



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY
FIRST MINISTER
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 2 MARCH 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 Chris Hazzard
Mr Gordon Lyons

Apologies: Mr Alex Maskey
Mr David McIlveen

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 2.13 pm.

1. Apologies

Apologies are noted above.

2. Chair's Business

Ulster University

The Committee noted an invitation from Ulster University to the launch of the Report "What Survivors Want from Redress" in Parliament Buildings on Tuesday 15 March 2015.

Consumer Council for Northern Ireland

The Committee noted correspondence from the Consumer Council on the launch of the consultation on its draft Corporate Plan 2016-21 and Forward Work Programme 2016-17. Members also noted an invitation to a related event on Tuesday 8 March.

Current Committee Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The draft minutes of the proceedings of 24 February 2016 were agreed by the Committee.

4. Matters Arising

Outstanding Correspondence

The Committee noted the list of outstanding correspondence.

5. Correspondence

Save the Children

The Committee noted correspondence from Save the Children on their election briefing paper 'Reading Northern Ireland's Future'.

Office of the NI Executive in Brussels

The Committee noted the Office of the NI Executive in Brussels' Report for November 2015–February 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to copy the report to all statutory committees.

Fair Employment

The Committee noted a response from the First Minister and deputy First Minister with regard to the Teachers Exception of the Fair Employment Legislation.

Committee for Finance and Personnel

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel on the Executive's Draft Budget 2016-17.

6. Draft Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Draft Forward Work Programme. Members noted that matters relating to the Social Investment Fund may be discussed at the meeting on 9 March during the Ministerial briefing or the subsequent briefing from officials on the Programme for Government.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that a separate briefing on the Social Investment Fund would not be required on 9 March.

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

The Committee considered its position on the Legislative Consent Motion on the Northern Ireland (Stormont Agreement and Implementation Plan) Bill.

Mr Attwood and the Chairperson indicated their respective party's intention to table amendments to the Bill at Westminster, and that their support for the Committee's position on the Legislative Consent Motion is without prejudice.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to support the Legislative Consent Motion on the Northern Ireland (Stormont Agreement and Implementation Plan) Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed its Report on the Legislative Consent Motion on the Northern Ireland (Stormont Agreement and Implementation Plan) Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the list of appendices to the Report on the Legislative Consent Motion on the Northern Ireland (Stormont Agreement and Implementation Plan) Bill.

8. SR 2016 No 76 The Departments (Transfer of Functions) Order (NI) 2016

The Committee considered Statutory Rule 2016 No. 76 The Departments (Transfer of Functions) Order (NI) 2016. Members noted that the Examiner of Statutory Rules had not formally reported on the Rule; however, he had indicated that he had no issues to raise by way of technical scrutiny.

Agreed: The Committee recommends that the Order be affirmed by the Assembly.

9. The Departments (2016 Act) (Commencement) Order (NI) 2016 and Ministerial Determination

The Committee noted The Departments (2016 Act) (Commencement) Order (NI) 2016 and the Ministerial Offices (Number and Functions) Determination 2016.

Members noted that the Ministerial Determination will form the basis for the filling of Ministerial offices in the next Assembly mandate.

10. SR 2016 No 35 The Salaries (Assembly Ombudsman and Commissioner for Complaints) Order (NI) 2016.

The Committee considered Statutory Rule 2016 No. 35 The Salaries (Assembly Ombudsman and Commissioner for Complaints) Order (NI) 2016. Members noted that the Examiner of Statutory Rules had raised no issues by way of technical scrutiny.

Agreed: The Committee had no objection to the rule.

11. SL1: Public Services Ombudsman Salary

The Committee considered a proposal by the Assembly Commission to make an Order to set the salary of the Public Services Ombudsman.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the proposal for the Rule.

12. Historical Institutional Abuse

Representatives from Amnesty International UK and Survivors and Victims of Institutional Abuse joined the meeting at 2:32 pm.

Mr Patrick Corrigan, Programme Director Amnesty International and Ms Margaret McGuckin, Chairperson, Survivors and Victims of Institutional Abuse (SAVIA), briefed the Committee on victims not covered by the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry and potential redress for victims within the scope of the Inquiry. A question and answer session followed.

Mr Chris Lyttle, MLA joined the meeting at 2:53 pm.

Representatives from Amnesty International UK and SAVIA left the meeting at 3:19 pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the First Minister and deputy First Minister to: request that Amnesty International and SAVIA are formally briefed on the Executive's decisions of 10 February relating to historical abuse; confirm that work on both options will be completed within six months and subsequent decisions made within two months; and confirm that the matter of redress will be included as a commitment within the next Programme for Government and a budget line established.

13. Children and Young People

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 3.24 pm.

Ms Margaret Rose McNaughton, Director of Equality, Human Rights and Social Change Division and Dr Martin Tyrrell, briefed the Committee on progress on the first phase of the Childcare Strategy and the development of the full Strategy. A question and answer session followed.

Mr Andy Allen MLA joined the meeting at 3:41 pm.

Ms Megan Fearon MLA left the meeting at 4:14pm.

Agreed: The officials will provide further information as discussed during the briefing.

Departmental officials left the meeting at 4.22 pm.

14. Sexual Orientation Strategy

The Committee noted correspondence from OFMDFM on the Sexual Orientation Strategy.

15. Legacy Report

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

Agreed: The Committee agreed to suggest that the new Committee formalises arrangements for more frequent briefings by the First Minister and deputy First Minister early in the new mandate.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to formally consider the final draft of the Legacy Report at its meeting on 9 March 2016.

16. End of Session Report

The Committee considered a draft of its End of Session Report for 2015–2016, which will form part of the final Legacy Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider the final draft of its End of Session Report, for inclusion in the Legacy Report, at its meeting on 9 March 2016.

17. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

18. Date, Time and Location of next meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee is at 2pm in Room 30 on Wednesday 9 March 2016.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4:34 pm.

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