



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**AD-HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE NORTHERN IRELAND PUBLIC SERVICES
OMBUDSPERSON BILL**

**TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2015, 10.30 AM ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,
BALLYMISCAW, STORMONT**

Present: Lord Morrow (Chairperson)
Mr Sydney Anderson (deputising for Mr David Hilditch)
Mr Leslie Cree
Mr Colum Eastwood
Mr David Hilditch
Mr Trevor Lunn
Ms Maeve McLaughlin
Mr Gary Middleton
Mr Séan Rogers (deputising for Mr Alban Maginness)
Mr Jim Wells

In Attendance: Ms Shauna Mageean (Senior Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Ms Kate McCullough (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Jim Nulty (Clerical Supervisor)

The meeting opened at 10.32am in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Mr David Hilditch, Mr Cathal Boylan and Mr Alban Maginness

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Sydney Anderson joined the meeting at 10.35am

The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 30 June 2015.

3. Matters Arising

The Committee noted a letter from the Ombudsman in the Republic of Ireland clarifying his remarks regarding complaints from a small business on tendering processes and the appropriate role of the Ombudsman.

4. Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsperson Bill – Committee Deliberations on Bill

Jim Wells joined the meeting at 10.37am

Maeve McLaughlin joined the meeting at 10.40am

Trevor Lunn joined the meeting at 10.41am

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Alyn Hicks and Mr Jonathan McMillen from the Ombudsperson Bill Team.

The Committee received a briefing on the draft list of Amendments proposed by the Committee for OFMDFM by the Bill Team and which included the advice from the Examiner of Statutory Rules and the Office of the Legislative Counsel.

The Committee were also briefed by the Bill Team on those amendments raised which were not taken forward by the Committee for OFMDFM.

Sydney Anderson left the meeting 11.16am

The Committee noted further submissions from the British Medical Association (BMA) and Medical Defence Union (MDU) on clause 11(b) (ii) and 34(2) (d).

Agreed: To meet with the BMA on Monday 14 September 2015

Agreed: To include the BMA and MDU submissions on the website

Sydney Anderson joined the meeting at 11.22am

The Committee noted in relation to clause 18 a Research and Information Service briefing paper provided by the Committee for OFMDFM on Information on Universities.

The Committee noted the Committee for OFMDFM intends to seek further evidence on clause 18 and may have further information available for the next meeting.

The Committee noted the issues raised by the BMA and MDU in relation to clause 30 and 32 and would further consider this matter at its meeting on Monday 14 September 2015 with the BMA.

Jim Wells left the meeting at 11.49am

Jim Wells joined the meeting at 11.53am

Gary Middleton left the meeting at 11.53am

The Committee noted correspondence from the NI Ombudsman seeking an amendment to Schedule 1 and which the Committee for OFMDFM would be seeking an amendment.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development seeking the removal of the Rural Development Council from Schedule 3 and which the Committee for OFMDFM would be seeking an amendment.

Séan Rogers left the meeting at 11.56am

Maeve McLaughlin left the meeting at 11.57am

Gary Middleton joined the meeting at 12.02pm

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department of Justice seeking the inclusion of Police Rehabilitation and retraining Trust in the list of authorities in Schedule 3 and the Committee for OFMDFM has advised it is drafting an amendment to this effect.

The Committee noted a request from the General Teaching Council requesting to be added to the listed authorities in Schedule 3 and the Bill Team advised the Committee for OFMDFM would be seeking the views of the Minister for Education and Committee for Education on this issue.

The Committee noted the correspondence from the NI Ombudsman on the establishment of a Complaints Standard Authority and that the Committee for OFMDFM is seeking a draft of the necessary amendments, subject to commencement by the Assembly Commission when the necessary resources for implementation are available.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Education seeking its views in respect of a single redress mechanism for parents who are dissatisfied with Special Educational Need statements and pre-statement school-based support.

The Committee was briefed by the Bill Clerk on the proposed amendment to the title of the Bill from 'Ombudsperson' to 'Ombudsman'.

5. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee agreed the updated Forward Work Programme.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Monday 14 September 2015 at 2.40pm in Room 29.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.16pm

LORD MORROW

Chairperson to the Ad Hoc Committee for the NIPSO Bill