ireland Investing Activity Report - November 2015.
- (iii) The Committee noted the EU Matters Newsletter - September 2015.
- (iv) The Committee noted correspondence from Cancer Research UK regarding cervical screening.
- (v) The Committee considered reports by the Health and Social Care Board on its review into domiciliary care.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to: (i) seek its views on the reports and clarification of where they fit within the overall planning for services for older people; and (ii) seek details of the current position in relation to the proposed closure of care homes, including who is taking the lead on this matter in terms of planning, and how the issue will be taken forward.

- (vi) The Committee considered a Written Statement from the Minister on the evaluation of the Individual Funding Request Process.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request details of the Terms of Reference for the task and finish group referred to in the Written Statement, and the timeline for completion of the work.

12. Any Other Business

The matter of the disruption of services at the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald was raised.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for detailed information on the disruption of services at the Ulster Hospital and clarification of the measures that have been put in place to address the matter and avoid a recurrence.

13. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 6 January 2016, at 10.00 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.38 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____