



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY  
FIRST MINISTER  
DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS  
WEDNESDAY 20 JANUARY 2016  
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson)  
Mr Chris Lyttle (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Andy Allen  
Mr Alex Attwood  
Mr Paul Frew  
Mr Chris Hazzard  
Mr Alex Maskey

Apologies: Ms Megan Fearon  
Mr Gordon Lyons

In Attendance: Mrs Kathy O'Hanlon (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Christopher McNickle (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Stephen Magee (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mr Joe Westland (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mr Bill Kinnear (Clerical Officer)  
Mr Alyn Hicks (Bill Team – Item 1 only)

*The meeting began in closed session at 2.04 pm.*

**1. NIPSO Bill**

*Mr Alyn Hicks joined the meeting at 2.04 pm.*

*Mr Alex Maskey joined the meeting at 2.06 pm.*

The Committee considered correspondence from the Speaker with regard to an Exceptional Further Consideration Stage for the Public Services Ombudsman Bill.

Mr Maskey reiterated Sinn Féin's objections to provisions contained in Clause 50 of the Bill.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to table the following motion:  
*“That Standing Order 37A (1), (2) and (3) (b) & (c) and  
Standing Order 39(1) be suspended in respect of the*

*Exceptional Further Consideration Stage of the Public Services Ombudsman Bill.”*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to thank the Speaker for his advice and indicate that the Committee wishes to schedule an Exceptional Further Consideration Stage. The response will include the background and rationale for the amendment, the terms of the amendment and the wording of the Motion for the Speaker to provide the Business Committee and all Members.

*Mr Alyn Hicks left the meeting at 2.10 pm.*

*The meeting moved into public session at 2.10pm.*

## **2. Apologies**

Apologies were as recorded above.

## **3. Chair’s Business**

### Commission for Victims and Survivors

The Committee noted a ‘save the date’ notice from the Commission for Victims and Survivors to a review of the Victims and Survivors Strategy 2009-19 which is to be held in Titanic Belfast on 9 and 10 March 2016.

### Current Committee Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

## **4. Draft Minutes**

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the proceedings of 13 January 2016 were agreed by the Committee.

## **5. Matters Arising**

*Mr Chris Hazzard MLA joined the meeting at 2.15 pm.*

### Transfer of Functions Order

The Committee noted correspondence from the Chief Executive of The Orchardville Society raising concerns about the proposed transfer of Employment Services to the proposed Department for Communities.

- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Committee for Employment and Learning, the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment and the Committee for Social Development for their views on the concerns raised.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to copy the correspondence to OFMDFM in advance of next week's briefing on the Transfer of Functions Order.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to ask OFMDFM-sponsored arm's length bodies for their views on the proposed transfer of OFMDFM functions.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to ask Assembly statutory committees for clarification on consultation with or representation from stakeholders on the transfer of functions.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to request a breakdown of the number of staff that will follow each function being transferred from OFMDFM to another department.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to recommend in its Legacy Report that its successor Committee review the efficacy of the restructured Executive Departments.

### Outstanding Correspondence

The Committee noted the list of outstanding correspondence.

## **6. Correspondence**

### Committee for Finance and Personnel

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding the 2014-20 PEACE IV Programme.

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

The Committee noted correspondence from the Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer proposing that the Committee receives written briefings on the Sexual Orientation Strategy and the Gender Equality Strategy, followed by oral briefings when the strategies are sufficiently developed.

The Committee noted that the draft Forward Work Programme had been updated to show that the First Minister and deputy First Minister will appear before the Committee on 10 February.

The Committee noted that Committee staff have requested clarification on the provision of Historical Institutional Abuse options papers to the Executive, following comments made by junior Minister Pengelly at Question Time on Monday 18 January.

## **8. Age Discrimination Legislation Consultation – Departmental Briefing**

*Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.30pm.*

Mrs Margaret Rose McNaughton, Mrs Bebhinn Ni Bhriain and Ms Jenny Laverick, OFMDFM, briefed the Committee on the outcome of the consultation on proposals to extend Age Discrimination Legislation. A question and answer session followed.

*Agreed:* The officials agreed to provide further information as discussed during the briefing.

*The witnesses left the meeting at 3.21 pm.*

## **9. EU Equal Treatment Directive – Departmental Briefing**

*Departmental officials joined the meeting at 3.21 pm.*

Mrs Margaret Rose McNaughton, OFMDFM and Mr David McGowan OFMDFM briefed the Committee on the draft EU Equal Treatment Directive. A question and answer session followed.

*Mr Chris Hazzard MLA left the meeting at 3.26 pm.*

*Agreed:* The officials agreed to provide further information as discussed during the briefing.

*The officials left the meeting at 3.36 pm.*

## **10. EU Equal Treatment Directive – Equality Commission NI Briefing**

*Representatives from the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland joined the meeting at 3.36pm*

Dr Evelyn Collins CBE, Chief Executive, Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and Mrs Roisin Mallon, Senior Policy Officer, Equality Commission for Northern Ireland briefed the Committee on the draft EU Equal Treatment Directive. A question and answer session followed.

*Agreed:* The witnesses agreed to provide further information as discussed during the briefing.

*The witnesses left the meeting at 3.49 pm.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that, at its next meeting, it would consider a draft letter to the House of Commons and to the House of Lords EU scrutiny committees conveying the main areas of discussion on the EU Equal Treatment Directive with OFMDFM officials and ECNI.

### **11. Draft Committee EU Priorities Report**

The Committee considered its draft submission to be included in the Committee Report on the Assembly EU Priorities for 2016.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed its draft submission to be included in the Committee Report on the Assembly EU Priorities for 2016, as amended.

### **12. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

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

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee is at 2pm in Room 30 on Wednesday 27 January 2016.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.55 pm.*

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