



Northern Ireland Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 30 April 2015
Room 29, Parliament Buildings

- Present: Mr Alex Maskey MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Jim Allister MLA
Mr Roy Beggs MLA
Ms Paula Bradley MLA
Mr Gregory Campbell MLA
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA
Mr Fra McCann MLA
Mr Gary Middleton MLA
- In Attendance: Dr Kevin Pelan (Assembly Clerk)
Mrs Ashleigh Mitford (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Stewart Kennedy (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Richard Reid (Clerical Officer)
- Apologies: Mr Mickey Brady MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA
Mr Sammy Wilson MLA

The meeting commenced in closed session at 10:06 a.m.

1. Inquiry Process Issues

Roy Beggs MLA joined the meeting at 10.08 a.m.

The Committee considered a draft press release in relation to its Report on phase 3 of its Inquiry.

Paula Bradley MLA joined the meeting at 10.09 a.m.

Gregory Campbell MLA left the meeting at 10.10 a.m.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the press release subject to legal advice.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the press release be issued on commencement of debate in plenary.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to provide the Department with an advance copy of the press release.

The Committee noted that, in line with standard practice, the Minister has received an advance copy of the Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed a draft communication to all Members in relation to the Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Committee Office should contact relevant witnesses to inform them of the date of debate and release of the Report.

The Chairperson declared the meeting open to the public at 10.14am.

2. Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2015 were agreed.

4. Chairperson's Business

The Committee noted that the clause-by-clause consideration of the Regeneration Bill has been rescheduled to the 14 May 2015 so that the Department may consider the amendments and recommendations put forward by the Committee at its meeting of 28 April 2015.

The Committee noted an invitation to an Assembly Community Connect event on 19 May 2015 and that there may be opportunity for one member to attend with the chair.

5. Pensions Schemes Bill – EQIA Consultation – Departmental Briefing

Dolores Kelly joined the meeting at 10.19 a.m.

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 10:19 am:

- Gerry McCann
- Doreen Roy
- Gillian McMaster

The officials briefed the Committee on the outcome of the EQIA Consultation on the Pension Schemes Bill. This was followed by questions from members.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the briefing and noted that the Department plans to introduce the Bill in the near future subject to Executive approval.

The representatives left the meeting at 10.43 am.

6. Correspondence

6.1 The Committee considered a correspondence memo

Agreed: The Committee agreed to action the correspondence as outlined on the correspondence memo.

6.2 The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister for Social Development in relation to its report on phase 2 of its Inquiry

6.3 The Committee noted correspondence in relation to the Public Services Ombudsperson Bill

7. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme as drafted.

8. AOB

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing regarding best practice for contractors supplying cavity wall insulation.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Social Development will take place on 14 May 2015 at 10:00am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 10.46 am

Alex Maskey

Chairperson, Committee for Social Development

14 May 2015