



**COMMITTEE FOR EMPLOYMENT AND LEARNING  
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**WEDNESDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2013**

**BELFAST METROPOLITAN COLLEGE,  
MILLFILED CAMPUS**

Present: Mr Robin Swann MLA (Chairperson)

Mr Sammy Douglas MLA  
Mr David Hilditch MLA  
Mr Fra McCann MLA  
Ms Bronwyn McGahan  
Mr Pat Ramsey MLA  
Mr Alastair Ross MLA

In Attendance: Mrs Cathie White (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Vincent Gribbin (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Johnny Lawless (Clerical Supervisor)  
Ms Noreen Hayward (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Phil Flanagan MLA  
Mr David McClarty MLA

*The meeting opened in public session at 10:05 am.*

**1. Apologies**

Apologies are detailed above.

*Ms McGahan left the meeting at 10:07 am.*

**2. Chairperson's Business**

- The Committee considered the motion for the debate on its Inquiry into Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance in Northern Ireland Report.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to motion.

- The Committee noted the meeting with Sir Bob Salisbury on his Review of the Industrial Relations Framework for FE Colleges in Northern Ireland on Thursday 24 October 2013 in Parliament Buildings.

### **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2013**

*Agreed:* The minutes of the meeting were agreed.

### **4. Matters arising**

- The Committee noted a list of matters arising from the previous meeting.
- The Committee considered a Clerks briefing paper on Vacancies and Skills Shortages in Northern Ireland.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the paper.

### **5. Correspondence**

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Correspondence from Derry City Council providing an update on the Collaboration and Innovation Fund.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Committee for Education regarding female participation in STEM Education and Careers.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Department for comment.

- Correspondence from the Committee for Education to the Department for Employment and Learning regarding the OECD International Survey of Adult Skills in Northern Ireland.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental briefing paper for the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister Round Table Stakeholder Event on Delivering Social Change Signature Projects on 13 November 2013.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental response regarding the Department's input into the Gender Equality Strategy.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Correspondence from Queen's University Belfast thanking the Chairperson for his attendance at the 3rd Annual Quart Conference.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the Barroso Task Force Desk Officers.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Assembly Research and Information Service briefing paper on Statistics on Blind and Partially-sighted people in Northern Ireland.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the paper and to forward it to the RNIB NI for information.

- Correspondence from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment regarding its meeting at Exploris Aquarium on 23 October 2013.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Committee for the Environment regarding Exploris Aquarium and Seal Sanctuary.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental response regarding live, closed and proposed Departmental consultations.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to keep a watching brief on Departmental consultations.

- Invitation from the Labour Relations Agency to attend a Lecture, Public Meeting and launch of their Annual Report and Accounts for 2012 – 2013 at Spires Conference Centre Belfast on 19 November 2013.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from Northern Ireland Schools and Colleges Careers Association to its Autumn Conference in the La Mon Hotel, Belfast on 28 November 2013.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from the Prince's Trust and Samsung to their Celebrate Success Awards in the MAC, Belfast on 15 November 2013.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from The Rural Development Council to attend "Making a Difference" Rural Stakeholder Event in the Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown on 30 October.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from the Minister for Employment and Learning to attend the Deloitte Analytical Training Academy Graduation in Parliament Buildings, Belfast on 4 November 2013.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from NOW to attend their Annual Graduation Event in Belfast City Hall on 13 November 2013.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

## **6. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted the draft Forward Work Programme up to 11 December 2013.

## **7. Briefing from Belfast Metropolitan College**

*The representatives joined the meeting at 10:16 am.*

The Committee was briefed by Mr Justin Edwards, Assistant Chief Executive, Director Curriculum, Mrs Carmel McKinney, Centre Manager for Inclusive Learning and Mr Ian Patterson, Programme Co-ordinator for Towards Work and Independence.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*Mr Douglas joined the meeting at 10:25 am.*

*Mr Hilditch declared an interest as a Director of a Football Academy.*

*Mr Ramsey declared an interest as Chairperson of the Assembly All-party Group on Disability*

The representatives agreed to provide the Committee with a copy of the 157 Group of Colleges manifesto and further information on:

- What the College is doing to decrease the number of those Not in Education, Employment or Training.
- What the College is doing to increase uptake in courses in the deprived wards surrounding the campus.
- The number of individuals attending evening classes and a breakdown by age group.
- A breakdown of the courses available for those with learning difficulties, the level of the courses and the success rates.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department and ask for an update on what support it is providing for the football academies and related courses.

*The representatives left the meeting at 11:29 am.*

## **8. Departmental briefing on the Initial Teacher Education Review**

*The officials joined the meeting at 11:30 am.*

The Committee was briefed by Mrs Nuala Kerr, Director of Higher Education and Mrs Carol McCabe, Head of Quality and Initial Teacher Education Branch.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*The officials left the meeting at 11:55 am.*

## **9. Any other Business**

None.

## **10. Date, time and place of next meeting**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday 6 November at 10.00 am in the Include Youth, Omagh Office.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11:56 am.*

**Mr Robin Swann MLA**  
**Chairperson, Committee for Employment & Learning**

**6 November 2013**