



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY  
FIRST MINISTER  
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS  
WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2016  
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson)  
Mr Andy Allen  
Ms Megan Fearon  
Mr Gordon Lyons  
Mr Alex Maskey

Apologies: Mr Paul Frew

In Attendance: Mrs Kathy O'Hanlon (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Christopher McNickle (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Stephen Magee (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mr Bill Kinnear (Clerical Officer)

*The meeting began in public session at 2.08 pm.*

**1. Apologies**

Apologies are recorded above.

**2. Chair's Business**

Rescheduled briefings

The Committee noted that, in view of the extraordinary plenary session, the evidence session with the First Minister and deputy First Minister has been rescheduled to 9 March 2016. The Departmental briefing on the Programme for Government will also be rescheduled.

Grand Chinese New Year Showcase 2016

The Committee noted an invitation to the Committee Chairperson from the Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Belfast and the Chairman of the Chinese Welfare Association to a Grand Chinese New Year Showcase 2016 event, which is to

be held in the Ulster Hall on Sunday 21 February 2016. The Chairperson advised he would not be able to attend the event due to diary commitments.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that any Member wishing to attend in place of the Chairperson should notify Committee staff.

#### Regenerate

The Committee noted a request from Regenerate to present its work on flags and bonfires to the Committee.

*The Chairperson advised the Committee he has previously met with Regenerate in another capacity.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to arrange a briefing from Regenerate.

#### Summer Camps Pilot Programme 2015/16 Reunion Event

The Committee noted an invitation from OFMDFM to a Summer Camps Pilot Programme 2015/16 Reunion Event which is to be held in W5 and the SSE Arena, Belfast, on Saturday 13 February 2016.

#### United Youth

The Committee noted an invitation to an event to celebrate, recognise and showcase the achievements of the United Youth pilots which is to be held at Titanic Belfast on Tuesday 1 March 2016.

#### Review of the Strategy for Victims and Survivors 2009-19

The Committee noted a request from the Commission for Victims and Survivors for the Committee to engage with the evaluators appointed to conduct a review of the Strategy for Victims and Survivors 2009-19.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to arrange an informal meeting with the evaluators.

#### European Scrutiny Committee

The Committee noted a request from the House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee to include correspondence from the OFMDFM Committee as an annex to their forthcoming report on the proposed EU Equal Treatment Directive.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to the request.

#### Current Committee Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

### **3. Draft Minutes**

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the proceedings of 27 January 2016 were agreed by the Committee.

### **4. Matters Arising**

#### Public Services Ombudsman Bill

The Committee considered a draft press release on the Final Stage of the Public Services Ombudsman Bill.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to issue the press release following the Final Stage of the Bill, subject to minor editorial change if required.

#### Historical Institutional Abuse

The Committee considered a response from OFMDFM regarding the issue of redress for victims of institutional abuse and those victims who fall outside the remit of the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to ask for confirmation of whether the options papers for those victims outside the remit of the current inquiry have been shared with the Executive.

*Agreed:* Members agreed to invite Amnesty International and Survivors and Victims of Institutional Abuse to brief the Committee.

#### Public Achievement

The Chairperson informed the Committee that, subject to confirmation, an informal meeting with Public Achievement had been arranged for Wednesday 17 February at 1.00pm in Room 216.

#### Outstanding Correspondence

The Committee noted the list of outstanding correspondence.

### **5. Correspondence**

#### All Party Group on Visual Impairment

The Committee noted correspondence from the All Party Group on Visual Impairment regarding the Disability Strategy.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the correspondence to OFMDFM for comment.

#### Active Ageing Strategy

The Committee noted correspondence from OFMDFM providing a copy of the Active Ageing Strategy and the Consultation Analysis Report.

#### Maze Long Kesh

The Committee noted the Maze Long Kesh Development Corporation Annual Report and Accounts 2014-15.

#### Commissioner for Older People

The Committee noted the Commissioner for Older People for Northern Ireland Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2015.

#### EU Affairs Manager

The Committee noted the latest issue of EU Matters newsletter which was prepared by the Assembly's EU Affairs Manager.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Assembly's EU Affairs Manager regarding the UK Government engagement with devolved administrations on EU renegotiation.

*Agreed:* Members agreed to invite the Minister for Europe, Rt. Hon. David Lidington to brief the Committee.

#### Northern Ireland Open Government Network

The Committee noted information from the Northern Ireland Open Government Network in follow up to the briefing on 6 January 2016.

#### ISNI Procurement Activity Report

The Committee noted the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland Procurement activity Report for January 2016

#### Together: Building a United Community

The Committee noted correspondence from OFMDFM regarding the Together: Building a United Community Cross Community Youth Sports Programme Pilot Project Evaluation.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the evaluation to the Committee for Culture, Arts and leisure for information.

## The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission

The Committee noted the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission Draft Strategic Plan 2016-2019.

## Delivering Social Change

The Committee noted the Delivering Social Change Stakeholder update for January 2016.

## **6. Draft Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted the Draft Forward Work Programme.

## **7. Draft Departments (Transfer of Functions) Order (NI) 2015**

The Committee noted the responses received from statutory Assembly committees and OFMDFM arm's length bodies on the proposed transfer of functions.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to copy the responses to OFMDFM.

The Committee considered the proposal for the Departments (Transfer of Functions) Order (NI) 2015.

*Agreed:* The Committee is content for the Order to be made.

*Agreed:* The Committee recommends that a short, focused ex-post review of the transfer of functions should be conducted six months after the Order comes into effect.

## **8. Assembly Committee European Priorities Report**

The Committee considered its draft Report on the Assembly's European Priorities for 2016.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the Membership and Powers.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the report Introduction.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the Assembly Committee EU Priorities.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the list of Appendices to be included in the Report.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to create a link on the Committee's webpage to the full report.

- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to create a link on the Committee's webpage to the relevant extracts of the Minutes of Proceedings.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to create a link on the Committee's webpage to the written submissions.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to create a link on the Committee's webpage to the Research Papers.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that this Report be the sixteenth report of the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister to the Assembly.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to publish the report.
- Agreed:* In view of the time pressures on plenary business leading up to dissolution, the Committee agreed not to table a motion for debate on its Report on the Assembly's European Priorities for 2016. The Committee agreed that the Clerk should make the necessary consequential editorial amendment to the Report to reflect this decision.

## **9. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

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

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee is at 2pm in Room 30 on Wednesday 17 February 2016.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 2.30 pm.*

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