



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY
FIRST MINISTER
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2016
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

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

Apologies: Mr Chris Lyttle (Deputy Chairperson)
Ms Megan Fearon

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 2.05 pm.

1. Apologies

Apologies are noted above.

2. Chair's Business

Together: Building a United Community

The Committee noted an invitation from the Education Authority to Capacity Building Workshops for the Together: Building a United Community summer camps.

Strategy for Victims and Survivors

The Committee noted that an informal meeting with the evaluators appointed to conduct a review of the Strategy for Victims and Survivors 2009-19 has been arranged for Tuesday 8 March at 1pm in Room 217.

Current Committee Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

EU Quarterly Update

The Committee noted that the quarterly update from the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels has been received in the Committee Office and will be included in next week's pack.

Agreed: The Committee is content for the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels to issue the update directly to statutory committees at the same time as other stakeholders.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The draft minutes of the proceedings of 17 February 2016 were agreed by the Committee.

4. Matters Arising

Funding for Dealing with the Past

The Chairperson informed Members that if the £30m allocated to Dealing with the Past, in the 2016-17 Budget, is not spent in year it cannot be carried forward for future years.

Mr Alex Maskey MLA joined the meeting at 2:13pm.

Agreed: The Clerk will forward email correspondence on this matter to Members.

The Committee noted that the Department is still to respond to the Committee's request for a breakdown of the budget allocations for the Executive Office for 2016-17.

Outstanding Correspondence

The Committee noted the list of outstanding correspondence.

5. Correspondence

Active Ageing Strategy

The Committee noted correspondence from OFMDFM regarding the Active Ageing Strategy 2015-21 Annual Indicators.

Age Discrimination Legislation and the draft EU Equal Treatment Directive

The Committee noted a response from OFMDFM with regard to Age Discrimination legislation and the draft EU Equal Treatment Directive.

European Scrutiny Committee

The Committee noted correspondence from the European Scrutiny Committee advising that correspondence on the Committee's consideration of the proposed Equal Treatment Directive had been brought to the attention of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Women, Equalities and Family Justice.

Investigating Links in Achievement and Deprivation research

The Committee noted a response from OFMDFM with regard to the Investigating Links in Achievement and Deprivation research.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to copy the response to the Committee for Education.

Northern Ireland European Regional Forum

The Committee noted a response from Belfast City Council with regard to the Northern Ireland European Regional Forum

Joint Ministerial Committee (Europe)

The Committee noted a response from OFMDFM with regard to the Joint Ministerial Committee (Europe).

Agreed: The Committee agreed to copy the response to relevant statutory committees.

Committee for Employment and Learning

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Employment and Learning on its Report on its Inquiry on post Special Educational Need provision in education, employment and training for those with learning disabilities in Northern Ireland.

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

Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

The Committee noted a response from the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland with regard to complaints about Departmental breaches of equality schemes by arm's length bodies.

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

The Committee noted correspondence from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency on its consultation on Output Geography for the Updated Multiple Deprivation Measure.

Tackling Awareness of Mental Health Issues

The Committee noted correspondence from Tackling Awareness of Mental Health Issues on the promotion of positive mental health.

6. Draft Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Draft Forward Work Programme.

7. Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People

Representatives from the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People joined the meeting at 2:15 pm.

Ms Koulla Yiasouma, Commissioner for Children and Young People, and Ms Mairéad McCafferty, Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People briefed the Committee on the ongoing work of the Commissioner. A question and answer session followed.

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

Chris Hazzard MLA left the meeting at 2:56pm.

Gordon Lyons MLA left the meeting at 2:59pm.

Representatives from the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People left the meeting at 3:21 pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed ask the Department to confirm if the Commissioner's Article 24 Reports had been laid in the Assembly by the First Minister and deputy First Minister.

8. Children and Young People

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 3.22 pm.

Ms Margaret Rose McNaughton, Director of Equality, Human Rights and Social Change Division; Ms June Wilkinson, Head of Children and Young People; and Ms

Christine Smith, OFMDFM briefed the Committee on the Executive's input to the UK Government's response to the 'List of Issues' as published by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. A question and answer session followed.

Mr Gordon Lyons MLA returned to the meeting at 3:34pm.

Departmental officials left the meeting at 3.52 pm.

9. Legacy Report

The Committee considered an initial draft of its Legacy Report for 2011 – 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider the report further at its meeting on 2 March.

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 2 March 2016.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.53 pm.

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