



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY
FIRST MINISTER
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 8 OCTOBER 2014
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson)
Mr Chris Lyttle (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Alex Attwood
Mr Roy Beggs
Mr Alex Maskey
Ms Bronwyn McGahan
Mr David McIlveen
Mr Stephen Moutray
Mr Jimmy Spratt

Apologies: Ms Megan Fearon
Mrs Brenda Hale

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 closed session at 2.01 pm.

1. Victims and Survivors - Legal advice on whistleblowing

The Committee noted legal advice on matters related to whistleblowing.

Agreed: the Committee agreed to take no further action in respect of this matter.

The meeting moved into public session at 2.03 pm

2. Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

Mr McIlveen joined the meeting at 2.04pm.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr David McIlveen and Mr Roy Beggs to the Committee, and thanked Mr Leslie Cree and Mr George Robinson for their contribution to the work of the Committee.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Mr Cree and Mr Robinson to acknowledge their work on the Committee and thank them for their contribution.

3. Chairperson's Business

Transitional Justice Institute

The Committee noted an invitation to Committee Members from the Transitional Justice Institute to a conference on Transitional Justice in the Context of European Convention Obligations: Article 2 and the Package of Measures to be held on 6 November 2014.

OFMDFM – Clarification on Funding for University of Ulster

The Committee noted clarification from the Department following a query raised by Mr Cree during the briefing on the Executive's EU Priorities on 24 September.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the clarification to Mr Cree for information.

Committee Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

4. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2014

Agreed: The draft minutes of the proceedings of 1 October 2014 were agreed by the Committee.

5. Matters Arising

Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsperson Bill

The committee noted an update paper from the NIPSO bill Team.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule the draft NIPSO Bill as a standing agenda item for the rest of October and into November to allow for continued progress on the Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Assembly Commission to remind it of the role proposed for it in the draft Bill, the provisional timetable for the passage of the Bill, and the preparatory action which the Commission may wish to consider.

Inquiry into Building a United Community

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

List of Outstanding Correspondence

The Committee noted the list of outstanding correspondence.

Agreed: the Committee noted that a reply to its correspondence of 24 October 2013 regarding the eligibility for support of individuals under threat from paramilitaries has not yet been received; and agreed to reissue it to the Department for response.

6. Correspondence

Strategic Investment Board Investing Activity Report

The Committee noted correspondence from Strategic Investment Board which provided the OFMDFM Investing Activity Report for September 2014.

Delivering Social Change

The Committee noted the Delivering Social Change Stakeholder Update for September 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request further information on the three new Delivering Social change Signature Programmes, including the funding profile.

Committee for Education

The Committee noted a letter to the Department from the Committee for Education regarding the proposed Programme for Government summer school / camp pilot.

NI Assembly's Code of Conduct

The Committee noted a letter from the First Minister and deputy First Minister to the Committee for Standards and Privileges regarding the Review of NI Assembly's Code of Contact

Central Good Relations Funding

The Committee noted a response from the Department to a Committee request for information on the amount funding provided for individual groups in 2014/15 through the Central Good Relations Fund.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request the criteria for funding in respect of the Central Good Relations Funding Programme.

Childcare Strategy

The Committee noted a response from the Department agreeing to provide an oral briefing on progress in developing a final childcare Strategy at its meeting of 5 November 2014.

7. Victims and Survivors - Assembly Research Paper on Funding for Victims and Survivors Groups in Northern Ireland

An officer from the Assembly's Research and Information Service joined the meeting at 2.11 pm.

Mr Michael Potter, Researcher from NIA Research and Library Services spoke to his research paper on Funding for Victims and Survivors Groups in Northern Ireland.

The Research Officer left the meeting at 2.19 pm.

8. Victims and Survivors - Briefing by Victims and Survivors Service

Witnesses from the Victims and Survivors Service joined the meeting at 2.20 pm

Mr Oliver Wilkinson, interim Chairperson and Ms Margaret Bateson, interim Chief Executive Officer appeared before the Committee for questions and discussion on the Victims and Survivors Service, including budgetary pressures and progress against the implementation of the review recommendations. The briefing was recorded by Hansard.

The witnesses agreed to provide further information as requested by Members.

The witnesses left the meeting at 3.29pm.

9. Victims and Survivors - Departmental briefing

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 3.30pm.

Mr Beggs joined the meeting at 3.30pm.

Departmental officials Mr Ricky Irwin and Mrs Patricia McIntyre appeared before the Committee for questions and discussion on issues relating to Victims and Survivors. The briefing was recorded by Hansard.

Mr Moutray left the meeting at 3.45pm.

Mr McIlveen left the meeting at 4.17pm.

Officials agreed to provide further information as requested on a number of issues.

Departmental officials left the meeting at 4.23pm.

10. Draft Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

11. Any Other Business

Agreed: Members agreed to invite Ministers to brief the Committee on the Departmental expenditure position following the outcome of the October Monitoring round.

The Committee noted that the Department had requested sight of the EU Matters newsletter, prepared by the EU Affairs Manager and circulated to Members at the previous meeting.

Agreed: Members agreed to forward the EU Matters newsletter to the Department for information.

12. Date, Time and Location of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 2.00pm on Wednesday 15 October 2014, in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.25 pm.

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