



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**THURSDAY 10 October 2013
Room 29, Parliament Buildings**

- Present: Mr Alex Maskey MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Mickey Brady MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Jim Allister MLA
Ms Paula Bradley MLA
Mr Gregory Campbell MLA
Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
Mr Michael Copeland MLA
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA
Mr Fra McCann MLA
Mr Sammy Wilson MLA
- In Attendance: Dr Kevin Pelan (Assembly Clerk)
Ms Angela McParland (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Stephen Todd (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Stewart Kennedy (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Allison Ferguson (Clerical Officer)
- Apologies: None

The meeting commenced in closed session at 10.05am.

Mickey Brady MLA left the meeting at 11.21am.

The Chairperson declared the meeting open to the public at 11.45am.

Paula Bradley MLA and Fra McCann MLA declared interests in relation to item 5 on the agenda as members of trade unions.

1. Apologies

Apologies were as indicated above.

2. Draft Minutes of the meeting held 3 October 2013

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2013 were agreed.

3. Chairperson's Business

- 3.1 The Chairperson noted that Dolores Kelly MLA has replaced Mark H Durkan MLA on the Committee and welcomed Mrs Kelly to the Committee.
- 3.2 The Chairperson noted that Unison have provided the Committee with a report on Equality of Opportunity and Sustainable Development in Public Sector Procurement – available to members on request.
- 3.3 The Chairperson advised that the Law Centre has asked for Committee participation at its AGM, with an opportunity for stakeholder engagement on the issue of welfare reform and social security. The Chairperson noted that he had been asked to give an introduction on behalf of the Committee and asked for members to indicate whether they intend to take part.
- 3.4 The Chairperson noted that the Committee for OFMDFM will be holding a roundtable stakeholder event on Social Enterprise Hubs and Nurture Units on 13 November and have asked for participation from members of the Committee for Social Development. He asked members to indicate if they will be taking part and noted that the Clerk has written to the Department on behalf of the Committee to ask that it provides representation at the event.
- 3.5 The Chairperson reminded members that they would be receiving evidence on the Pavement Cafés Bill from stakeholders today and that each member had been provided with a Bill folder and a clause-by-clause table.

4. Matters Arising

- 4.1 The Chairperson noted that the Committee was scheduled to discuss Alcohol Licensing today, but as Committee business is running late, this will be postponed until next week. Members were asked to forward comments to committee officials in advance of the discussion.

Sammy Wilson MLA left the meeting at 11.59am.

4.2 The Chairperson noted that the informal meeting with the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Social Protection, scheduled for next week, has been postponed due to the Joint Committee's other commitments. This will be rescheduled for the new year.

5. Issues Facing the Community and Voluntary Sector: Briefing by ICTU

The following officials joined the meeting at 12.00 noon:

- Claire Kelly, UNITE
- Kevin McCabe, NIPSA
- Sean McMonagle, SIPTU
- Brian Pelan, Unison

The officials briefed the Committee on issues facing the Community and Voluntary Sector, indicating that they were seeking to determine a way forward for engagement with the Department and the Committee.

The union representatives stated that it is the Government's responsibility to ensure fair treatment of workers in the sector. They reiterated their desire to establish a tripartite forum - including funders, employer organisations and trade unions - to engage with the Department over the issue of fair treatment of workers

The Chairperson noted that the Committee is keen to see progress on this issue and, if it was content, he and the clerk would meet with the union representatives to discuss options to move this issue forward. The Committee agreed that it was content with this approach.

The officials left the meeting at 12.35pm

6. Pavement Cafés Bill – Oral Evidence Session with NILGA, Belfast City Council, Institute of Licensing and Licensing Forum

The following officials joined the meeting at 12.36pm:

- Mr Derek McCallan, Chief Executive, NILGA
- Mr Trevor Martin, Belfast City Council
- Mr James Cunningham, Institute of Licensing
- Mr Stephen Hewitt, Licensing Forum

The officials briefed the Committee on their response to the Pavement Cafés Bill, outlining their support of their Bill, but highlighting some issues that caused them concern.

During the course of discussion, the need to clearly define what constitutes a pavement café was raised, as well as that of screening to physically demarcate pavement café areas.

Issues around smoking, alcohol consumption and the definitions of public and private land were also discussed. The officials noted that on the last of those issues, there was potential to employ elements of the legislation on Street Trading – an approach that has been adopted in England.

This session was recorded by Hansard.

The officials left the meeting at 1.10pm.

Trevor Clarke MLA left the meeting at 1.11pm.

7. Pavement Cafés Bill – Oral Evidence Session with NIIRTA and Pubs of Ulster

The evidence session was deferred.

8. Pavement Cafés Bill – Oral Evidence Session with IMTAC and Guide Dogs NI

The evidence session was deferred.

9. Subordinate Legislation

9.1. Proposed Statutory Rule: The Social Security (Age-Related Payments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013

The Committee considered the above mentioned proposed legislation and was content for the Rule to be made.

9.2. SL1 The Automatic Enrolment (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013

The Committee considered the above mentioned proposed legislation and was content for the Rule to be made.

9.3 The Social Security (Miscellaneous Amendments No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013

The Committee considered the above mentioned proposed legislation and was content for the Rule to be made.

10. Correspondence

The Committee agreed to follow up on correspondence as noted on the correspondence memo.

11. Forward Work Programme

The Committee was content with the proposed Forward Work Programme.

12. Any Other Business

None.

13. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting will take place at 10.00am on Thursday 17 October 2013 in Room 29 Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1.15pm.

Mr Alex Maskey

**Chairperson, Committee for Social Development
17 October 2013**