



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY  
FIRST MINISTER  
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS  
WEDNESDAY 7 MAY 2014  
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

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

Apologies: Mr Alex Attwood  
Mrs Brenda Hale  
Mr Jimmy Spratt

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

*The meeting began in public session at 2.00 p.m.*

**1. Apologies**

As above.

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

### Refugees and Asylum Seekers

The Committee considered papers from the Law Centre NI, the Red Cross and the Northern Ireland Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers on refugee and asylum seeker issues.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to seek further information on the timeline for the Crisis Fund, the budget available and the governance and eligibility arrangements for the Fund.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to commission a research paper on refugee issues.

*Mr Robinson joined the meeting at 2.05 p.m.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed in principle to table a motion for Refugee Week and Community Relations Week, which is 16-22 June 2014.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to see what interaction they have had with the Home Office on regional immigration issues including the issues of permitting MLAs to make representations on immigration matters and if and whether they have or would consider making representations to the Home Secretary on specific cases in Northern Ireland.

### Committee Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

## **3. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 30 April 2014**

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the proceedings of the 30 April 2014 were agreed by the Committee.

#### **4. Matters Arising**

##### Social Investment Fund

The Committee noted a response from the Department providing further information on the Social Investment Fund following the briefing on 19 February 2014. The response included a list of the projects within the Area Plans which the Department hopes will be affordable as it works through the economic appraisals process.

##### Strategic Investment Board Portal

The Committee considered a response from the Department providing further information on the role of SIB in supporting the Strategic Investment portal; and on the current situation with OFMDFM information held on the portal.

*Agreed:*                The Committee agreed to forward the response to the Committee for Finance and Personnel.

##### Financial Transactions Capital

The Committee considered a response from the Department providing comments on a Research paper provided by the Committee for Finance and Personnel on Financial Transactions Capital.

*Agreed:*                The Committee agreed to forward the response to the Committee for Finance and Personnel and the Assembly's Research and Information Service.

##### Victims and Survivors Service

The Committee noted a response from the Department providing further information on the implementation of recommendations from the Review of the Victims and Survivors Service as well as providing information on the gap funding following Peace III and the process for self-certification.

##### List of Outstanding Correspondence

The Committee considered the list of outstanding correspondence.

*Agreed:*                The Committee agreed to write to an organisation to advise that the Committee will be taking forward an outstanding issue and if they wish to input they will need to forward correspondence.

## **5. Correspondence**

### Committee for Finance and Personnel

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel providing the provisional timetable for the Executive's In-year Monitoring Rounds.

### Delivering Social Change – Monthly Update

The Committee noted a copy of the Department's Delivering Social Change Monthly Update for April.

### Investing Activity Report

The Committee noted a copy of the Department's Investment Strategy Investing Activity Report for April.

### Round Table Discussion

The Committee considered an invitation from junior Ministers to attend a Round Table Event on Wednesday 14 May from 1pm – 3pm in Room 115 to discuss Disability – Inclusive Policy and Practice – The Massachusetts Model.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to postpone the time of next week's Committee meeting to 3.30 p.m. to allow Members to attend the Round Table event.

## **6. Victims and Survivors Service**

*Representatives from the Victims and Survivors Service joined the meeting at 2.20 p.m.*

*Mr Maskey left the meeting at 3.21 p.m.*

*Mr Robinson left the meeting at 3.27 p.m.*

Mr Peter Gay, Chair of the Board of the Victims and Survivors Service, Mr Oliver Wilkinson, Member of the Board and Mrs Anne Dorbie, Chief Executive briefed the Committee on the progress implementing the recommendations from the independent review of the Victims and Survivors Service. Questions and

discussion followed. The Chief Executive agreed to provide the Committee with copies of its implementation plan, risk register and communications plan for Financial Assistance Scheme 6.

*Representatives from the Victims and Survivors Service left the meeting at 3.32 p.m.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department for clarification on recommendation 53 of the Review of the Victims and Survivors Service.

## **7. Good Relations Indicators – Summary of Consultation Responses**

The Committee considered a written briefing from the Department providing a summary of responses to the Department's consultation on the draft Good Relations Indicators.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to consider this issue at next week's meeting to allow Members further time to consider.

## **8. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme from May to July.

*Miss Fearon joined the meeting at 3.37 p.m.*

## **9. Any Other Business**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to meet at 1.45 p.m. on 28 May 2014 to go through the top tips paper prepared for all Committees to support Members in using the electronic committee pack system.

## **10. Date, Time and Location of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 3.30 p.m. on Wednesday 14 May 2014, in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.38 p.m.*

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