



Northern Ireland Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY 16 October 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
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA
Mr Fra McCann MLA
Mr Sammy Wilson MLA
- In Attendance: Dr Kevin Pelan (Assembly Clerk)
Mrs Ashleigh Mitford (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Stephen Todd (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Stewart Kennedy (Clerical Supervisor)
- Apologies: Mr Michael Copeland MLA
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA

The Chairperson declared the meeting open to the public at 10.03am.

1. Apologies

Apologies were as noted above.

2. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2014 were agreed.

3. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson noted that he had been invited to a briefing by the Italian Ambassador to the UK on Monday 20 October. This invitation was extended to all Chairpersons of statutory committees.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 The Chairperson noted that next week's Committee meeting on Thursday 23 October would be held at the offices of the Housing Rights Service in Belfast, to be followed by an informal meeting with the Housing Rights Service's Private Tenants Forum.

4.2 The Chairperson noted that the Housing Rights Service would hold a conference on 6 November and that two members of the Committee had confirmed that they would participate in a panel discussion at this conference. The Chairperson asked any other members wishing to participate to make their intention known to committee staff.

4.3 The Chairperson noted that the meeting would break for lunch following the Inquiry evidence session and reconvene in the afternoon to take a departmental briefing and briefing from Assembly Legal Services.

4.4 The Committee noted that further written evidence in respect of the Inquiry had been received from the BBC.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it would review the documents received from the BBC and invite representatives from the BBC to give evidence to the Committee, should it feel that they could contribute further to the Inquiry.

4.5 The Committee considered correspondence from Frank Cushnahan noting that correspondence from the Committee had been sent to him via a third party.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to reply to Mr Cushnahan, outlining the rationale for this course of action and apologising for any inconvenience caused.

5. 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, Phase 3 – evidence session with Mr Stephen Brimstone

The following witness joined the meeting at 10.19am:

- Mr Stephen Brimstone, DSD Special Adviser

The Committee took evidence from the witness.

Dolores Kelly MLA joined the meeting at 10.24am.

Sammy Wilson MLA joined the meeting at 10.29am.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 10.39am.

This session was recorded by Hansard.

Alex Maskey
Chairperson, Committee for Social Development

23 October 2014