Northern Ireland Assembly

Committee for The Executive Office

Minutes of Proceedings

Wednesday 11 November 2026

Meeting Location: Room 30, Parliament Buildings

Present:	Ms Paula Bradshaw MLA (Chairperson)
	Mr Stewart Dickson MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
	Mr Timothy Gaston MLA
	Ms Claire Sugden MLA
Online:	Ms Sinéad Ennis MLA
	Ms Deborah Erskine MLA
	Ms Carál Ní Chuilín MLA
Apologies:	Mr Phillip Brett MLA
	Sinéad McLaughlin MLA

In Attendance: Mr Nick Mitford (Assembly Clerk)

Ms Aoife Keating Fitzpatrick (Senior Assistant Clerk)

Ms Sarah-Anne McKinley (Assistant Assembly Clerk)

Mr Neil Porter (Clerical Supervisor)

Ms Andrienne Magee (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced at 2.04pm in public session.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Declarations of Interest

Claire Sugden declared a standing interest, as Bill Sponsor in relation to agenda item 8.

Paula Bradshaw declared an interest in relation to items 6 and 7 as having a family member associated with PSNI recruitment.

3. Chairperson's Business

There were no items of Chairpersons Business.

4. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4 November 2026.

5. Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising.

6. **Oral Briefing: Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland - Abuse of Position for Sexual Purposes by PSNI in relation to Ending Violence against Women and Girls**

The witnesses joined the meeting at 2.06pm.

Members received an oral briefing from:

- Jacqui Durkin, Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland
- Hugh Hume, Chief Executive, Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland
- Jennifer Lamont, Director of Impact, Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland

The witnesses provided an oral briefing on its report Abuse of Position for Sexual Purposes by the PSNI in relation to Ending Violence Against Women and Girls.

Claire Sugden joined the meeting at 2.20pm.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for their attendance.

The witnesses left the meeting at 3.23pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Police Ombudsman to request further information on the following areas:

- The longest case investigated by the Ombudsman's Office involving Abuse of Position for Sexual Purposes (APSP) by the PSNI.
- The number of APSP cases in which supervisory failings were identified.
- A copy of the figures referenced during the oral evidence session relating to APSP from 1 January 2025 onwards.
- Details of incidences of police officers failing vetting requirements during the last five years.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to include APSP reporting in the Committee's Legacy Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Policing Board to ask for an update on its work in the area of APSP and Ending Violence against Women and Girls.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department of Justice to ask for an update on relevant Legislation on future offences in relation to APSP

Agreed: The Committee agreed to take a short comfort break and suspend the meeting.

The meeting was suspended at 3:27pm.

Proceedings resumed in open session at 3.33pm with the following Members present: Paula Bradshaw, Stewart Dickson, Timothy Gaston, Claire Sugden and Sinéad Ennis, Deborah Erskine and Carál Ní Chuilín online.

7. Oral Briefing: PSNI - Abuse of Position for Sexual Purposes by PSNI in relation to Ending Violence against Women and Girls

The witnesses joined the meeting at 3.33pm.

Members received an oral briefing from:

- Zoe McKee, Detective Chief Superintendent, PSNI
- Andrea Hill, Chief Superintendent, PSNI

The witnesses provided an oral briefing on the Abuse of Position for Sexual Purposes by the PSNI in relation to Ending Violence Against Women and Girls.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

The Chairperson thanked the witnesses for their attendance.

The witnesses left the meeting at 4.39pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to issue a press release following its evidence sessions with the Police Ombudsman and the PSNI on the issue of Ending Violence Against Women and Girls.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to share the written briefings received from the Police Ombudsman and the PSNI with the Committee for Justice.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the PSNI to ask for the following information:

- Details of any plans under consideration to introduce psychological assessments as part of the vetting process for new PSNI officers.
- For further detail on the alleged claim referenced during the oral evidence session concerning a political representative and the PSNI investigation into the death of Katie Simpson.
- The figures referenced in the APSP Report relating to C3 Intelligence Departments.
- The number of supervisors disciplined by the PSNI since 2018 in relation to APSP.
- The number of police officers investigated in relation to APSP against other police officers, including whether any cases involved officers who have retired or left the service.
- Information on any additional measures the PSNI considers necessary to reduce the number of police officers subject to APSP investigations.
- What is the PSNI going to do to make the process easier for Constables to report same or higher ranking officers.
- A list of the Vulnerability Cards and Safeguarding processes for people who contact the PSNI.
- The number of cases between 2018 and 2024 where the information has not been passed from hierarchal and C3 sources in relation to APSP.
- The number, if any, incidences where internal PSNI investigations into Police Officers has not been passed on to the Police Ombudsman for NI.
- Plans for the PSNI to conduct further research into the prevalence of APSP in the Force.
- More information in relation to the 30 Police Officers currently suspended in relation to APSP.

8. Oral Briefing: Age Discrimination (Goods, Facilities and Services) Bill – Examiner of Statutory Rules

Agreed: The Committee agreed to move into closed session.

The meeting moved into closed session at 4.45pm.

The officials joined the meeting at 4.45pm.

Members received an oral briefing from:

- Angella Kelly, Examiner of Statutory Rules, NIA
- Roisin Mallon, Legal Advisor, NIA

The officials provided an oral briefing on the Delegated Powers Memorandum for the Age Discrimination (Goods, Facilities and Services) Bill.

Paula Bradshaw left the meeting at 4.47pm and returned at 4.49pm.

Stewart Dckson left the meeting at 4.58pm and returned at 5.07pm.

Carál Ní Chuilín left the meeting at 5.00pm.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

The Chairperson thanked the officials for their attendance.

The officials left the meeting at 5.06pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Bill Sponsor with a full list of the queries raised in the legal advice in relation to delegated Powers contained in the Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to move into open session.

Proceedings resumed in open session at 5.07pm with the following Members present: Paula Bradshaw, Stewart Dickson, Timothy Gaston, Claire Sugden and Sinéad Ennis & Deborah Erskine online.

9. Written Briefing: Strategic Investment Board

The Committee considered a written briefing from the Strategic Investment Board.

10. Correspondence

i. The Committee noted the summary of Committee correspondence.

ii. The Committee noted two responses from the Community Relations Council (CRC) to its correspondence of 8 October 2026 in relation to a breakdown of the projects currently funded by CRC in North Belfast.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ask for further information regarding the Strategic Good Relations Programme (who CRC administer on behalf of TEO), highlighting that contracts for this grant are on hold as TEO have yet approve their Business Case and to ask for an update on the position and a timeline for completion of the review process.

iii. The Committee considered correspondence from the Department of Health regarding a consultation on the disclosure of information held in adoption records to support the operation of the Truth Recovery Redress Scheme.

Agreed: The Committee agree to write to write the Department of Health to ask what Assembly procedure will apply to the regulations and to highlight the importance of introducing these regulations in sufficient time to align with the opening of the Inquiry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ask what work is ongoing between officials to ensure where possible alignment with the DoH consultation with TEO's consultation on the Inquiry Rules and Regulations, which will set out the practical arrangements for how the Redress Scheme will work**.**

iv. The Committee considered a response from the Department of Health to its correspondence of 22 October 2026 in relation to adoption agencies closure in advance of the opening of the Truth Recovery Public Inquiry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department of Health to seek further information on the implications of the planned closure of Family Care Adoption

Services, which is expected to close on 31 March 2027 and to ask whether the closure will have any impact on the work of the forthcoming Inquiry and access to adoption records.

v. The Committee considered correspondence from the Clerk of EU and Interparliamentary Affairs regarding an EU-UK Relations.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ask if there was participation by the First Minister and deputy First Minister in the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee of 10 November 2026, given the current working arrangements with Ministers.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ask the First Minister and deputy First Minister for their view of the recent decision to initiate the Stormont Brake.

vi. The Committee noted correspondence from the Northern Ireland Youth Forum regarding the results from Your Voice, Our Future, a youth-led research project through Northern Ireland Youth Forum.

vii. The Committee noted correspondence from NI Himan Rights Commission - October 2026 E Newsletter.

viii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Northern Ireland Youth Assembly - October 2026 update.

ix. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Health expressing concern regarding the progress of a number of anticipated health-related legislative proposals that have yet to be introduced to the Assembly.

x. The Committee noted a report from the Northern Ireland Fiscal Council - Retention and use of income: How almost £3.5 billion of departmental spending power depends on the Budget Act.

xi. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee of Finance regarding Visual Arts Ireland.

xii. The Committee noted correspondence from an individual in relation to an article and the Age Discrimination (Goods, Facilities and Services) Bill.

xiii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Northern Ireland Community Relations Council – Annual Report and Accounts 2025/26.

11. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the draft forward work programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to proceed with the remaining briefings as set out in the forward work programme.

12. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

13. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday 18 November 2026 at 2.00pm in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 5.17pm.

Paula Bradshaw MLA

Chairperson, Committee for The Executive Office

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