



**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY  
FIRST MINISTER  
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS  
WEDNESDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2014  
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

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

Apologies: Mr Leslie Cree

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 2.04 pm in public session*

**1. Apologies**

As above.

## **2. Chairperson's Business**

### International Relations Strategy

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department advising that the briefing on the draft International Relations Strategy would need to be rescheduled as the draft Strategy was due to be discussed at the next meeting of the Executive.

### Racial Equality Strategy

The Chairperson advised Members that the Committee was scheduled to be briefed on the draft Racial Equality Strategy. However, a copy of the draft Racial Equality Strategy was only received into the Committee Office yesterday afternoon.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that due to the substantive size of the document and the lack of opportunity to consider it, that the planned briefing on the draft Racial Equality Strategy would be rescheduled to allow Members time to go through the document in detail.

### Committee for the Administration of Justice

The Chairperson provided Members with an overview of an informal meeting that he had with the Committee for the Administration of Justice at lunchtime today.

### Commissioner for Children and Young People

The Committee considered a request from the Commissioner for Children and Young People to brief the Committee on its work programme.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from the Commissioner for Children and Young People into its Forward Work Programme.

### Children's Law Centre

The Committee considered a request from the Children's Law Centre to brief the Committee on the proposed legislation in relation to age discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities and services.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from the Children's Law Centre into its Forward Work Programme.

#### Law Centre NI

The Committee considered a request from the Law Centre NI to brief the Committee on refugee issues.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and any other interested Members would meet informally with the Law Centre.

#### Current Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

#### St Patrick's Day Events

The Chairperson advised Members that he and the Deputy Chairperson had received invitations to attend various meetings at the St Patrick's Day events in Washington.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it was content that the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson attend the events on behalf of the Committee. Mr Spratt wished to note that he thought a cross-party delegation from the Committee should attend.

### **3. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2014**

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the proceedings of the 19 February 2014 were agreed by the Committee.

### **4. Matters Arising**

#### European Issues

The Committee considered a response from the Department providing further information following issues raised in a Research Paper on competitive funding.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the information on drawdown of Framework Programme 7 funds to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment.

*Mr Lyttle joined the meeting at 2.12 p.m.*

#### List of Outstanding Issues

The Committee noted the list of outstanding issues.

### **5. Correspondence**

#### Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment to the Department in relation to progress on pension fund investment.

#### Committee for Employment and Learning

The Committee noted a copy of a response from the First Minister and deputy First Minister to the Committee for Employment and Learning in relation to progress of the draft Economic Inactivity Strategy.

#### Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure

The Committee noted a copy of a response from the First Minister and deputy First Minister to the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure in relation to the interim use of former military sites.

#### Draft Statutory Rule – Salaries Order

The Committee considered correspondence from the Department clarifying the reasons for the statutory rule being brought forward.

*Agreed:*                      The Committee agreed that it was content with the explanation and that it would consider this rule when formally laid.

#### Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

The Committee considered tabled correspondence from the Department providing a copy of the draft UK Government response to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. The correspondence advised that it was seeking the Committee's views by 3 March 2013.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that due to the timeline for responding it would be unable to make a formal Committee response.

## **6. Strategic Investment Board**

*Representatives from the Strategic Investment Board joined the meeting at 2.17 p.m.*

Mr Brett Hannam, Chief Executive, Mr Martin Spollen, Head of Investment Strategy and Mr Scott Wilson, Head of Asset Management Unit from the Strategic Investment Board briefed the Committee on the work of the Strategic Investment Board. Questions and discussion followed.

*Representatives from the Strategic Investment Board left the meeting at 3.07 p.m.*

## **7. Programme for Government**

*Departmental officials joined the meeting at 3.08 p.m.*

*Mr Maskey joined the meeting at 3.08 p.m.*

*Mr Maskey left the meeting at 3.59 p.m.*

*Mrs Hale left the meeting at 4.00 p.m.*

*Mr Spratt left the meeting at 4.04 p.m.*

Departmental officials, Dr Mark Browne, Dr Denis McMahon, Mr Henry Johnston and Mr Tim Losty briefed the Committee on progress of the Programme for Government commitments. Questions and discussion followed. Officials agreed to provide further information in relation to the definition of good relations.

*Departmental officials left the meeting at 4.14 p.m.*

## **8. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted the forward work programme.

**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 March 2014, in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.15 p.m.*

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