



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY  
FIRST MINISTER  
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS  
TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2015  
ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson)  
Mr Chris Lyttle (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Andy Allen  
Ms Megan Fearon  
Mr Chris Hazzard  
Mr Alex Maskey  
Mr David McIlveen

Apologies: Mr Stephen Moutray

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 3 only)

*The meeting began in closed session at 12.03 pm.*

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were as recorded above.

**2. Draft Minutes of the meetings held on 7 October 2015**

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the proceedings of 7 October 2015 were agreed by the Committee.

**3. NIPSO Bill**

*Mr Alyn Hicks joined the meeting at 12.03pm.*

## Local Government Ethical Standards Complaints

The Chairperson reminded Members of the briefing received from the Ombudsman and the Deputy Ombudsman on Wednesday 7 October regarding additional amendments to the NIPSO Bill relating to adjudication hearings in respect of Code of Conduct Complaints under the Local Government Act 2014.

The Chairperson advised that while amendments tabled at Further Consideration Stage are not restricted to the purely technical, it would be preferable that more substantive amendments such as the ones under consideration are tabled at Consideration Stage.

*Ms Megan Fearon and Mr Chris Hazzard joined the meeting at 12.04pm.*

Members noted papers provided by the Ombudsman in respect this matter, and also draft amendments which had been prepared by the Drafter. The Committee noted that the Ombudsman was content with the Drafter's amendments and that Department of the Environment officials considered that the Drafter's amendments reflected what the Minister had agreed with the Ombudsman.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the final text of the amendments, as prepared by the Drafter to give effect to the policy requested by the Ombudsman.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to table these amendments and would do so at Consideration Stage rather than Further Consideration Stage.

The Committee noted that an amendment to Section 63 under consideration was mutually exclusive to an amendment which the Committee had previously tabled to Section 63.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to table both amendments, as the previously tabled amendment would not be moved, if the new amendment was agreed.

## Committee on Standards and Privileges

Members noted correspondence from the Clerk of Standards advising the Committee that the Commissioner for Standards is currently being consulted with regard to a potential amendment from the Committee on Standards and Privileges to bring the Commissioner under the remit of the NIPSO.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to await the outcome of the consultation with the Commissioner for Standards.

#### **4. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

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

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee is at 2.00 pm in Room 30 on Wednesday 14 October 2015.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.15pm.*

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