



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY  
FIRST MINISTER  
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS  
WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2015  
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson)  
Mr Chris Lyttle (Deputy Chairperson)  
Ms Megan Fearon  
Mrs Brenda Hale  
Mr Chris Hazzard  
Mr Alex Maskey  
Mr David McIlveen  
Mr Stephen Moutray  
Mr Jimmy Spratt

Apologies: Mr Alex Attwood

In Attendance: Mrs Kathy O'Hanlon (Assembly Clerk)  
Miss Karen Jardine (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Stephen Magee (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mr Innis Mennie (Clerical Officer)  
Mr Alyn Hicks (Bill Team - item 9 only)  
Mr Simon Kelly (Legal Adviser - item 9 only)

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

## **1. Governance**

The Chairperson advised Members that notification was received from the Department on Tuesday 15 September at 3.05pm that Ministers were not available to brief the Committee at today's meeting.

The Chairperson asked the Committee if it was content to write to the Acting First Minister and deputy First Minister to express its disappointment at the late notification of the cancellation of the briefing; and to ask for confirmation that departmental briefings scheduled with the Committee in the coming weeks would take place.

*Mr McIlveen joined the meeting at 2.05pm*

Mr Stephen Moutray proposed that the Committee move on to other scheduled business. The proposal was seconded by Mr Spratt and was put to a formal vote in Committee.

Mr Moutray proposed the motion: “*That the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister moves on to other scheduled business.*”

*The Committee divided on the motion proposed by Mr Moutray:*

*Ayes 4*

*Noes 2*

*Abstentions 2*

*AYES*

*Mrs Hale*

*Mr McIlveen*

*Mr Moutray*

*Mr Spratt*

*NOES*

*Mr Nesbitt*

*Mr Lyttle*

*ABSTENTIONS*

*Ms Fearon*

*Mr Hazzard*

*Agreed:* That the Committee would move on to the next item of scheduled business.

## **2. Apologies**

Apologies were noted as above.

## **3. Chairperson’s Business**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Chris Hazzard to the Committee.

### Inaugural Northern Ireland Environment Week

The Committee noted an invitation from the Committee for the Environment to the launch of Northern Ireland Environment Week which is to be held at 6 pm in the Long gallery on Monday 21 September 2015.

### Children's Services Co-operation Bill

The Chairperson advised Members that Consideration Stage of the Children's Services Co-operation Bill is scheduled on the Provisional Order Paper for business on Tuesday 29 September.

### Committee Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

## **4. Draft Minutes of the meetings held on 9 September 2015**

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the proceedings of 9 September 2015 were agreed by the Committee.

## **5. Matters Arising**

### OFMDFM draft European Priorities 2015-16 consultation

The Committee noted the Executive's draft EU Priorities for 2015-16.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that parties would respond to the draft EU Priorities 2015-16 on an individual basis if they so wished.

### List of Outstanding Correspondence

The Committee noted the list of outstanding correspondence.

## **6. Correspondence**

### Committee for Education

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Education regarding its Inquiry into Shared and Integrated Education.

### Committee for Social Development

The Committee noted a copy letter to the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the Committee for Social Development's Inquiry into allegations arising from a BBC Spotlight programme relating to NIHE managed contracts.

## Committee for Finance and Personnel

The Committee noted copy correspondence to the deputy First Minister from the Committee for Finance and Personnel, inviting him to attend that Committee as part of its ongoing investigation into matters relating to NAMA.

### **7. Draft Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted a request from the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission to brief the Committee on the recommendations of the UN Human Rights Committee relating to the seventh report of the UK on compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and on other forthcoming UN processes.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to invite the NI Human Rights Commission to provide a briefing at a convenient date.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the recommendation of the UN Human Rights Committee relating to the seventh report of the UK on compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to relevant statutory committees.

*Agreed:* Members agreed to contact the Clerk with suggestions regarding organisations which could be invited to brief the Committee on issues within the Committee's remit.

The Committee noted the draft Forward Work Programme for September–October 2015.

### **8. End of Session Report 2014/15**

The Committee considered its draft End of Session Report for 2014/15, which included financial information relation to the Committee's activities last year.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft End of Session Report 2014/15; and that it would be published on the Committee's webpage.

*The Committee moved into closed session at 2.15pm.*

### **9. NIPSO Bill**

*Mr Kelly joined the meeting at 2.15 pm.*

#### Legal Advice

The Committee considered legal advice with regard to issues raised by the British Medical Association in relation to the Public Services Ombudsperson Bill.

*Mr Kelly left the meeting at 2.24pm.*

## Draft amendments

*Mr Hicks joined the meeting at 2.26pm.*

The Committee noted and agreed a list of draft amendments from the Drafter regarding a Complaints Standards Authority role for the NIPSO; a power of delegation to persons other than members of staff; and removal and addition of bodies to Schedule 3- listed authorities.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the amendments to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Public Services Ombudsperson Bill for information.

## Constituent Colleges

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to inform the Ad Hoc Committee on the outcome of the Committee's deliberations on the matter of Constituent Colleges, specifically in relation to those colleges associated with the Queen's University Institute of Theology.

*Mr Hicks left the meeting at 2.50pm.*

## **10. Any Other Business**

Mr Lyttle requested that information on the powers of the Committee to compel Ministers to attend a meeting of the Committee be made available in the papers for the next meeting.

The Clerk was asked to liaise with the DALO regarding the scheduling of a departmental briefing.

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

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee is at 2.00 pm in Room 30 on Wednesday 23 September 2015.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.08pm.*

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