



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for Health

Minutes of Proceedings

1 May 2025

Meeting Location: Room 29, Parliament Buildings

Present:

- Philip McGuigan MLA (Chairperson)
- Danny Donnelly MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
- Alan Chambers MLA
- Linda Dillon MLA
- Diane Dodds MLA

Apologies: None

Present by Video or Teleconference:

- Órlaithí Flynn MLA
- Nuala McAllister MLA
- Colin McGrath MLA
- Alan Robinson MLA

In Attendance: Keith McBride, Clerk
Oliver Bellew, Assistant Clerk
Angela McParland, Assistant Clerk
Jonathan Lamont, Clerical Supervisor

The meeting commenced at 2.02pm in public session.

1. Committee Inquiry: Access to Palliative Care Services - Oral Briefing by Association of Palliative Medicine of Great Britain and Ireland; Regional Palliative Medicine Group; Paediatric Palliative Care Network; and, NI Hospice

The following representatives joined the meeting at 2.04pm:

- Donal Henderson, Chief Executive, Foyle Hospice;
- Angela McIntyre, Chairperson, Foyle Hospice;
- Annmarie Casey, Director of Nursing and Clinical Care, Foyle Hospice; and
- Dr Paul McIvor, Medical Director, Foyle Hospice.

The Chairperson welcomed the representatives and thanked them and their respective organisations for their contributions to the inquiry to date.

The representatives briefed the Committee on Access to Palliative Care.

Órliaithí Flynn joined the meeting at 2.11pm.

Linda Dillon joined the meeting at 2.21pm.

Alan Chambers joined the meeting at 2.56pm.

Danny Donnelly declared an interest as a nurse who has previously worked with patients receiving palliative care.

The Chairperson updated the Committee on correspondence which had been received in relation to cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their attendance.

The briefing session was reported by Hansard.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek further information from the Department on individualised end of life care documentation.

Agreed: The Committee also agreed to seek legal advice on the Department's statutory duty to provide palliative care.

2. Committee Inquiry: Access to Palliative Care Services – Oral Briefing by Research and Information Services

The following official joined the meeting at 3.58pm:

- Sinead McMurray – Researcher – Research and Information Service.

The official briefed the Committee on her research paper on Access to Palliative Care Services: Global Perspectives – How Other Countries Fund and Deliver Palliative Care.

Colin McGrath left the meeting at 4.27pm.

Alan Robinson left the meeting at 4.30pm.

Nuala McAllister left the meeting at 4.33pm.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

The Chairperson thanked the official for her attendance.

[Extract]