



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY
FIRST MINISTER
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2014
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson)
Mr Chris Lyttle (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Alex Attwood
Mr Leslie Cree
Miss Megan Fearon
Mrs Brenda Hale
Mr Alex Maskey
Ms Bronwyn McGahan
Mr Stephen Moutray
Mr George Robinson
Mr Jimmy Spratt

Apologies: None

In Attendance: Mrs Shauna Mageean (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Keith McBride (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Stephen Magee (Clerical Supervisor)
Mrs Marion Johnson (Clerical Officer)

The meeting began at 2.03 pm in public session

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairperson's Business

Age Discrimination Legislation – Goods, Facilities and Services

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department advising that the briefing on Age Discrimination Legislation in relation to Goods, Facilities and Services could not go ahead as the issue was still under consideration by the Department. The Department requested that the briefing be rescheduled in April 2014.

Mr Lyttle joined the meeting at 2.07 p.m.

Meeting with Head of Civil Service

The Chairperson provided Members with an overview of the informal meeting with the Head of the Civil Service that took place on Tuesday 18 February 2014. The Chairperson advised that the Head of the Civil Service would brief the Committee at its meeting on 5 March 2014.

Current Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

3. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2014

Agreed: The draft minutes of the proceedings of the 12 February 2014 were agreed by the Committee.

4. Matters Arising

Victims and Survivors Issues

The Committee considered a response from the Department providing further information on issues raised at a briefing by junior Ministers on victims and survivors issues on 22 January 2014.

Mr Attwood joined the meeting at 2.13 p.m.

Mr Maskey joined the meeting at 2.13 p.m.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to seek clarification on the assessment process and to seek on the

timeline for briefing the Committee on the Review of the Victims and Survivors Service.

Social Investment Fund

The Committee noted a response from the Department to issues raised during a briefing on the Social Investment Fund on 5 December 2013. Members agreed to consider this response when briefed later in the meeting on the Social Investment Fund.

List of Outstanding Issues

The Committee noted the list of outstanding issues.

5. Correspondence

Committee for Finance and Personnel

The Committee noted a memo from the Committee for Finance and Personnel in relation to the Northern Ireland Audit Office Report on Sickness Absence in the Public Sector.

Committee for Finance and Personnel

The Committee considered correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel providing a briefing paper from the Department for Finance and Personnel setting out its draft Estimates.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the department to request a similar breakdown from the Department at future budget briefings.

Joint Ministerial Committee (Europe)

The Committee noted correspondence from junior Ministers providing an overview of December's Joint Ministerial Committee (Europe) meeting.

Active Ageing Strategy

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department advising of the launch of the consultation on the Active Ageing Strategy on Friday 21 February at Belfast City Hall.

6. Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities

Representatives from the Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities joined the meeting at 2.19 p.m.

Mrs Hale the meeting at 2.44 p.m.

Miss Fearon left the meeting at 2.46 p.m.

Mr Patrick Yu from the Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities and Mr Mark Donahue from the Traveller, Gypsy and Roma Network briefed the Committee on integration of the Roma in Northern Ireland. Questions and discussion followed.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it condemned the racial abuse of Anna Lo MLA on social media.

Representatives from the Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities left the meeting at 2.59 p.m.

7. Sexual Orientation Strategy

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 3.00 p.m.

Mrs Hale re-joined the meeting at 3.12 p.m.

Miss Fearon re-joined the meeting at 3.20 p.m.

Departmental officials, Mrs Margaret-Rose McNaughton, Ms Patricia Carey and Mrs Martina Hanna briefed the Committee on the consultation document for the Sexual Orientation Strategy. Questions and discussion followed.

Departmental officials left the meeting at 3.33 p.m.

8. Social Investment Fund

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 3.34 p.m.

Departmental officials, Mr Ricky Irwin, Mr Joe Reynolds and Mr Lawrence Hyland provided the Committee with an update on the Social Investment Fund following the recent announcement of projects to be funded. Questions and discussion followed. Officials agreed to provide the Committee with further

information on a number of issues, including procurement, lead partners and gateway reviews.

Departmental officials left the meeting at 4.18 p.m.

9. Statutory Rule – Salaries Order 2014

The Committee considered a draft Statutory Rule in relation to the Salaries (Assembly Ombudsman and Commissioner for Complaints) Order (NI) 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to seek further information on the policy behind the statutory rule.

Miss Fearon left the meeting at 4.25 p.m.

10. Inquiry into Barroso Taskforce

The Committee considered the draft Terms of Reference for its Inquiry into the Barroso Taskforce.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Terms of Reference for its Inquiry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to key stakeholders to seek their views on the Inquiry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to all statutory committees to seek their views on the Terms of Reference.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Ministers to advise of the Committee's Inquiry.

11. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the forward work programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to scope the possibility of a meeting at the Crumlin Road Gaol.

12. Any Other Business

None.

13. Date, Time and Location of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday 26 February 2014, in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.31 p.m.

Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister