



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY  
FIRST MINISTER  
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS  
WEDNESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2014  
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

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

Apologies: Mr Stephen Moutray  
Mr Alex Attwood  
Mr Jimmy Spratt

In Attendance: Mrs Kathy O'Hanlon (Assembly Clerk)  
Miss Karen Jardine (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Stephen Magee (Clerical Supervisor)  
Miss Zuzana Polackova (Clerical Officer)

*The meeting began in public session at 2.02 pm.*

**1. Apologies**

As above.

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

### Committee for Education

The Committee noted an invitation from the Chairperson of the Committee for Education to a Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Sentinus Event on Wednesday 1 October 2014 in the Long Gallery.

### Informal Briefings

The Chairperson advised Members that an informal briefing with Community Relations in Schools had been arranged for Thursday 25 September at 2pm.

The Chairperson advised Members that an informal briefing with representatives from the Belfast Islamic Centre had been arranged for Wednesday 1 October at 10am.

The Chairperson asked Members to inform the Clerk if they were available to attend either briefing.

### Committee Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

## **3. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2014**

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the proceedings of 17 September 2014 were agreed by the Committee.

## **4. Matters Arising**

### Inquiry into Building a United Community

The Committee noted the current list of submissions received in response to its call for evidence to its Inquiry into Building a United Community.

### Legislative Consent Memorandum - Childcare Payments Bill

The Chairperson advised Members that Junior Ministers had agreed to meet with the Committee to discuss the Childcare Payments Bill on Monday 29 September at 4.30pm.

*Agreed:* Members agreed that the delegation from the Committee to meet with Junior Ministers should include the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson together with a representative from each party.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to invite Departmental officials to attend the meeting on 1 October 2014, when its report on the LCM would be finalised.

#### Victims and Survivors Service

A Member raised an issue concerning the Victims and Survivors Service.

*Agreed:* The Member agreed to forward further information on the matter to the Clerk; and that the Clerk would raise it with the Department and Victims and Survivors Service as appropriate.

#### List of Outstanding Correspondence

The Committee noted the list of outstanding correspondence.

### **5. Correspondence**

#### Committee for Finance and Personnel

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel providing a quarterly update on the number of Post Project Evaluations Outstanding by Department

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

#### Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

The Committee noted a response from the Department to the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development regarding the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme.

#### NIA All Party Group on Construction

The Committee noted correspondence from the Patsy McGlone MLA, Chair of the All Party Group on Construction in which he raised concerns about the accuracy of information made available through the Infrastructure Investment Strategy (ISNI) Portal.

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

#### Childcare Strategy

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department providing an update on Progress for Developing the Final Childcare Strategy

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to request a briefing from Departmental officials on the draft consultation document, and to reiterate its view that the strategy should address the issues faced by parents with regard to childcare costs.

#### Historical Institutional Abuse

The Committee noted a response from the Department regarding the implications of the request for an extension to the HIA Inquiry and feedback on the outreach service for victims and survivors the Belfast area.

#### Committee for Employment and Learning

The Committee noted a response from the Department to the Committee for Employment and Learning on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

*Mr Lyttle joined the meeting at 2.08pm.*

### **6. Sexual Orientation Strategy**

*Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.10 pm.*

Departmental officials Ms Margaret Rose McNaughton Ms Patricia Carey and Ms Janis Scallon appeared before the Committee for questions and discussion on the analysis of responses to the Phase 1 consultation on the Sexual Orientation Strategy. The briefing was recorded by Hansard.

*Departmental officials left the meeting at 2.31pm.*

*The Committee agreed to take Agenda item 9 next.*

*Mr Maskey and Ms McGahan left the meeting at 2.33pm.*

### **7. Committee End of Session Report 2013/14**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the End of Session Report for 2013/14; and agreed that it should be published on the Committee's webpage.

*The Committee agreed to take Agenda item 8 next.*

### **8. Outcome of June Monitoring Round - written briefing**

The Committee considered a written briefing from the Department which provided details of the outcome of June Monitoring, including the implications for the Department and its Arm's-Length bodies.

*Ms McGahan returned to the meeting at 2.38pm.*

*The Committee returned to Agenda item 7.*

## **9. European Issues - NI Executive's European Priorities 2014/15**

*Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.38pm.*

Departmental officials Dr Gerry Mulligan and Dr Paul Geddis, briefed the Committee on the NI Executive's EU Priorities for 2014-2015

Questions and discussion followed and the briefing was recorded by Hansard.

*Mrs Hale left the meeting at 2.43pm.*

*Mr Lyttle left the meeting at 2.43pm.*

*Ms Fearon left the meeting at 2.48pm. The Committee lost its decision-making quorum. In the absence of a decision-making quorum proceedings continued in line with Standing Order 49(5).*

*Mr Lyttle returned to the meeting at 2.52pm.*

*Ms Fearon returned to the meeting at 2.52pm.*

*Mrs Hale returned to the meeting at 2.53pm.*

*Departmental officials left the meeting at 3.10pm.*

## **10. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted a request from the Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities to brief Members on the consultation document "A Sense of Belonging: Delivering Social Change through a Racial Equality Strategy for Northern Ireland 2014-2024".

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to invite NICEM to brief Members on their response to the consultation once the Department has provided its summary and analysis of consultation responses.

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

## **11. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

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

The next meeting will be held at 2.00pm on Wednesday 1 October 2014, in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.12 pm.*

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