



Northern Ireland Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY 24 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 12.10pm.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Matters Arising

Agreed: Members agreed to delay publication of minutes from the closed session on 17 June 2014 until the date of publication of its report on Phase 1 of the Inquiry.

Members noted a letter from the Department stating that Michael Sands returned to work on Monday 23 June 2014.

3. 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 – Consideration of Committee’s draft report on Phase 1 of the Inquiry

Agreed:

The Committee agreed paragraphs 1-10 of the report, the Introduction.

The Committee agreed paragraphs 11-19 of the report, relating to the Committee’s Approach to the Inquiry.

The Committee agreed paragraphs 20-24 of the report, relating to Phase One - Process Challenges.

The Committee agreed paragraphs 25-33 of the report, relating to the Background to the Report.

The Committee agreed paragraphs 34-47 of the report, relating to the Timeline of Key Events.

The Committee agreed to amend paragraph 48 of the report to include the names of the representatives from Turkington Holdings Ltd.

The Committee agreed paragraphs 48-59 of the report, relating to Key Points of Evidence from Turkington Holdings, incorporating the agreed amendment to paragraph 48.

The Committee agreed paragraphs 60-72 of the report, relating to Key Points of Evidence from Michael Sands, John McPeake and Declan Allen.

Michael Copeland MLA joined the meeting at 12.18pm.

The motion was proposed *That paragraph 81 be amended to change the word ‘stated’ to ‘claimed’.*

The Committee divided on the motion:

Ayes 6;

Noes 1;

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
Mr Fra McCann MLA

NOES:

Mr Trevor Clarke MLA

The motion was carried.

Agreed:

The Committee agreed that paragraph 88 should also be amended to change the word 'stated' to 'claimed'.

The Committee agreed paragraphs 73-88 of the report, relating to Key Points of Evidence from the Minister for Social Development, incorporating the agreed amendments to paragraphs 81 and 88.

Sammy Wilson MLA joined the meeting at 12.20pm.

Gregory Campbell MLA joined the meeting at 12.20pm.

Agreed:

The Committee agreed paragraphs 89-99 of the report, relating to Key Points of Evidence from the Special Adviser to the Minister for Social Development.

Dolores Kelly MLA joined the meeting at 12.22pm

Agreed:

The Committee agreed to insert the word 'said' into paragraph 106 of the report.

The Committee agreed paragraphs 100-111 of the report, relating to Key Points of Evidence from Barbara McConaghie.

The Committee agreed to amend paragraph 122 of the report to say 'sought a meeting with the Minister', rather than 'invited'. The Committee agreed to amend other references to 'inviting' the Minister to a meeting to 'seeking' a meeting with the Minister where they occur in the report.

The Committee agreed paragraphs 112-123 of the report, relating to Key Points of Evidence from the Minister for Social Development.

The Committee agreed paragraphs 124-135 of the report, relating to Key Points of Evidence from the Special Adviser to the Minister for Social Development.

The Committee agreed to amend '6' to '16' in paragraph 143 of the report.

The Committee agreed paragraphs 136 to 149 of the report, relating to Key Points of Evidence from the DSD Permanent Secretary.

The Committee considered paragraphs 150 to 153 of the report, relating to Key Points of Evidence from Ian Young and Jim McKeag.

The motion was proposed *That paragraph 151 be amended to change the word 'stated' to 'claimed'*.

The Committee divided on the motion:

Ayes 1;
Noes 7;
Abstentions 0.

AYES:
Trevor Clarke MLA

NOES:
Alex Maskey MLA (Chair)
Mickey Brady MLA (Deputy Chair)
Jim Allister MLA
Mr Michael Copeland MLA
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA
Mr Fra McCann MLA

The motion fell.

The Committee agreed paragraphs 150 to 153 of the report.

The Committee agreed paragraph 154 of the report, relating to the Committee's Consideration of Evidence.

The Committee agreed paragraphs 155-159 of the report, relating to the meeting of 25 January 2012.

The Committee considered paragraphs 160-165.

The motion was proposed *That paragraph 165 be amended to change 'Members' to 'A number of Members'*.

The Committee divided on the motion:

Ayes 3;
Noes 6;
Abstentions 0.

AYES:

Gregory Campbell MLA
Trevor Clarke MLA
Sammy Wilson MLA

NOES:

Alex Maskey MLA (Chair)
Mickey Brady MLA (Deputy Chair)
Jim Allister MLA
Mr Michael Copeland MLA
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA

The motion fell.

The motion was proposed *That paragraph 165 be amended to change 'Members' to 'A majority of Members'*.

The Committee divided on the motion:

Ayes 7;
Noes 3;
Abstentions; 0.

AYES:

Alex Maskey MLA (Chair)
Mickey Brady MLA (Deputy Chair)
Jim Allister MLA
Mr Michael Copeland MLA
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA
Mr Fra McCann MLA

NOES:

Gregory Campbell MLA

Trevor Clarke MLA
Sammy Wilson MLA

The motion was carried.

The Committee agreed to add the words 'she had assumed' to paragraph 172 of the report.

The Committee agreed paragraphs 166-175 of the report, relating to Changes to Records.

Paula Bradley MLA joined the meeting at 12.34pm.

Agreed:

The Committee agreed to use the phrase 'the majority of Members' in paragraphs 176-179 and in any instance in the report where the majority position was reflected in respect of the evidence.

The Committee agreed paragraphs 176-182 of the report, relating to lack of Departmental/Ministerial Challenge.

The motion was proposed *That the words 'determined' and 'made' be inserted in paragraph 184 of the report, so as to read '...the determined efforts that the Minister and his Special Adviser made to remove...'*

The Committee divided on the motion:

Ayes 7;

Noes 4;

Abstentions 0.

AYES:

Alex Maskey MLA (Chair)

Mickey Brady MLA (Deputy Chair)

Jim Allister MLA

Mr Michael Copeland MLA

Mr Stewart Dickson MLA

Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA

Mr Fra McCann MLA

NOES:

Paula Bradley MLA

Gregory Campbell MLA

Trevor Clarke MLA

Sammy Wilson MLA

The motion was carried.

Agreed:

The Committee agreed paragraphs 183-187 of the report, relating to the Committee's conclusion.

The Committee agreed "*That the Report be the Seventh Report of the Social Development Committee to the Assembly*".

The Committee agreed in principle to the inclusion of a minority report in an appendix to the main report.

The Committee agreed to send copies of the report to the Minister for Social Development, the Special Adviser to the Minister for Social Development, the Permanent Secretary to the Department of Social Development and Barbara McConaghie for comment, to be received by next week's meeting, for inclusion in the report.

4. Date, time and place of next meeting.

The next meeting of the Committee for Social Development will take place on Thursday 26 June in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1.07pm.

Alex Maskey
Chairperson, Committee for Social Development

3 July 2014