



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY 21 JUNE 2016

Room 30, Parliament Buildings, Belfast

Present: Ms Pam Cameron MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Ms Clare Bailey MLA
Mr Roy Beggs MLA
Ms Michaela Boyle MLA
Mr Sammy Douglas MLA
Mr Declan Kearney MLA

In Attendance: Mrs Christine Darragh (Assembly Clerk)
Ms Marie Austin (Senior Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Ms Pamela Carson (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Ms Leanne Johnston (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Allison Ferguson (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Paul Frew MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Pat Sheehan MLA

The meeting commenced at 12.03 p.m. in open session.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Matters Arising

The Committee noted an updated Forward Work Programme for June 2016.

3. SL1: The Victim Statement Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Committee considered a proposal by the Department of Justice to make a Statutory Rule under the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, to provide for when, how and by

whom the opportunity to make a victim statement and supplementary victim statement is to be afforded in cases where the Director of Public Prosecutions has the conduct of criminal proceedings.

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

4. SL1: The Proceeds of Crime Act (Appeals Under Part 4) (Amendment) Order 2016

The Committee considered a proposal by the Department of Justice to make a Statutory Rule to amend the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (Appeals under Part 4) Order 2003, to insert into Part 3 of the Order the appropriate references to an appeal to the Supreme Court under section 163B(4) to (7) of POCA.

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

5. SL1: The Court of Judicature Fees (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Committee considered a proposal by the Department of Justice to make a Statutory Rule to introduce fees to be charged to users of the services provided by the Court Funds Office with the aim of recovering the running costs of the Office.

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

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a copy of the responses to the consultation undertaken by the Department of Justice on the proposal.

6. Proposed Statutory Rule: The Mines Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and Outcome of Joint Consultation

The Committee considered a proposed Statutory Rule, to be made by the Department for the Economy and the Department of Justice jointly with the Department for the Economy acting as the lead Department, which will replace the existing law with a single set of modern Regulations, and aims to protect people working at mines in Northern Ireland by ensuring that there is a duty on the mine operator to manage and control major hazards at mines.

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

7. European Justice and Home Affairs Bi-Annual Report – Summer 2016

The Committee noted the EU Justice and Home Affairs Bi-Annual Report for summer 2016 provided by the Department of Justice.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that wishes to continue to receive the reports on a bi-annual basis.

8. Draft Northern Ireland Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Strategy 2016/17 – Proposed Consultation

The Committee considered a proposed consultation by the Department of Justice on a draft Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Strategy for 2016/17.

Agreed: The Committee noted the draft Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Strategy for 2016/17 and agreed that it was content for the consultation to take place and to consider the issue further when the results of the consultation are available.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask the Department of Justice to inform it of the launch date of the consultation and to provide a copy of the progress report against the 2015/16 strategy.

9. Correspondence

- i. The Committee noted correspondence from the Department of Justice advising that the Minister of Justice had issued an authorisation to enable the police to possess land at the Invest NI Site (Forthriver Business Park).
- ii. The Committee considered correspondences from the Public Accounts Committee referring to correspondence from an individual regarding employment issues and the NI Law Commission.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Department of Justice and ask that it responds directly to the individual on the issues raised.

- iii. The Committee considered a request from Bytes Project to brief the Committee and its work to engage with young offenders and young people at risk of offending.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that an informal meeting with the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, to which all Committee Members would be invited to attend, should be arranged.

10. Chairperson's Business

None.

11. Any Other Business

The invitation from the Probation Board to the Committee to hold a meeting in its premises was raised and Members noted that it would be considered at the informal Strategic Planning meeting.

12. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 30 June at 2.00 p.m. in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.20 p.m.

Mr Paul Frew MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Justice