

COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 6 October 2016
Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings

Present:	Ms Paula Bradley MLA (Chairperson) Mr Robbie Butler MLA Mr Gerry Carroll MLA Mr Trevor Clarke MLA Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson MLA Mr Mark H Durkan MLA Mr Ian Milne MLA Mr Pat Sheehan MLA
Apologies:	Mr Gary Middleton MLA (Deputy Chairperson) Ms Paula Bradshaw MLA Ms Catherine Seeley MLA
In Attendance:	Ms Éilis Haughey (Clerk) Ms Roisin Donnelly (Assistant Assembly Clerk) Ms Deirdre Farry (Assistant Assembly Clerk) Mr Jonathan Lamont (Clerical Supervisor) Ms Stephanie Wilson (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced at 10.36 am in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted, as detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson advised Members that she had met informally with the Minister of Health on 4 October 2016 to discuss items of business being considered by the Committee and outstanding departmental responses to Committee correspondence.

3. Draft minutes of the meeting on 29 September 2016

The minutes of the Committee meeting on 29 September 2016 were agreed.

4. Matters Arising

The Committee noted that a list of outstanding departmental responses to Committee correspondence had been forwarded to the Department of Health for an update on progress.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister of Health regarding the planned publication of the Report from the Expert Panel on the Reform of Health and Social Care and the Minister's Vision. The Committee further noted that the Committee Clerk would continue to seek a date for the Minister of Health and Professor Bengoa to brief the Committee on this.

5. Legislative Consent Motion - Health Service Medical Supplies (Costs) Bill

The Committee heard evidence from:

Ms Cathy Harrison	Senior Principal Pharmaceutical Officer, Pharmaceutical Directorate, Department of Health
Mr David Lennox	Medicines Policy Branch, Department of Health
Ms Margaret Glass	Medicines Policy Branch, Department of Health
Mr Craig Allen	Legislation Unit, Department of Health

A question and answer session ensued.

The briefing was recorded by Hansard.

The Chair thanked the witnesses for attending.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a research paper in relation to the controls around limiting prices and profits from the sale of medicines supplied to the Health Service.

The Chairperson advised that the Committee would return to its consideration of this matter when the Legislative Consent Memorandum has been tabled by the Minister of Health.

6. Overview Briefing by Irish Congress of Trade Unions

The Chairperson declared an interest as current member of UNISON and Mr Gerry Carroll declared an interest as current member of Unite.

The Committee heard evidence from:

Ms Anne Speed	Chair, ICTU Health Committee, UNISON
Ms Claire Ronald	Vice Chair, ICTU Health Committee, Chartered Society of Physiotherapists
Mr Kevin McAdam	Lead Officer for Health, Unite
Ms Mary Caddell	Royal College of Midwives

11.36 am Mr Ian Milne joined the meeting.

A question and answer session ensued.

12.05 am Mr Pat Sheehan left the meeting.

The briefing was recorded by Hansard.

The Chair thanked the witnesses for attending.

The meeting was suspended at 12.37 pm

The meeting resumed at 12.42 pm.

7. SL1 The Food Hygiene (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Committee considered a proposal for a statutory rule to amend The Food Hygiene Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 further to an EU Commission Implementing Regulation laying down rules on official controls for *Trichinella* in meat.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content that the Department make the statutory rule.

8. SL1 The General Dental Service (Amendment No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Committee considered a proposal for a statutory rule to amend the General Dental Services Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993 to update terminology, legislative references and the objectives and requirements of postgraduate dental training.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content that the Department make the statutory rule.

9. Correspondence

- i. The Committee considered correspondence from the Department of Health providing an update on the transposition of the revised Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications EU Directive into domestic legislation governing the UK healthcare regulators.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite the Department to brief the Committee on this matter.

- ii. The Committee considered correspondence from the National Community Hearing Association regarding hearing service provision in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite the National Community Hearing Association to a future Committee stakeholder event.

- iii. The Committee considered correspondence from the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People requesting to meet with the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson to discuss how NICCY can work with the Committee in relation to health matters.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chairperson would respond directly to NICCY regarding this request.

- iv. The Committee considered correspondence from Fitzone Foundation requesting support for the promotion of their latest health challenge #Raisethebeat.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider this invitation when deciding on its engagement strategy.

- v. The Committee considered correspondence from an individual regarding a complaint against the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the individual to advise them of the role of the Committee and to recommend that they contact their local MLAs.

- vi. The Committee considered a request from Community Development and Health Network to brief the Committee on its work in relation to Public Health issues and tackling health inequalities.

The Committee noted that it had agreed at its last meeting to schedule a briefing from the Community Development and Health Network in the New Year.

- vii. The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for the Executive Office to the Department of Health regarding historical institutional abuse.

- viii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance regarding a letter from the Minister of Finance, in which the Minister gives a proposed timetable for the budget and seeks a coordinated Committee response by the end of October.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek a briefing from departmental officials on this matter at the earliest opportunity.

- ix. The Committee considered the Prisoner Ombudsman's Investigation Report into the circumstances surrounding the death of Patrick Kelly on 20 March 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a briefing from the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust and the Prisoner Ombudsman on the provision of mental health care for prisoners.

- x. The Committee considered correspondence from the Law Centre NI regarding the Independent Guardian service.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to advise the Law Centre that further to discussions with the Minister, the Committee expects to see progress on this matter shortly and to provide any information from the Department to the Law Centre when received.

- xi. The Committee considered correspondence from the Public Health Agency requesting that the Committee support a campaign to mark World Mental Health Day on 10 October 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to take part in publicity to support the campaign.

- xii. The Committee considered an invitation from the Coroners Service for Northern Ireland to a Medico-Legal Colloquium in Parliament Buildings on 11 October 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that Members should advise the Coroners Service if they wish to attend this event.

10. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme and a copy of its Strategic Plan as agreed at last week's meeting.

11. Any Other Business

- i. The Health Minister's consideration of a Mental Health Champion was discussed.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request an update from the Department of Health on this matter.

- ii. Heart Screening for children and young people was discussed.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask for further information from Department of Health on its work in relation to this matter.

12. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting.

The next Committee meeting will be on Thursday 13 October 2016, at 10.30 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.51 pm

Signed: _____

Chairperson

Date: _____