



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY
FIRST MINISTER
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2016
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

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

Apologies: None

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 2.03 pm.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Chair's Business

Commission for Victims and Survivors

The Committee noted an invitation from the Commission for Victims and Survivors to a conference on the Strategy for Victims and Survivors 2009–19 which is to be held at Titanic Belfast on 9 and 10 March.

Acquired Brain Injury

The Committee noted an invitation to a conference on childhood acquired brain injury which is to be held at Queen's University, Belfast, on Friday 11 March.

NICVA

The Committee noted a request from NICVA to hold an informal meeting with the relevant Departmental Monitoring Group before the end of the Assembly term.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chairperson attend a round table discussion with the group after the Legacy Report has been agreed.

Current Committee Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The draft minutes of the proceedings of 10 February 2016 were agreed by the Committee.

4. Matters Arising

Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry

The Chairperson advised Members that a briefing from Amnesty International and SAVIA had been scheduled for 2 March.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the OFMDFM correspondence of 3 February to Amnesty International and SAVIA for information.

The Chairperson noted correspondence from the First Minister and deputy First Minister with regard to the Mother & Baby Homes/Magdalene Asylums (Laundries) and clerical abuse options papers.

Agreed: The Committee agreed not to request a briefing on the options papers from Departmental officials. Members noted their intention to discuss this matter with the First Minister and deputy First Minister during the briefing on 9 March.

Mr Gordon Lyons MLA joined the meeting at 2.09 pm.

Outstanding Correspondence

The Committee noted the list of outstanding correspondence.

5. Correspondence

Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People

The Committee noted correspondence from the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People with regard to its “Report on Fund-Mapping: The Investment of Public Resources in the Wellbeing of Children and Young People in Northern Ireland”.

Ballynafeigh Community Development Association

The Committee noted a response from OFMDFM with regard to funding for Ballynafeigh Community Development Association.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the response to Ballynafeigh Community Development Association for information.

European issues

The Committee noted a response from OFMDFM to issues raised during the briefing by officials from the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels on 9 December 2015.

Committee for Finance and Personnel

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel with regard to PEACE IV and INTERREG V EU Funding Programmes.

Minority Ethnic Development Fund

The Committee noted correspondence from OFMDFM with regard to the Minority Ethnic Development Fund 2016/17.

Ms Megan Fearon MLA joined the meeting at 2.12 pm.

Flags Protocol

The Committee noted correspondence from OFMDFM with regard to an update on the review of the Flags Protocol, and on the establishment of the Commission on Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition, as outlined in the Stormont House Agreement.

6. Draft Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Draft Forward Work Programme.

The Committee noted that a briefing from Regenerate had been scheduled for 16 March.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite researchers from Queen's University, Belfast, to provide a briefing on their recent report "Flags: Towards a new understanding."

7. Legislative Consent Motion – Northern Ireland (Stormont Agreement and Implementation Plan) Bill

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2:13 pm.

Neil Jackson, OFMDFM; Joanne McBurney, Department of Finance and Personnel and Simon Rogers, Department of Justice, briefed the Committee on the Legislative Consent Motion (LCM) on the Northern Ireland (Stormont Agreement and Implementation Plan) Bill. A question and answer session followed.

The session was recorded by Hansard.

Mr Chris Lyttle MLA joined the meeting at 2.20 pm.

Departmental officials left the meeting at 2:36 pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek the views of the Committee for Finance and Personnel and the Committee for Justice on the LCM.

8. Inquiry into Building a United Community

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2:37 pm.

Dr Mark Browne; Mrs Gráinne Killen; and Miss Donna Blaney, OFMDFM, briefed the Committee on the implementation of recommendations from the Committee's Inquiry into Building a United Community. A question and answer session followed.

The session was recorded by Hansard.

The Committee noted correspondence from OFMDFM on Programme for Government Commitments, a number of which related to Together: Building a United Community.

Mr Paul Frew MLA joined the meeting at 2.43 pm.

Mr Chris Hazzard MLA left the meeting at 3.08 pm.

Mr Andy Allen MLA left the meeting at 3.45 pm.

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

Departmental officials left the meeting at 3.55 pm.

9. Delivering Social Change

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 3.55 pm

Dr Mark Browne, OFMDFM and Mr Joe Reynolds, OFMDFM briefed the Committee on the Delivering Social Change Signature Programmes. A question and answer session followed.

Mr Andy Allen MLA returned to the meeting at 4.09 pm.

Mr David McIlveen MLA left the meeting at 4.23 pm.

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

Departmental officials left the meeting at 4.35 pm.

10. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Date, Time and Location of next meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee is at 2pm in Room 30 on Wednesday 24 February 2016.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.36 pm.

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