



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY
FIRST MINISTER
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 25 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 Ms Bronwyn McGahan Mr Stephen Moutray Mr George Robinson
Apologies:	Mrs Brenda Hale Mr Alex Maskey 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 2.10 pm in public session.

1. Apologies

As detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

NICEM Invitation

The Committee noted an invitation from the Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities to attend a follow up event on 1 October 2013 in relation to its work on the Convention for the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Current Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

3. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2013

Agreed: The draft minutes of the proceedings of the 18 September 2013 were agreed by the Committee.

4. Matters Arising

Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse

The Committee noted a response from the Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse to the Committee's request for regular updates on the work of the Inquiry.

List of Outstanding Issues

The Committee noted the list of outstanding issues.

5. Correspondence

Appointments to Ilex

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department providing further information on appointments to the Board of Ilex Urban Regeneration Company.

Proposed Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman Bill

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department of Justice in relation to the proposed arrangements for the annual reporting of the Judicial Appointments Ombudsman.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department of Justice to advise that it is content, in principle, to include the proposed provision in relation to the Judicial Appointments Ombudsman in the NIPSO Bill, subject to agreeing a final Committee policy position in advance of issuing the final drafting instructions.

Agreed: The Committee also agreed that the Chairperson would speak on behalf of the Committee during the second stage of the Local Government Bill.

Poverty and Equality Conferences

The Committee noted invitations from Queen's University to attend Poverty and Equality Conferences on 3 and 4 October 2013.

Appointments to the Strategic Investment Board

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department providing further information on appointments to the Strategic Investment Board.

Bright Start

The Committee noted a copy of the Written Ministerial Statement on Bright Start: Childcare Framework Document. The Chairperson advised Members that a briefing from Departmental officials had been requested for next week.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the Bright Start document to all relevant statutory committees.

6. Together: Building a United Community

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.20 p.m.

Miss Fearon left the meeting at 3.07 p.m.

Mr Eastwood left the meeting at 3.15 p.m.

Departmental officials Dr Denis McMahon, Mr Fergus Devitt and Ms Donna Blaney provided the Committee with an update of the Department's work in relation to Together: Building a United Community. Questions and discussion followed.

Mr Moutray declared an interest as a Member of Craigavon Borough Council

Departmental officials left the meeting at 3.26 p.m.

Mr Moutray left the meeting at 3.26 p.m.

7. October Monitoring Round Proposals

Departmental Officials joined the meeting at 3.27 p.m.

Departmental officials Dr Mark Browne and Mr Gavin Patrick briefed the Committee on the Department's October Monitoring Round Proposals. Questions and discussion followed.

Departmental officials left the meeting at 3.40 p.m.

8. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from the Irish Minister for EU Affairs, Mr Paschal Donohoe on 16 October 2013 and to host a lunch prior to the briefing.

9. Any Other Business

None

10. Date, Time and Location of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in on Wednesday 2 October 2013 2.00 p.m. in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.42 pm

Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA

Chairperson,

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