

CONCURRENT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

MONDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2013
SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Mr Paul Givan MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Sydney Anderson MLA
Mr Roy Beggs MLA
Mr Mickey Brady MLA
Ms Pam Brown MLA
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA
Mr Gordon Dunne MLA
Mr Tom Elliott MLA
Mr Sam Gardiner MLA
Mr William Humphrey MLA
Mr Seán Lynch MLA
Mr Alban Maginness MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Mr Raymond McCartney MLA
Ms Rosaleen McCorley MLA
Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA
Mr Patsy McGlone MLA
Mr Jim Wells (Deputy Chairperson)

Apologies Mr David McIlveen MLA
Ms Sue Ramsey MLA

In Attendance: Dr Kathryn Aiken (Clerk)
Mrs Christine Darrah (Clerk)
Ms Sinead Kelly (Assistant Clerk)
Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Clerk)
Ms Julie Devlin (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Leanne Johnston (Clerical Supervisor)

The meeting commenced at 2.04 p.m. in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies as above.

2. Evidence Session with the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and the Minister of Justice on the investigation into the sexual exploitation of children and young people who have gone missing from care homes.

The Committee took evidence from:

Mr Edwin Poots MLA	Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Mr David Ford MLA	Minister of Justice
Mr Sean Holland	Chief Social Services Officer, DHSSPS
Mr Hugh Connor	Chair, Safeguarding Board NI
Dr Helen Beckett	Researcher, University of Bedfordshire
Mr Mark Hamilton	Assistant Chief Constable, PSNI

2.20 p.m. Mr Patsy McGlone joined the meeting.

3.00 p.m. Mr Tom Elliott joined the meeting.

3.27 p.m. Mr Patsy McGlone left the meeting.

3.58 p.m. Mr Paul Givan left the meeting.

3.58 p.m. Mr Jim Wells took the Chair.

4.00 p.m. Mr Gordon Dunne left the meeting.

4.02 p.m. Mr Paul Givan rejoined the meeting and resumed the Chair.

4.08 p.m. Mr Alban Maginness left the meeting.

Both Ministers and Assistant Chief Constable Hamilton gave individual presentations on the issues arising from the investigation relevant to their respective Departments and the PSNI, after which, they answered questions from members.

Issues covered in the question and answer session included: clarification on the number of victims involved in the investigation and the profile of the victims; the number of suspected perpetrators involved; the profile of the perpetrators and their links to wider criminality; the PSNI approach to investigating the issue of child sexual exploitation and the resources available; the protocols for when children go missing from a care home; and the actions taken by the Department for Health, Social Services & Public Safety and the PSNI following the publication of the Barnardo's report "Not a world away: the sexual exploitation of children and young people in Northern Ireland" in 2011.

The briefing was recorded by Hansard.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for attending.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.18 p.m.

Signed: _____

Mr Paul Givan MLA, Chairperson

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Mr Jim Wells MLA, Deputy Chairperson

Date: _____