



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY  
FIRST MINISTER  
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS  
WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2013  
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson)  
Mr Chris Lyttle (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Leslie Cree  
Mr Colum Eastwood  
Miss Megan Fearon  
Mrs Brenda Hale  
Mr Alex Maskey  
Mr Stephen Moutray  
Ms Bronwyn McGahan  
Mr George Robinson

Apologies: Mr Jimmy Spratt

In Attendance: Mrs Shauna Mageean (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Keith McBride (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Stephen Magee (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mrs Marion Johnson (Clerical Officer)

*The meeting began at 2.02 pm in public session.*

**1. Apologies**

As detailed above.

## **2. Chairperson's Business**

### Visit of the Lithuanian Ambassador to the UK

The Chairperson advised Members that the Lithuanian Ambassador to the UK will be visiting Parliament Buildings on 26 September 2013 as part of the programme for the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of Europe.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that as it was unable to secure attendance by Members, that it would not be able to host the lunch.

### Invite to an Event on Violence and Commemoration

The Committee noted an invitation to attend an event at Crumlin Road Gaol on 19 September 2013 on Violence and Commemoration.

*Mr Lyttle joined the meeting at 2.12 p.m.*

### Northern Ireland Attorney General

The Committee considered an invitation to the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson and the Clerk from the Attorney General to attend a colloquium on legislative quality on 3 October 2013.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Clerk would attend, subject to diary constraints.

### Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors

The Committee noted an invitation to the Chairperson from the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors to attend the Chairman's Reception and launch of 2014 RICS Awards on Thursday 26 September 2013.

### Youth Safety Network Conference

The Committee considered a request from Youth Safety Network to host a conference to promote the work of young people in addressing issues of wellbeing and safety in their local communities on Wednesday 6 November 2013.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to host the Conference.

### Debate on Committee Report

The Chairperson advised Members that the debate on the Committee's Report on proposals for the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman Bill would take place on Monday 16 September 2013.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed a press release to highlight the proposals.

### **3. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2013**

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the proceedings of the 3 July 2013 were agreed by the Committee.

### **4. Matters Arising**

#### Childcare Strategy

The Committee considered responses from the Department in relation to the Childcare Strategy and associated advertising campaign.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request a briefing on the models for childcare provision and to seek further clarification on the advertising campaign.

#### Civil Contingencies

The Committee considered correspondence from the Department advising that it was unable to brief the Committee on Civil Contingencies as the recommendations from a review are still under consideration.

*Mr Eastwood joined the meeting at 2.28 p.m.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to request that officials brief the Committee on the current situation in relation to civil contingencies and on the options contained in the Review.

#### European Social Investment Package

The Committee noted a response from the Department to queries raised by Jim Nicholson MEP in relation to the European Social Investment Package.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the response to Jim Nicholson MEP.

#### Historical Institutional Abuse – Victims and Survivors Support Services

The Committee considered a response from the Department and from WAVE Trauma in relation to support services for victims and survivors of Historical Institutional Abuse.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Chair of the Inquiry to seek a report on its visit to Australia to meet with victims and survivors and to seek clarification on the support services for those engaging with the Inquiry from Australia.

*Agreed:* The Committee also agreed to write to the Chair of the Inquiry to request quarterly updates on the work of the Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse.

#### Together: Building a United Community

The Committee considered correspondence from the Department advising that it was unable to brief the Committee on Together: Building a United Community at today's meeting and that it would be able to brief the Committee on 25 September 2013.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule in the briefing on 25 September 2013.

#### Disaggregation of Competitive EU Funds

The Committee considered a response from the Department on disaggregation of competitive EU funds by Arms-Length Bodies.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to comment on the need for financial transparency within Arms-Length Bodies in relation to the drawdown of EU funding.

#### EU Support for Business Growth

The Committee considered a response from the Department on EU support for business growth.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the response from the Department to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment for comment.

The Committee also noted the following items:

Departmental response on the Public Services Pensions Bill

Departmental response to WOMEN'STEC on Social Investment Fund

Departmental response on financial forecasting

Response from Minister for Finance and Personnel in relation to PEACE III evaluations

Response from Chair of the House of Commons EU Scrutiny Committee on a draft EU Regulation

Response from the Chair of the House of Lords EU Committee on a draft EU Regulation

Departmental response on engagement with Young at Art

Departmental response on engagement with Dance United

#### List of Outstanding Issues

Members considered the list of outstanding issues.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request a response to its letter seeking further information on the outstanding issues.

### **5. Correspondence**

#### Report of the Advisory Group on Alleviating Hardship

The Committee considered a copy of the Report of the Advisory Group on Alleviating Hardship.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to highlight the limitations of the report and to comment on the age of the report. The Committee agreed to forward the Report to other statutory committees for information.

#### UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

The Committee considered a copy of the Executive's response to the UK Government on compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to request a briefing from the Department on the Executive's input to the UK Government.

#### EU Memoranda on Roma Integration

The Committee considered a copy of an EU Explanatory Memoranda on Steps Forward in Implementing National Roma Integration Strategies from the UK Government.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to seek its views on the memoranda and for details on what actions are being taken at a local level in relation to the Roma Integration Strategy.

*Mr Eastwood left the meeting at 2.48 p.m.*

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Departmental correspondence on the Disability Discrimination Order NI 2013

Correspondence from the Maze/Long Kesh Development Corporation on its Disability Action Plan and Equality Scheme consultations

A copy of correspondence from the Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety to the Department in relation to suicide prevention

Correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel on monitoring Departmental Savings Plans

Copies of correspondence from the Department to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment in relation to electricity costs and the Knowledge Economy Index Research Report

A copy of correspondence from the Department to the Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety regarding PEDU review of the health and social care sector

Copies of responses from the Department to the Committee for Education in relation to the Children and Young people's Strategy and the removal of teachers exception

A copy of correspondence from the Department to the Committee for Regional development in relation to funding for audio-visual information on buses

A copy of correspondence from the Department to the Committee for Employment and Learning in relation to the United Youth Programme

A copy of the Ministerial Statement on progress with the Investment Strategy 2011-2021

A copy of the fourth quarter (2012/13) update on the Investment Strategy

Copies of the July and August ISNI Delivery Tracking System Reports

Correspondence from the Big Lottery Fund providing an update on the funding for the Impact of Alcohol programme

A copy of the Department's Annual Report and Accounts 2012/13

A copy of SEUPB's Your EU Newsletter

## **6. End of Session Report**

The Committee considered its draft End of Session Report. The Committee agreed to note on the Report the impact of delayed papers and responses on the Committee's work.

## **7. SR 2013/181: Sex Discrimination Code of Practice**

The Committee considered the Sex Discrimination Code of Practice (Equal Pay) (Appointed Day) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013.

*Agreed:* That the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister has considered Statutory Rule 2013/181 - the Sex Discrimination Code of Practice (Equal Pay) (Appointed Day) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013 and has no objection to the rule.

## **8. Forward Work Programme**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed its strategic priorities for 2012/13 and that the agreed priorities would be placed on the Committee's webpage.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to seek further information on the work of Murray Hunt.

## **9. Any Other Business**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request an update on the Strategy for Internet Safety for Children.

**10. Date, Time and Location of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held in on Wednesday 18 September 2013 2.00 p.m.,  
venue to be confirmed.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 2.56 pm*

**Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA**

**Chairperson,**

**Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister**