



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

# Committee for The Executive Office

## Minutes of Proceedings

**Wednesday 5 February 2025**

**Meeting Location:** Room 30, Parliament Buildings

**Present:**

Ms Paula Bradshaw MLA (Chairperson)

Mr Stewart Dickson MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

Mr Harry Harvey MLA

Mr Brian Kingston MLA

Ms Carál Ní Chuilín MLA

Ms Emma Sheerin MLA

**Present by Video or Teleconference:**

Mr Timothy Gaston MLA

Ms. Claire Sugden MLA

**Apologies:**

Ms Sinéad McLaughlin MLA

**In Attendance:**

Mr Michael Potter (Assembly Clerk)

Mr Tom Armstrong (Assistant Assembly Clerk)

Mr Neil Porter (Clerical Supervisor)

Ms Andrienne Magee (Clerical Officer)

*The meeting commenced at 2.02pm in public session.*

**1. Apologies**

As above.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

*Ms. Claire Sugden MLA joined the meeting at 2.03pm*

**3. Chairperson's Business**

The Chair informed the Committee that she attended a Brave Belfast Cailíní event on 4 February 2025.

**4. Draft Minutes**

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 29 January 2025.

**5. Matters Arising**

The Committee noted historical institutional abuse and truth recovery timelines.

## 6. Inquiry into Gaps in Legislation – Update

The Committee noted a submission from the Equality Commission NI.

## 7. Draft Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the draft forward work programme.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to extend the time slots for the Christian Institute and Women’s Rights Network briefings on 12 February 2025 to 45 minutes each.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to move the briefing from Ulster Human Rights Watch from 26 February 2025 to 19 February 2025 and to invite Decorum NI on that date.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed that they were content to proceed with the briefings as set out in the work programme.

## 8. Correspondence

- i. The Committee noted the summary of Committee correspondence.
- ii. The Committee noted correspondence from The Executive Office on a statutory rule and explanatory memorandum regarding the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 and the Draft Northern Ireland Climate Commissioner Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025.
- iii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance on the Budget 2025 – 2026 round robin exercise.

The Chair advised the Committee that a briefing from the Department on 2025 – 2026 budget will be organised.

- iv. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Economy on the North West Development Fund.
- v. The Committee noted correspondence from National Museums NI on their draft corporate strategy 2025 – 2030.

- vi. The Committee noted correspondence from Investment Strategy Northern Ireland.
- vii. The Committee noted a save the date notice for an Equality Commission Northern Ireland / IMNI Disability Forum event on 27 February 2025.
- viii. The Committee noted correspondence from the First Minister and deputy First Minister on the British-Irish Council summit on 6 December 2024.
- ix. The Committee noted correspondence from the First Minister and deputy First Minister on a notice of intention to make a statement to the Assembly – Storm Éowyn.
- x. The Committee considered a response from the Police Service for Northern Ireland to the Committee’s correspondence for information on historical institutional abuse.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to invite the Police Service for Northern Ireland Senior Responsible Officer for historical institutional abuse to the Committee.

- xi. The Committee noted correspondence from the Examiner of Statutory Rules.
- xii. The Committee noted correspondence from The Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to seek an update from the Department on international relations

- xiii. The Committee noted correspondence from Pivotal.
- xiv. The Committee noted Correspondence from an individual regarding storm compensation from Northern Ireland Electricity.
- xv. The Committee noted an invitation to a NSPCC event on 4 February 2025.
- xvi. The Committee noted a response from The Executive Office to the Committee’s correspondence for information on historical institutional abuse.

- xvii. The Committee noted a response from Survivors Together to correspondence the Committee shared with them.

**9. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

**10. Date, Time and Place of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 12 February 2025 at 2.00pm in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

*The meeting was adjourned at 2.10pm.*

**Paula Bradshaw MLA**

**Chairperson, Committee for the Executive Office**