



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY
FIRST MINISTER
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 29 JANUARY 2014
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson)
Mr Chris Lyttle (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Alex Attwood
Miss Megan Fearon
Mr Alex Maskey
Ms Bronwyn McGahan
Mr Stephen Moutray
Mr George Robinson

Apologies: Mr Leslie Cree
Mrs Brenda Hale
Mr Jimmy Spratt

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 2.07 pm in public session

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairperson's Business

Head of the Civil Service

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite the Head of the Civil Service, Dr Malcolm McKibbin to meet with the Committee to discuss the Committee's relationship with the Department.

Northern Ireland Community Relations Council

The Committee considered a request from the Chair of the Northern Ireland Community Relations Council to brief the Committee on its work.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from the Northern Ireland Community Relations Council into its forward work programme.

Current Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

3. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2014

Agreed: The draft minutes of the proceedings of the 22 January 2014 were agreed by the Committee.

4. Matters Arising

Childcare Strategy

The Committee considered responses from the Department to queries raised by the Committee in relation to models for provision of childcare and the inclusion of childcare in the Executive's Advertising Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ask them to consider bidding for campaign advertising in relation to available childcare support in the Executive's Advertising Programme for 2014/15.

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission

The Committee considered responses from the Human Rights Commission following its briefing on 15 January 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission to ask that it be kept informed of the outcomes of key engagements.

Historical Institutional Abuse

The Committee considered correspondence from a member of the public in relation to a meeting that they had with junior Ministers in June.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Department for urgent comment.

Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman

The Committee considered correspondence the Minister for Justice in relation to the inclusion of the role of the Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Ombudsman in the Committee's proposed Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Justice to confirm it was content to include the Judicial Appointments Ombudsman in its proposals.

List of Outstanding Issues

The Committee noted the list of outstanding issues.

5. Correspondence

Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure advising of its Inquiry into Inclusion in the Arts of Working Class Communities.

Committee for Employment and Learning

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Employment and Learning advising of its Inquiry into Post Special Educational Need Provision in Education, Employment and Training for those with Learning Disabilities in Northern Ireland.

Committee for Finance and Personnel

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel in relation to the monitoring of Departmental Savings Plans.

Committee for Education

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Education to the Department in relation to Primary Integrating/Enriching Education Project.

Consultation on Good Relations Indicators 2014

The Committee considered the consultation document on the Good Relations Indicators 2014 launched by the Department on 22 January 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from Departmental officials on the consultation document.

Motion on Delivering Social Change Signature Programme Event

Agreed: The Committee agreed a motion for a debate on the Committee's Delivering Social Change Signature Programme Event –

'That this Assembly notes the Report of the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister on its event on the Delivering Social Change Signature Programmes and calls on the First Minister and deputy First Minister to ensure that meaningful and comprehensive engagement with practitioners and stakeholders is central to the development of any future Signature Programmes'

6. Private Members' Bill – Children's Services Co-operation Bill

Mr Stephen Agnew MLA and Mr Ross Brown joined the meeting at 2.25 p.m.

Mr Lyttle joined the meeting at 2.49 p.m.

Miss Fearon joined the meeting at 2.52 p.m.

Mr Stephen Agnew MLA and Mr Ross Brown briefed the Committee on the Private Members' Bill on Children's Service Co-operation. Questions and discussion followed.

Mr Stephen Agnew MLA and Mr Ross Brown left the meeting at 3.19 p.m.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the First Minister and deputy First Minister to ask if the Department or the Executive have/or would consider taking forward this Bill.

Mr Maskey left the meeting at 3.20 p.m.

7. Executive's European Priorities 2013/14 – Mid-Year Review

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 3.20p.m.

Miss Fearon left the meeting at 4.27 p.m.

Departmental officials, Dr Gerry Mulligan and Dr Paul Geddis briefed the Committee on the Mid-Year Review of the Executive's European Priorities for 2013/14. Questions and discussion followed. Departmental officials agreed to provide further information on a number of issues.

Departmental officials left the meeting at 4.30 p.m.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the Mid-Year Review to all statutory committees for information.

8. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

The Committee considered draft Terms of Reference for an Inquiry into Uniting Communities and an Inquiry into the Barroso Taskforce.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it would undertake an Inquiry into Uniting Communities and an Inquiry into the Barroso Taskforce and that Committee staff would prepare Terms of Reference and inquiry plans for consideration.

9. Any Other Business

None

10. Date, Time and Location of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday 5 February 2014, in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.33 p.m.

Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA

Chairperson,

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