



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY
FIRST MINISTER
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2015
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson)
Mr Chris Lyttle (Deputy Chairperson)
Mrs Brenda Hale
Ms Bronwyn McGahan
Mr Stephen Moutray
Mr Jimmy Spratt

Apologies: Mr Michael Copeland
Mr Alex Maskey

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 open session at 2.03 pm.

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

2. Chairperson's Business

Ballynafeigh Community Development Association

The Committee noted an invitation from Ballynafeigh Community Development Association to their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 24 February 2015.

Committee Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

3. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2015

Agreed: The draft minutes of the proceedings of 4 February 2015 were agreed by the Committee.

4. Matters Arising

Children's Services Co-operation Bill

Agreed: The Committee agreed to hold a longer meeting on Wednesday 4 March to facilitate an evidence session with regard to the Bill, along with previously scheduled briefings on victims' issues from the Victims and Survivors Service and Departmental officials.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft timetable for Committee Stage of the Bill, which extended the Committee Stage until Friday 3 July 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the wording of a motion to seek an extension to Committee stage until Friday 3 July 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek a briefing from the Health and Social Care Board in relation to the Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek comment from statutory committees with regard to Bill.

Inquiry into Building a United Community

The Committee noted responses from the Northern Ireland Local Government Association regarding membership of the Political Partnership Panel and lobbying of OFMDFM Ministers.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to include both items of correspondence in the papers for its Inquiry into Building a United Community.

List of Outstanding Correspondence

The Committee noted the list of outstanding correspondence.

5. Correspondence

Programme for Government

The Committee noted a response from OFMDFM regarding a number of Programme for Government commitments.

Budget Bill (NI) 2015 and Spring Supplementary Estimates

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding the Budget Bill (NI) 2015 and accompanying Spring Supplementary Estimates.

Delivering Social Change

The Committee noted the Delivering Social Change Stakeholder Update for January 2015.

Joint Ministerial Committee (Europe)

The Committee noted a briefing paper on the meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee (Europe) which took place on 8 December 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the paper to the relevant statutory committees for information.

Strategic Investment Board

The Committee noted copy correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel to the Strategic Investment Board (SIB) regarding the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland Delivery Tracking System; and inviting the SIB to brief that Committee on the review of social clauses in public sector contracts in NI.

6. SR - The Salaries (Assembly Ombudsman and Commissioner for Complaints) Order (NI) 2015

The Committee considered a Statutory Rule on The Salaries (Assembly Ombudsman and Commissioner for Complaints) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015. As the Committee was content with the order the Chairperson read the following into the record:

“That the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister has considered draft SR 18/2015 The Salaries (Assembly Ombudsman and Commissioner for Complaints) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules’ Report, had no objection to the Rule”

7. SL1 - Planning Appeals Commission (Decisions on Appeals and Making of Reports) (Amendment) Rules (NI) 2015

Agreed: The Committee was content for the Rule to be made.

8. SL1 – Planning Appeals Commission (Fees for Deemed Planning Applications and Appeals) Regulations (NI) 2015

Agreed: The Committee was content for the Rule to be made.

9. Inquiry into Building a United Community – Briefing by Northern Ireland Environment Link and the landscape Institute

Witnesses from Northern Ireland Environment Link and the Landscape Institute NI joined the meeting at 2.19 pm.

The Committee noted a number of research papers provided by Professor Hamber following the briefing on 21 January 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to add the research papers to the evidence base of its Inquiry.

Dr Stephen McCabe Northern Ireland Environment Link and Mr Pete Mullin from the Landscape Institute appeared before the Committee for discussion and questions on the Inquiry into Building a United Community. The evidence session was recorded by Hansard.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 2.24pm due to plenary business.

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