



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY
FIRST MINISTER
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2013
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present:

Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson)
Mr Chris Lyttle (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Alex Attwood
Mr Leslie Cree
Mrs Brenda Hale
Ms Bronwyn McGahan
Mr Stephen Moutray
Mr George Robinson
Mr Jimmy Spratt

Apologies:

Miss Megan Fearon
Mr Alex Maskey

In Attendance:

Mrs Shauna Mageean (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Keith McBride (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Stephen Magee (Clerical Supervisor)
Mrs Marion Johnson (Clerical Officer)
Ms Roisin Kelly (Bill Clerk) Item 7 only
Mr Jonathan McMillen (Legal Adviser) Item 7 only
Mr Alyn Hicks (Assistant Clerk) Item 7 only
Mr Michael Heery (Researcher) Item 7 only

The meeting began at 2.28 pm in public session

1. Apologies

As detailed above.

2. Junior Minister Briefing

Junior Minister Bell and Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.29 p.m.

Ms McGahan joined the meeting at 2.30 p.m.

Junior Minister McCann joined the meeting at 2.34 p.m.

Mr Lyttle joined the meeting at 2.38 p.m.

Mr Attwood joined the meeting at 2.57 p.m.

Mr Lyttle declared an interest as a member of the East Belfast Social Investment Fund Steering Group

Junior Minister Bell and junior Minister McCann briefed the Committee on the work of the Department and provided an update on a number of issues. Questions and discussion followed.

The junior Ministers and Departmental officials left the meeting at 3.37 p.m.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request a copy of an Internal Audit Report on the Victims and Survivors Service.

Agreed: The Committee also agreed that the Chairperson would speak to junior Ministers on enhancing engagement with the Committee and that this would be considered at next week's meeting.

3. Chairperson's Business

Current Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

4. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2013

Agreed: The draft minutes of the proceedings of the 20 November 2013 were agreed by the Committee.

5. Matters Arising

Strategic Investment Board

The Committee considered information from the Strategic Investment Board's Annual Accounts in relation to salary bands and costs in the Strategic Investment Board. The Committee agreed to consider this further when a response was received from the Strategic Investment Board.

Internet Safety for Children

The Committee noted a response from the Department providing further information on the progress of work being undertaken by ARK as part of the Kid's Life and Times Survey.

List of Outstanding Issues

The Committee noted the list of outstanding issues.

6. Correspondence

Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment in relation to the Green Investment Bank and a copy of a letter to the Department in relation to the Barroso Desk Officers.

7. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

8. Any Other Business

None

The meeting moved into closed session at 4.02 p.m.

9. Ombudsman Proposals

The Committee considered the drafting instructions for the Committee's Bill to update and reform the Office of the Ombudsman and made decisions on a number of issues. The Committee noted the opposition of Sinn Féin in relation to the disclosure of information.

Mr Lyttle left the meeting at 4.11 p.m.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it would revisit the issue of own initiative investigations at another meeting.

The Committee considered a draft letter to the Secretary of State in relation to the limitations of the legislative competence of the Assembly.

Mr Lyttle re-joined the meeting at 4.50 p.m.

Mrs Hale left the meeting at 4.51 p.m.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content to send the letter pending a possible amendment from Sinn Féin in relation to line 1 of the letter.

The Committee considered a research paper on the estimated costing of the new powers contained within the Committee's proposals.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a research paper from the Assembly's Research and Information Service on the average cost of investigating complaints across jurisdictions.

Agreed: The Committee also agreed to invite the Northern Ireland Ombudsman to brief the Committee on financial matters.

10. Date, Time and Location of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday 4 December 2013, in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 5.12 p.m.

Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA

Chairperson,

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