



Northern Ireland Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY 4 September 2014

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 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)
- Apologies: Mr Michael Copeland MLA
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA

The meeting commenced in closed session at 10.04am.

The Chairperson declared the meeting open to the public at 10.47am.

1. Apologies

Apologies were as noted above.

2. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2014 were agreed.

3. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson noted that he and the Deputy Chairperson received an invitation from the Chairperson of the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure to attend an event celebrating 90 years of the BBC in Northern Ireland.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 The Chairperson noted that a debate on the report into Phase 1 of the Committee's Inquiry is scheduled in the Assembly on Monday 8 September.

Paula Bradley MLA left the meeting at 10.53am

4.2 Agreed: The Committee discussed the scheduling of evidence sessions and list of witnesses for Phase 3 of its Inquiry and agreed to return to this at its meeting on 18 September to agree the final schedule and list of witnesses. Members agreed to prioritise scheduling of briefings for Thursdays rather than Tuesdays.

Paula Bradley MLA joined the meeting at 10.57am.

4.3 Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Social Development requesting an update on the status of the fact-finding exercise into the Minister's Special Adviser.

4.4 Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Committee Clerk should continue to liaise with stakeholders to establish the possibility of organising a study visit for the Committee relevant to its housing agenda.

5. SL1 The Social Security (Waiting Days) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Departmental Briefing

The following officials joined the meeting at 11.13am:

- Mr Michael Pollock, Social Security, Policy & Legislation, DSD.
- Ms Rosemary Hughes, Social Security, Policy & Legislation, DSD

The officials briefed the Committee on the proposed subordinate legislation and took questions from members on the various implications of introducing or not introducing the subsequent statutory rule.

The following motion was proposed:

That the Committee for Social Development is content for the Department for Social Development to make the Statutory Rule 'The Social Security (Waiting Days)(Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014'.

The Committee divided on the motion:

Ayes 5;
Noes 3;
Abstentions 0.

AYES:

Mr Jim Allister MLA
Ms Paula Bradley MLA
Mr Gregory Campbell MLA
Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
Mr Sammy Wilson MLA

NOES:

Mr Alex Maskey MLA (Chair)
Mr Mickey Brady MLA (Deputy Chair)
Mr Fra McCann MLA

The motion was carried.

The officials left the meeting at 11.42am

6. SR 203/2014 The Pensions (2012 Act) (Commencement No. 4) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee was content to note the Commencement Order.

7. SR 204/2014 The Pensions (2012 Act) (Transitional, Consequential and Supplementary) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee had no objections to the Rule.

The Chairperson read the following motion into the record:

That the Committee for Social Development has considered the Statutory Rule 203/2014 The Pensions (2012 Act) (Transitional, Consequential and Supplementary) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules' report, has no objections to the Rule.

8. SR 213/2014 The Pensions (2012 Act) (Consequential and Supplementary) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee had no objections to the Rule.

The Chairperson read the following motion into the record:

That the Committee for Social Development has considered the Statutory Rule 213/2014 The Pensions (2012 Act) (Consequential and Supplementary) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules' report, recommends that it be confirmed by the Assembly.

9. Correspondence

9.1 Agreed: The Committee agreed to submit a nil response to the OFDFM Committee's Inquiry on 18 September, unless in the interim any member requests that this be scheduled as a substantive item for discussion.

9.2 Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to DSD for an explanation on year-end surges, outlined in a research paper provided by the Committee for Finance and Personnel, and to ask that copies of the explanations also be forwarded to the Department for Finance and Personnel, as required by the Outturn and Forecast Outturn Guidance.

9.3 The Chairperson noted that Fold Housing Association invited members of the Committee to an event in Ballymena on Friday 5 September about *Floating Support for Older People*. A number of members confirmed that they would attend this event.

9.4 Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the rest of the correspondence as outlined on the correspondence memo.

10. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee agreed the FWP as drafted, but acknowledged that some sessions relating to the Committee's Inquiry may need to be rescheduled.

11. AOB

There was no other business.

The next meeting of the Committee for Social Development will take place on 11 September 2014 at 10.00am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.52am.

Alex Maskey
Chairperson, Committee for Social Development

11 September 2014