

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

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Wednesday 13 January 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 2.07 p.m. in public session.

1. Apologies

None.

2. Chairperson's Business

- i. The Chairperson advised Members that Further Consideration Stage of the Health and Social Care (Control of Data Processing) Bill had been provisionally scheduled for Tuesday 26 January 2016, and that legal advice

on the likely impact of the amendment on the operation of the Data Protection Act will be provided at the meeting on Wednesday 20 January.

Agreed: To allow the deadline for tabling amendments to the Bill to be met, the Committee agreed to table its 'opt-out' amendment prior to receiving legal advice, and to discuss the issue further at its meeting on 20 January 2016.

- ii. The Chairperson referred to the new law banning legal highs (psychoactive substances) which is due to come into force on 1 April 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request an update on how the matter is being progressed and details of the impact the new law will have on Northern Ireland.

- iii. The Chairperson referred to the issue of nurses' pay.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for clarification of how it intends to address the perceived crisis in relation to nurses' pay.

2.09 p.m. Mr Michael Mc Gimpsey joined the meeting.

2.09 p.m. Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson joined the meeting.

3. Draft minutes of the meetings on Wednesday, 6 January 2015 and Thursday, 7 January 2015

The Committee agreed the minutes of the Committee meetings on Wednesday 6 January 2016 and Thursday 7 January 2016.

4. Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill – Committee deliberations

The Committee discussed the clauses of the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek further information from the Department.

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

5. Human Transplantation Bill - Committee deliberations

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

The Committee discussed the clauses of the Human Transplantation Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to instruct the Bill Office on a range of issues.

2.39 p.m. Ms Pam Cameron joined the meeting.

2.56 p.m. Mr Thomas Buchanan joined the meeting.

6. Health and Personal Social Services (Amendment) Bill- Departmental evidence session

The Committee heard evidence from:

Ms Christine Smyth	Director of Social Services, DHSSPS
Ms Lorraine Conlon	Head of Governance & Planning, Office of Social Services, DHSSPS
Ms Patricia Higgins	Director of Regulations, Northern Ireland Social Care Council.

A question and answer session ensued.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

7. Health and Personal Social Services (Amendment) Bill - Committee deliberations

The Committee discussed the clauses of the Health and Personal Social Services (Amendment) Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek further information from the Department.

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

8. SR 2015/420 The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2015/420: The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and had no objection to the Rule.

9. SR 2015/421 The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No 3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2015/421: The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No 3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 and had no objection to the Rule.

10. SR 2015/422 The Firefighters' Compensation Scheme (Amendment) (No 2) and The New Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Amendment) (No 4) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2015/422: The Firefighters' Compensation Scheme (Amendment) (No 2) and The New Firefighters' Pension Scheme

(Amendment) (No 4) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 and had no objection to the Rule.

11. SR 2015/412 The HIV Testing Kits and Services (Revocation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2015/412: The HIV Testing Kits and Services (Revocation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and had no objection to the Rule.

12. Departmental briefing on Budget 2016/17 and waiting times in emergency departments

The Committee heard evidence from:

Mrs Deborah McNeilly	Deputy Secretary Healthcare Policy Group, DHSSPS
Ms Julie Thompson	Deputy Secretary, Resources and Performance Management, DHSSPS
Mr Dean Sullivan	Director of Commissioning, Health and Social Care Board
Mr Michael Bloomfield	Health and Social Care Board

A question and answer session ensued.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department on a number of issues.

4.07 p.m. Ms Pam Cameron left the meeting.

4.23 p.m. Mr Michael Mc Gimpsey left the meeting.

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

4.54 p.m. Mr Thomas Buchanan left the meeting.

5.15 p.m. Mr Kieran McCarthy left the meeting.

13. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

14. Matters Arising

- (i) The Committee considered a Ministerial response regarding 'zero suicide'.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the response to Contact for information.

- (ii) The Committee noted a Ministerial response regarding the reported rise in new HIV cases.

- (iii) The Committee noted a Ministerial response regarding the review on Workforce Planning in the Context of Transforming your Care.
- (iv) The Committee noted a response from the Fire Brigades Union regarding the consultation on the Draft Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Consequential Provisions) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.
- (v) The Committee considered a response from the Office of the Commissioner for Older People regarding the Department's update on 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 Department for comment.

15. Correspondence

- (i) The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) Thematic Review Report on Child Sexual Exploitation.
- (ii) The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding the launch of the public consultation on the Reform of HSC structures.
- (iii) The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding an update on Phase 1 of the UK 'Rebalancing Medicines Legislation and Pharmacy Regulation' Programme.
- (iv) The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister of Finance and Personnel regarding the Budget 2016-2017.
- (v) The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Department to the Committee for Employment and Learning on post special educational need provision.
- (vi) The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Justice regarding proposed amendments to the Justice No.2 Bill.
- (vii) The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Minister to the Committee for Justice regarding proposed amendments to the Justice No.2 Bill.
- (viii) The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the Executive's Investment Strategy.
- (ix) The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure regarding sign language legislation.
- (x) The Committee noted the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland Investing Activity Report: December 2015.
- (xi) The Committee considered a request from Cancer Research UK to present to the Committee.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to discuss the issue further with Cancer Research UK.

- (xii) The Committee considered a request from the Northern Ireland Confederation for Health and Social Services to sponsor an event in Parliament Buildings.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to sponsor the event.
- (xiii) The Committee noted correspondence from the All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care regarding a Global Colloquium on Palliative Care.
- (xiv) The Committee noted correspondence from New Life Counselling regarding its Manifesto.

5.26 p.m. Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson re-joined the meeting.

16. Any Other Business

The Human Transplantation Bill was raised.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to: i) state its view that family consent should have primacy in terms of the legislative framework around human transplantation; and, ii) seek views on the impact of removing Clause 4 from the Human Transplantation Bill.

17. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 20 January 2016, at 2.00 p.m. in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 5.29 p.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____