



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY
FIRST MINISTER
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 9 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 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 2.01 pm.

1. Apologies

Apologies are noted above.

2. Chair's Business

Open Government Network

The Committee noted an invitation from the Open Government Network to their event 'Open Government for the Common Good' on 16 March; and also to their event 'How Would You Spend Your Council's Money' on 18 March 2016.

Current Committee Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The draft minutes of the proceedings of 2 March 2016 were agreed by the Committee.

Ms Megan Fearon MLA joined the meeting at 2:03pm.

Mr Alex Maskey MLA joined the meeting at 2:03pm.

4. Programme for Government – Ministerial Briefing

The First Minister, deputy First Minister and junior Ministers joined the meeting at 2.05 pm

Mrs Arlene Foster, First Minister; Mr Martin McGuinness, deputy First Minister; junior Minister McCann; and junior Minister Pengelly briefed the Committee on the work of the Department.

The briefing was recorded by Hansard.

A question and answer session followed.

Mr Chris Lyttle MLA declared an interest as a Member of the Social Investment Fund East Belfast Area Steering Group.

The Ministers left the meeting at 4.18 pm.

Mr Chris Hazzard MLA left the meeting at 4:18pm.

Ms Megan Fearon MLA left the meeting at 4:18pm.

5. Legacy Report

The Committee considered the final draft of its Legacy Report for 2011–2016. Members noted that a number of editorial amendments would be required and that the Deputy Chairperson had proposed an additional item for inclusion under “Forthcoming Issues”.

Mr David McIlveen MLA left the meeting at 4:20pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the remit and powers section of the Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the “Committee Bills” section of the Report at paragraphs 1 to 3.

- Agreed:* The Committee agreed the “Inquiries” section of the Report at paragraphs 4 to 12.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed the “Legislation” section of the Report at paragraphs 13 to 21.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed the “Policy Scrutiny” section of the Report at paragraphs 22 to 32.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed the “Legislative Consent Motions” section of the Report at paragraph 33.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed the “Forthcoming Issues” section of the Report at paragraphs 34 to 52.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to include “The UK Reporting Cycle to the UN and Council of Europe Treaties” as a Forthcoming Issue.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed the “Work of the Committee during the 2015-16 Session” section of the Report at paragraphs 53 to 83, subject to editorial amendments at paragraphs 65 and 66.

Mr Chris Hazzard MLA returned to the meeting at 4:22pm.

- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that statistical and financial information relevant to the appendices be inserted into the Report after the final meeting of the Committee.

6. Matters Arising

Ministerial Offices (Number and Functions) Determination 2016

The Committee considered the Ministerial Offices (Number and Functions) Determination 2016.

- Agreed:* The Committee recommends that the Ministerial Offices (Number and Functions) Determination 2016 be approved by the Assembly.

Ms Megan Fearon MLA returned to the meeting at 4:23pm.

Mr Gordon Lyons MLA left the meeting at 4:23 pm.

Survivors (North West)

The Committee considered correspondence from Survivors (North West) with regard to a briefing from Amnesty International and SAVIA on 2 March.

- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to invite Survivors (North West) to provide a written briefing.

Historical Institutional Abuse Options Papers

The Committee noted correspondence from the First Minister and deputy First Minister with regard to the Historical Institutional Abuse Options Papers.

Outstanding Correspondence

The Committee noted the list of outstanding correspondence.

7. Correspondence

Northern Ireland Task Force

The Committee noted a response from OFMDFM on the continuation of the Northern Ireland Task Force.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to publish the correspondence on the EU Issues section of the Committee's website.

Mr David McIlveen MLA returned to the meeting at 4:24 pm.

All Party Group on Visual Impairment

The Committee noted a response from OFMDFM relating to correspondence from the All Party Group on Visual Impairment.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the response to the All Party Group on Visual Impairment.

Mr Alex Maskey MLA left the meeting at 4.25 pm.

Building a Prosperous and United Community 2016 Progress Report

The Committee noted a copy of a Written Statement to the Assembly by the First Minister and deputy First Minister on the 'Building a Prosperous and United Community: 2016 Progress Report'.

Together: Building a United Community

The Committee noted a response from OFMDFM on the Together: Building a United Community Engagement Forum.

NI Commissioner for Children and Young People

The Committee noted further correspondence from the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People providing an analysis of restrictions on NICCY's legal work.

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

Belfast Healthy City

The Committee noted Belfast Healthy City's annual Review for 2014/15.

Strategic Investment Board

The Committee noted correspondence from the Strategic Investment Board regarding changes to the Delivery Tracking System's Procurement Activity Report.

Kinship Care NI

The Committee evaluation reports from Kinship Care NI on Caring for Kin Project and Kinship Care Support Service.

EU Matters

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

Departmental Restructuring

The Committee noted correspondence from OFMDFM regarding the Women's Centre Childcare Fund and the functions of the Economic Policy Unit.

8. Draft Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Draft Forward Work Programme.

Mr Gordon Lyons MLA returned to the meeting at 4:28 pm.

9. Statutory Rule: The Victims and Survivors Service Data Retention and Disposal Policy and Schedule

The Committee considered the Victims and Survivors Service Data Retention and Disposal Policy and Schedule.

Agreed: The Committee had no objection to the Schedule.

10. Programme for Government

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 4.29 pm

Dr Mark Browne, Director of Finance, Strategic Planning and Social Change; Mr Joe Reynolds, Acting Director of Programme for Government and Delivering Social

Change; Mrs Margaret Rose McNaughton, Head of Equality, Human Rights and Social Change Division; and Mr Ricky Irwin, Director of Social Investment Fund and Victims Division, OFMDFM, briefed the Committee on progress on the Department's Programme for Government commitments.

A question and answer session followed.

The evidence session was recorded by Hansard.

Mr Alex Maskey MLA returned to the meeting at 4:35 pm.

Mr Alex Attwood MLA left the meeting at 4:45 pm.

Mr Chris Hazzard MLA left the meeting at 4:47 pm.

Ms Megan Fearon MLA left the meeting at 5:00 pm

Agreed: The officials agreed to provide further information on the Maze/Long Kesh Business Plan for 2015/2016.

Departmental officials left the meeting at 5.04 pm.

11. Gender Equality Strategy

The Committee noted correspondence from OFMDFM on the Gender Equality Strategy.

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 16 March 2016.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 5.05 pm.

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