



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for The Executive Office

Minutes of Proceedings

Wednesday 26 May 2021

Meeting Location: Virtually via Video Conferencing

Present by Video or Teleconference:

Mr Colin McGrath MLA (Chairperson)

Ms Martina Anderson MLA

Mr Trevor Clarke MLA

Mr Trevor Lunn MLA

Mr George Robinson MLA

Mr Pat Sheehan MLA

Ms Emma Sheerin MLA

Mr Christopher Stalford MLA

Apologies: Mr Doug Beattie MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

In Attendance by Video or Teleconference:

Mr Michael Potter (Assembly Clerk)

Ms Carla Campbell (Assistant Clerk)

Ms Sarah-Anne McKinley (Assistant Clerk)

Ms Alice O'Hare (Clerical Supervisor)

Ms Andrienne Magee (Clerical Officer)



Northern Ireland
Assembly

The meeting commenced at 2:03pm in open session

1. Apologies

As Above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson informed Members that Doug Beattie MLA would be vacating his role as Deputy Chairperson of the Committee for the Executive Office and, following approval in the Assembly, would be replaced by John Stewart MLA.

The Chairperson expressed the Committee's thanks for Doug Beattie's work during his time in the Committee and wished him well.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19 May 2021.



Northern Ireland
Assembly

4. Matters Arising

The Committee considered a proposed submission by the Committee for the Executive Office to the Committee for Finance in relation to the Executive Office departmental spending plans 2021-22.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the submission to the Committee for Finance.

5. UK Exit from European Union – Oral evidence session with Junior Ministers on EU Matters

The Ministers joined the meeting at 2:05pm

- Mr Declan Kearney, Junior Minister, The Executive Office.
- Mr Gordon Lyons, Junior Minister, The Executive Office.

The Ministers briefed Members on EU Matters.

Christopher Stalford joined the meeting at 2:06pm.

The oral evidence was followed by a question and answer session.

The oral evidence was reported by Hansard.

Trevor Clarke joined the meeting at 3:13pm.



Northern Ireland Assembly

During the evidence the Junior Ministers agreed to provide the Committee with information on any expected delay in Peace Plus funding.

The Chairperson thanked the Ministers for their attendance.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Executive Office to follow up on the Committee's request for an update on the Common Frameworks and to impress on the Executive Office the importance of the Committee being provided with these updates.

6. Special EU Programmes Body – Oral evidence: EU programmes

The representatives joined the meeting at 3:16pm.

- Ms Gina McIntyre, Chief Executive, Special EU Programmes Body.
- Mr Declan McGarrigle, Programme Manager, Special EU Programmes Body.

The representatives briefed Members on Special EU Programmes Body EU Programmes.

George Robinson joined the meeting at 3:26pm.

The oral evidence was followed by a question and answer session.

Christopher Stalford left the meeting at 3:41pm.



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Pat Sheehan left the meeting at 3:48pm.

The oral evidence was reported by Hansard.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their attendance.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Clerk should liaise with SEUPB regarding delays in implementation of the Peace Plus Programme to allow the Committee to raise the issues with the appropriate authorities.

7. Historical Institutional Abuse: Committee Motion – consideration of wording

The Committee considered proposed wording for a Committee Motion calling for a review of the Historical Institutional Abuse Redress Board.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Executive Office to ask for further information on any implications or interference that a review would have on the current processes.

Agreed The Committee agreed to reconsider the Committee Motion at its meeting of 2 June 2021.

8. Correspondence

- i. The Committee noted a written Ministerial statement from the First Minister and deputy First Minister on 20 May 2021.



Northern Ireland Assembly

- ii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs informing the Committee that they are content with The Departments (Transfer of Functions) Order (NI) 2021.
- iii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Communities informing the Committee that they are content with The Departments (Transfer of Functions) Order (NI) 2021.
- iv. The Committee considered a call for evidence on Climate Change Bill from the Committee for Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs, of which significant elements are the responsibility of the Executive Office.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite departmental officials to provide an oral briefing on the Executive Office areas of responsibility in the Climate Change Bill.

Agreed The Committee agreed that the Clerk would prepare a table of the areas of responsibilities to be considered by the Committee.
- v. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance seeking the views of the Committee on a number of items in relation to an Independent Fiscal Council for Northern Ireland.
- vi. The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance forwarding a response from the Department for Finance in relation to the UK Internal Market Act.
- vii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Northern Ireland Assembly European Affairs Manager in relation to the North South Ministerial Council Annual Report 2020.
- viii. The Committee noted a press release from the Northern Ireland Office announcing the intention to appoint advisory committee for the establishment of the Castlereagh Foundation.
- ix. The Committee considered correspondence from an individual requesting a meeting with the Committee in relation to the Mother and Baby Homes and Magdalene Laundries.



Northern Ireland Assembly

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Clerk would liaise with the individual to ascertain if they are speaking in a personal capacity or on behalf of a group.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Executive Office to ask what work was being done to ensure co-design of the process with victims and survivors and what engagement has taken place, or is planned, with individuals or Groups affected.

- x. The Committee noted The Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels “Brussels Report January – March 2021”.
- xi. The Committee noted correspondence from the House of Lords Common Frameworks Scrutiny Committee to the First Minister and deputy First Minister seeking input from the Northern Ireland Executive on the progress of the Common Frameworks programme.
- xii. The Committee noted a statement from the European Commission on opening remarks by President von der Leyen at the joint press conference with President Michel following the Special meeting of the European Council of 24 May 2021.
- xiii. The Committee noted correspondence from the Oireachtas Joint Committee on European Union Affairs acknowledging receipt of an EU Affairs briefing paper and expressing thanks for the recent engagement between the two committees.
Agreed: The Committee agreed to continue engagement with the Oireachtas Joint Committee on European Union Affairs on a quarterly basis.
- xiv. The Committee noted correspondence from BT Group in relation to their launch of Hope United.

9. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme for May to June 2021.



Northern Ireland
Assembly

The Committee considered a proposed timetable for scrutiny of Arm's Length Bodies.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that this timetable should be included in the Forward Work Programme.

10. Any Other Business

None.

11. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 2 June 2021 at 2:00pm, virtually via Starleaf.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15pm.

Colin McGrath MLA

Chairperson, Committee for the Executive Office