



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY
FIRST MINISTER
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 22 JANUARY 2014
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

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

Apologies: Miss Megan Fearon

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

Together: Building a United Community

The Committee noted a response from the Department advising that it is unable to brief the Committee on Together: Building a United Community at today's meeting due to preparations for tomorrow's United Youth Conference.

United Youth Conference

The Committee noted the invitation to Members to attend the United Youth Conference at the Waterfront Hall on Thursday 23 January 2014.

European Economic and Social Committee

The Committee considered correspondence from the President of the European Economic Social Committee in relation to the visit of the European Economic and Social Committee to Belfast from 2-4 April 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to scope the possibility of an informal meeting with the European Economic and Social Committee.

Mrs Hale joined the meeting at 2.03 p.m.

Current Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

3. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2014

Agreed: The draft minutes of the proceedings of the 15 January 2014 were agreed by the Committee.

4. Matters Arising

European Union Competitive Funding

The Committee noted a research paper from the Assembly's Research and Information Service on Framework Programme 7 per capita statistics.

List of Outstanding Issues

The Committee noted the list of outstanding issues.

5. Correspondence

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development providing a copy of the Rural White Paper Action Plan Annual Progress Report 2013.

Mr Attwood joined the meeting at 2.07 p.m.

Committee for Social Development

The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for Social Development to the Department requesting an update on the current position with the Welfare Reform legislation.

Committee for Employment and Learning

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward correspondence from the Department to Committee for Employment and Learning in relation to GEMS NI Kestrel Pilot Project.

Northern Ireland Community Relations Council Annual Report and Accounts 2012/13

The Committee noted a copy of the Northern Ireland Community Relations Council's Annual report and Accounts 2012/13.

6. Victims and Survivors Issues

Junior Minister Bell, junior Minister McCann and Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.09 p.m.

Mr Lyttle joined the meeting at 2.10 p.m.

Junior Minister Bell, junior Minister McCann and Departmental officials, Dr Denis McMahon and Mr Ricky Irwin briefed the Committee on victims and survivors issues. Questions and discussion followed. Junior Ministers agreed to provide further information on a number of issues.

Junior Minister Bell, junior Minister McCann and Departmental officials left the meeting at 3.17 p.m.

7. Delivering Social Change for Children and Young People

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 3.18 p.m.

Mr Lyttle left the meeting at 4.06 p.m.

Departmental officials, Ms Margaret-Rose McNaughton, Ms Patricia Carey and Mrs Janet Smyth briefed the Committee on Delivering Social Change for Young People consultation document. Questions and discussion followed. Departmental officials agreed to provide further information on the consultation process and a number of other issues.

Departmental officials left the meeting at 4.28 p.m.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to junior Ministers to express its concern at the limited consultation period for such an important document. The Committee agreed to request that Ministers consider extending the consultation period.

8. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite the Commissioner for Victims and Survivors to brief the Committee following completion of the independent Review of the Victims and Survivors Service.

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 29 January 2014, in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.45 p.m.

Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA

Chairperson,

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