



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

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

Present: Mr Chris Lyttle (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mrs Brenda Hale  
Mr Alex Maskey  
Ms Bronwyn McGahan  
Mr David McIlveen  
Mr Jimmy Spratt

Apologies: Mr Michael Copeland  
Ms Megan Fearon  
Mr Stephen Moutray  
Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson)

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 2.10 pm.*

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were noted as above.

**2. Chairperson's Business**

Draft Budget 2015/16

The Deputy Chairperson advised that the Department had indicated that officials would be in a position to brief the Committee on the draft Budget 2015/16 at today's meeting, but that no papers would be available for the briefing.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to take a briefing on the draft Budget 2015/16 following the evidence session on the Programme for Government.

#### Dignity and Rights Conference

The Committee noted an invitation from Monica Wilson OBE to a Dignity and Rights conference in the Stormont Hotel on 4 & 5 December 2014.

#### Human Rights Lectures

The Committee noted information from St Mary's University College Belfast on two public lectures on Human Rights and Drones in St Mary's University College on 9 December 2014.

#### Visit by the Latvian Ambassador

The Committee noted that a visit by the Latvian Ambassador to Parliament Buildings was scheduled for 10 December in advance of Latvia's forthcoming Presidency of the European Union, and Members were asked to notify the Committee office if they wish to join the Ambassador for lunch.

#### Committee Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

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

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

### **4. Matters Arising**

#### Assembly Commission

Members noted a short briefing paper following a query raised at the previous meeting regarding whether any statutory committee had responsibility for the Assembly Commission.

#### List of Outstanding Correspondence

The Committee noted the list of outstanding correspondence.

## 5. Correspondence

### OFMDFM: PfG Summer School Pilots

The Committee noted correspondence from OFMDFM to the Committee for Education regarding the Together: Building a United Community Summer School / Camp Pilots.

### OFMDFM: Victims and Survivors Service

The Committee noted a response from the Department providing information in relation to the provision of support and assistance from the Victims and Survivors Service to individuals under threat from paramilitary organisations.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department for clarification on when advice on this matter had been requested from the Commission for Victims and Survivors, and when that advice was received.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Committee for Social Development to seek further information on the Special Purchase of Evacuated Dwellings scheme.

### Victims and Survivors Service

The Committee noted a response from the Victims and Survivors Service regarding the Victims and Survivors Service Outreach Centre in Dungannon. The Committee also noted the Victims and Survivors Service monthly update.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule an oral briefing from the Victims and Survivors Service and relevant Departmental officials following Christmas recess.

### OFMDFM: Together: Building a United Community

The Committee noted a response from OFMDFM on a range of issues on the implementation of Together: Building a United Community

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to add the response to the papers relating to its Inquiry into Building a United Community.

### NI Assembly EU Matters newsletter

The Committee noted the November edition of the EU Matters newsletter produced by the NI Assembly EU Affairs Manager.

## Competition and Markets Authority

The Committee noted correspondence from the Competition and Markets Authority regarding a consultation on draft consumer protection law advice for UK Higher Education providers.

### **6. Joseph Rowntree Foundation - Economic Mobility of Ethnic Minority Communities in Northern Ireland**

*Representatives from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation joined the meeting at 2.25 pm.*

Ms Helen Barnard, Research Manager, Joseph Rowntree Foundation; Ms Jenny Irwin, Consultant, RSM McClure Watters; and Dr Ruth McAreavey, Researcher, Queens University appeared before the Committee for discussion and questions on the report examining the economic and social mobility of ethnic minority communities in Northern Ireland.

*Mr Maskey joined the meeting at 2.27pm.*

*Jimmy Spratt left the meeting at 2.55pm.*

*Mrs Hale left the meeting at 2.59pm. The Committee lost its decision-making quorum. In the absence of a decision-making quorum proceedings continued in line with Standing Order 49(5).*

*The representatives from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation left the meeting at 3.00pm.*

### **7. OFMDFM: Programme for Government Update Report**

*Departmental officials joined the meeting at 3.02pm.*

Departmental officials Dr Mark Browne, Mr Tony Canavan and Dr Paul Geddis briefed the Committee on progress of Programme for Government commitments 15, 16, 17, 26 and 77. Questions and discussion followed.

*Mrs Hale returned to the meeting at 3.03pm.*

*Mr Spratt returned to the meeting at 3.11pm.*

*Mr McIlveen left the meeting at 3.16pm.*

*Mr McIlveen returned to the meeting at 3.22pm.*

The Department agreed to provide further information on a number of issues.

*Departmental officials left the meeting at 3.29 pm.*

## **8. Draft Budget 2015-16**

The Committee considered responses from the Department's Arm's-Length Bodies following its request for details of the priorities with regard to the draft Budget 2015/16, their level of engagement with OFMDFM officials and comment on their draft allocation.

*Departmental officials joined the meeting at 3.31pm.*

Departmental officials Dr Mark Browne, Mr Stephen Boyd and Ms Sinead McCartan briefed the Committee on the draft Budget 2015/16, advising that the OFMDFM consultation document would be available on the Department's website at the end of the week. Questions and discussion followed.

*Mr Spratt left the meeting at 3.32pm.*

*Mr Maskey left the meeting at 3.48pm. 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 Maskey returned to the meeting at 3.55pm.*

*Departmental officials left the meeting at 4.05 pm.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to consider a draft response to the Committee for Finance and Personnel on the draft budget at next week's meeting.

## **9. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme up to Christmas recess.

## **10. Any Other Business**

The Committee returned to decisions under agenda item 6.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the Joseph Rowntree Foundation research on the economic mobility of ethnic minority communities in Northern Ireland to OFMDFM for consideration as part of the development of the draft Racial Equality Strategy.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the research to the relevant statutory committees for information.

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

The next meeting will be held at 2.00pm on Wednesday 3 December 2014, in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.06 pm.*

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