



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY
FIRST MINISTER
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 9 APRIL 2014
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Chris Lyttle (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Alex Attwood
Mr Leslie Cree
Mr Alex Maskey
Ms Bronwyn McGahan
Mr Stephen Moutray
Mr George Robinson

Apologies: Miss Megan Fearon
Mrs Brenda Hale
Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson)
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)
Ms Roisin Kelly (Bill Clerk) Item 10 only
Mr Alyn Hicks (Assistant Clerk) Item 10 only

The meeting began at 2.05 p.m. in public session with the Deputy Chairperson in the Chair.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairperson's Business

Assembly Business Trust

The Committee considered an invitation from the Assembly Business Trust for the Chairperson to speak on the work of the Committee on European issues at an event it is holding on 13 May 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content that the Chairperson speaks on behalf of the Committee at the event.

Committee Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

3. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2014

Agreed: The draft minutes of the proceedings of the 2 April 2014 were agreed by the Committee.

4. Matters Arising

Outstanding Post Project Evaluations

The Committee noted a response from the Department commenting on its outstanding Post Project Evaluations.

Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety

The Committee noted a response from the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety to the Committee's Report on the Delivering Social Change Signature Programmes Event. The response provides further information on the Department's Programmes.

List of Outstanding Correspondence

The Committee noted the list of outstanding correspondence.

5. Correspondence

Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

The Committee considered correspondence from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment proposing a joint Plenary with the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment and the Committee for Finance and Personnel on Renewable Energy in Public Buildings.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chairperson would liaise with the Chairpersons of the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment and the Committee for Finance and Personnel to discuss how to take this forward and then report back to the Committee.

The Committee noted a response from the Department to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment in relation to discussions with the chief Executives of the Royal Bank of Scotland and the Ulster Bank.

House of Lords EU Committee

The Committee noted correspondence from the Chairperson of the House of Lords EU Committee advising that the Committee has concluded its Inquiry into the Role of National Parliaments in the European Union.

Investing Activity Report

The Committee noted March's Investment Strategy Investing Activity Report.

Civil Contingencies

The Committee considered a response from the Department providing further information on the Executive's consideration of the PEDU Report on the June 2012 flooding.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from the Department on civil contingencies and the measures put in place following the PEDU Report.

Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived

The Committee noted a response from the Department providing comment on the proposal for a Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived.

6. Community Relations Council – Peace Monitoring Report

Representatives from the Community Relations Council joined the meeting at 2.13 p.m.

Mr Attwood joined the meeting at 2.24 p.m.

Mr Moutray left the meeting at 3.08 p.m.

Mr Peter Osborne, Chairperson of the Community Relations Council, Ms Jacqueline Irwin, Chief Executive of the Community relations Council and Dr Paul Nolan, author of the Report briefed the Committee on the 3rd Annual Peace Monitoring Report. Questions and discussion followed.

Representatives from the Community Relations Council left the meeting at 3.45 p.m.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request that junior Ministers brief the Committee on the Good Relations Fund and other issues within their remit.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to seek further information on the composition of the Transition Board, its work programme and further details on its consultation plan for transition.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to a Take Note Debate on the 3rd Annual Peace Monitoring Report.

7. Northern Ireland Local Government Association – European Issues

Representatives from the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) joined the meeting at 3.52 p.m.

Mr Maskey joined the meeting at 4.09 p.m.

Ald. Arnold Hatch, President of NILGA, Mr Derek McCallan, Chief Executive of NILGA and Dr Ken Bishop, Head of Programmes NILGA briefed the Committee on its proposal for the establishment of a Northern Ireland Strategic European Partnership Panel. Questions and discussion followed.

Representatives from NILGA left the meeting at 4.18 p.m.

8. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Forward Work Programme from April to July.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to cancel its meeting scheduled for 21 May 2014 due to the European elections.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Committee for Education to ask what work it is undertaking in relation to the educational under achievement of protestant working class boys entitled to free school meals as highlighted in the Peace Monitoring Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Chairperson of the Culture, Arts and Leisure Committee to suggest working in partnership to consider the portrayal of young people in the media.

9. Any Other Business

None.

The meeting moved into closed session at 3.28 p.m.

10. Ombudsman Proposals

The Committee was briefed by the Ombudsman Bill Project Team on Part 1 and Schedule 1 of the draft Bill. The Committee also considered a number of issues that required clarification for the draftsman of the Bill.

Ms McGahan proposed to remove section 2(b) of the draft Bill in relation non-disclosure.

The Committee divided

Ayes: Mr Attwood, Mr Maskey, Ms McGahan

Noes: Mr Cree, Mr Lyttle, Mr Robinson

The motion fell.

Ms McGahan proposed to amend section 3(1) of the draft Bill to remove “*by Her Majesty,*”

The Committee divided

Ayes: Mr Maskey, Ms McGahan

Noes: Mr Cree, Mr Lyttle, Mr Robinson

Did not vote: Mr Attwood

The motion fell.

Ms McGahan proposed to remove section 1(3) of the Schedule of the draft Bill.

The Committee divided

Ayes: Mr Maskey, Ms McGahan

Noes: Mr Cree, Mr Lyttle, Mr Robinson

Did not vote: Mr Attwood

The motion fell.

Mr Maskey proposed to amend section 9(1) of the Schedule of the draft Bill to remove “*Her Majesty*” and replace with “*The Commission*”.

The Committee divided

Ayes: Mr Maskey, Ms McGahan

Noes: Mr Cree, Mr Lyttle, Mr Robinson

Did not vote: Mr Attwood

The motion fell.

Ms McGahan proposed to remove section 10 of the Schedule of the draft Bill.

The Committee divided

Ayes: Mr Maskey, Ms McGahan

Noes: Mr Cree, Mr Lyttle, Mr Robinson

Did not vote: Mr Attwood

The motion fell.

Ms McGahan proposed to amend section 12 (2) of the Schedule of the draft Bill to remove “*Her Majesty*” and replace with “*The Commission*”.

The Committee divided

Ayes: Mr Maskey, Ms McGahan

Noes: Mr Cree, Mr Lyttle, Mr Robinson

Did not vote: Mr Attwood

The motion fell.

Agreed: The Committee agreed a number of issues that needed further clarification in order for the draftsman to continue.

Mr Maskey left the meeting at 4.55 p.m.

Department of Justice officials joined the meeting at 5.05 p.m.

Department of Justice officials, Ms Siobhan Broderick and Mr Martin Moore briefed the Committee on the provisions in relation to the inclusion of the Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Ombudsman in the Committee’s Bill. Questions and discussion followed.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the drafting instructions for this section to the draftsman.

11. Date, Time and Location of next meeting

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

The Deputy Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 5.17 p.m.

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