



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

**TUESDAY 30 JUNE 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
Ms Maeve McLaughlin
Mr Alban Maginness
Mr Séan Rogers (deputising for Mr Colum Eastwood)
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 10.36am in closed session.

**1. NI Public Services Ombudsperson Bill – Briefing from Assembly Legal Services
on Legal Advice**

The Northern Ireland Assembly Legal Team joined the meeting at 10.36am

Jim Wells joined the meeting at 10.47am

Alban Maginness joined the meeting at 10.53am

Séan Rogers left the meeting at 10.53am

The Committee considered the legal advice provide by the Assembly Legal Team on a number of issues raised during the meeting of 23 June 2015 on the Public Services Ombudsperson Bill.

The Northern Ireland Assembly Legal Team left the meeting at 11.03am

The meeting moved into open session at 11.03am

2. Apologies

Mr Colum Eastwood, Mr Cathal Boylan, Mr David Hilditch, Mr Gary Middleton

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 23 June 2015.

4. Matters Arising

Members noted response provided by the Committee for OFMDFM in relation to a number of recommendations made by an individual at the stakeholders' event on 28 May 2015.

Members noted a correction to the correspondence from the Committee for OFMDFM - to insert [*for the NIPSO to*] into the first paragraph.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the corrected version of the correspondence be included in the Committee's report.

5. Public Services Ombudsperson Bill – Committee Deliberations on Bill

Mr Alyn Hicks and Mr Jonathan McMillen from the Assembly Bill Team joined the meeting at 11.06am

Agreed: The Committee agreed to resume its consideration of the Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed it would not be undertaking formal clause by clause scrutiny at this stage.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that in respect of each clause it would consider whether it was broadly content with the clause as drafted, whether it required further information and /or written or oral evidence to assist in deliberations, or if it wished to request that an amendment be drafted either by this Committee or the OFMDFM Committee.

Schedule 1: The NIPSO

Agreed: The Committee was content with Schedule 1 as drafted.

Schedule 3: Listed authorities

Agreed: The Committee was content with Schedule 3 as drafted.

Clause 18: Matters which may be investigated: universities

Agreed: The Committee agreed to defer consideration until further information has been received from the Committee for the OFMDFM.

Clause 23: Decisions taken without maladministration

Agreed: The Committee was content with Clause 23 as drafted.

Clause 26: Form and time limit for making complaint

The Committee noted correspondence from the NI Ombudsman with regards to the time limit for making a complaint.

Agreed: The Committee was content with Clause 26 as drafted.

Clause 32: Privilege and confidential information

Agreed: The Committee was content with Clause 32 as drafted.

Clause 38: Reports and privileged information

Agreed: The Committee was content with Clause 38 as drafted.

Clause 47: Court proceedings and privileged information

Agreed: The Committee was content with Clause 47 as drafted.

The Committee noted the Committee for OFMDFM would provide further information on a number of issues in order that the Ad Hoc Committee can consider the outstanding Clauses and Schedules at the first meeting in September.

Mr. Alyn Hicks and Mr Jonathan McMillen from the Assembly Bill Team left the meeting at 11.35am

6. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee agreed the updated Forward Work Programme

7. Any Other Business

Members considered delegating authority to the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson during recess in relation of Freedom of Information requests received.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to delegate authority to the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson in relation to FoI requests received.

Members noted that paper packs will not be provided by the Committee staff in the new session beginning September 2015.

8. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be 8 September 2015 at 10.30am in Room 21.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.37am

LORD MORROW

Chairperson to the Ad Hoc Committee for the NIPSO Bill