



Northern Ireland Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY 17 June 2014

Senate Chamber, 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 Claire McCanny (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Stephen Todd (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Stewart Kennedy (Clerical Supervisor)

The meeting began in closed session at 12.06pm.

1. Apologies

Apologies were as noted above.

2. Chairperson's Business

Agreed: The Committee agreed to take a briefing from officials from the Department of Employment and Learning (DEL) and Department for Social Development on the Statutory Rule SR 150/2014 The Jobseekers Allowance (Schemes for Assisting Persons to Obtain Employment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 at its meeting of 19 June 2014. Following

consideration of this evidence, the Chair indicated that there would be an option for the Committee to rescind its decision to annul the Rule, should it deem this course of action appropriate. The Committee agreed that the agenda for the meeting of 19 June 2014 should be issued to reflect this decision.

3. Matters Arising

The Committee considered the option of rescinding its decision not to produce interim reports in respect of the Inquiry.

The following motion was subsequently proposed:

That the Committee for Social Development produces a stand-alone report on Phase 1 of its Inquiry.

The Committee divided on the motion:

Ayes; 7

Noes; 3

Abstentions 0

AYES:

Mr Alex Maskey MLA (Chair)

Mr Mickey Brady MLA (Deputy Chair)

Mr Jim Allister MLA

Mr Michael Copeland MLA

Mr Stewart Dickson MLA

Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA

Mr Fra McCann MLA

NOES:

Ms Paula Bradley MLA

Mr Gregory Campbell MLA

Mr Sammy Wilson MLA

The motion was carried.

4. Committee Inquiry into allegations, arising from a BBC NI ‘Spotlight’ programme aired on 3 July 2013, of impropriety or irregularity relating to NIHE-managed contracts and consideration of any resulting actions – Review of Evidence for Phase 1

The Committee discussed the written and oral evidence that it had received in relation to Phase 1 of its Inquiry. On the basis of this evidence it considered whether the Minister may have deliberately or inadvertently misled the Committee

Trevor Clarke MLA joined the meeting at 1.06pm.

Gregory Campbell MLA left the meeting at 1.15pm

Paula Bradley MLA left the meeting at 1.17pm.

A consensus could not be reached as to whether the Minister had deliberately or inadvertently misled the Committee. The following motion was therefore proposed:

That the Minister for Social Development deliberately misled the Committee for Social Development.

The Committee divided on the motion:

Ayes; 7

Noes; 2

Abstentions 0

AYES:

Mr Alex Maskey MLA (Chair)

Mr Mickey Brady MLA (Deputy Chair)

Mr Jim Allister MLA

Mr Michael Copeland MLA

Mr Stewart Dickson MLA

Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA

Mr Fra McCann MLA

NOES:

Mr Trevor Clarke MLA

Mr Sammy Wilson MLA

Paula Bradley MLA returned to the meeting at 1.37pm

5. Date, time and place of next meeting.

The next meeting of the Committee for Social Development will take place on Thursday 19 June in the Room 29.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1.41pm.

Alex Maskey
Chairperson, Committee for Social Development

3 July 2014