



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY
FIRST MINISTER
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 12 MARCH 2014
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Chris Lyttle (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Alex Attwood
Mr Leslie Cree
Miss Meagan Fearon
Mr Alex Maskey
Ms Bronwyn McGahan
Mr Stephen Moutray
Mr George Robinson
Mr Jimmy Spratt

Apologies: Mrs Brenda Hale
Mr Mike Nesbitt

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

The meeting began at 2.00 pm in public session

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairperson's Business

DU Dance NI

The Committee considered a request from DU Dance NI to brief the Committee in relation to its work on intergenerational projects.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to meet with DU Dance NI when it is undertaking its proposed Inquiry into Uniting Communities.

Current Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

European Advisory Panel

The Committee considered a request from the Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment in relation to the Committee holding a meeting of its European Advisory Panel to discuss Horizon 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content to proceed with the meeting.

3. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2014

Agreed: The draft minutes of the proceedings of the 5 March 2014 were agreed by the Committee.

4. Matters Arising

Press Regulation

The Committee considered a response from the Department advising that it is currently monitoring developments in relation to press regulation and that it would be inappropriate to brief the Committee at this time.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the response to the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure for its information.

Mid-Year Review of Executive's European Priorities

The Committee noted a response from the Department providing further information following the briefing on the Mid-year Review of the Executive's European Priorities for 2013/14.

Social Clauses in Procurement Contracts

The Committee noted a response from the Department providing information on the social clauses put in place in contracts within the Department's remit.

Minister for Finance and Personnel

The Committee noted a response from the Minister for Finance and Personnel in relation to the Committee's request for information on the line of authority for placing wind turbines on Executive owned property.

List of Outstanding Issues

The Committee noted the list of outstanding issues.

5. Correspondence

House of Lords

The Committee noted correspondence from the from the Chair of the House of Lords EU Committee enclosing a copy of its response to the European Commission on the Commission's Work Programme for 2014.

Scottish Government Paper of Priorities for EU Reform

The Committee noted correspondence from the Scottish government providing a copy of Scotland's Priorities for EU Reform.

Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

The Committee noted a copy of a response from the Department to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment providing further information from the Barroso Desk Officers.

Committee for Finance and Personnel

The Committee considered correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel in relation to outstanding Post Project Evaluations.

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

The Committee considered correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel providing a copy of a research paper on financial transactions capital.

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

The Committee considered correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel in relation to the Carnegie Trust's Report on Measuring Wellbeing in Northern Ireland.

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

The Fermanagh Trust

The Committee considered correspondence from the Fermanagh Trust in relation to Delivering Social Change and Community Energy.

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

6. Draft Racial Equality Strategy

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.10 p.m.

Mr Attwood joined the meeting at 2.18 p.m.

Mr Maskey joined the meeting at 2.24 p.m.

Miss Fearon joined the meeting at 2.56 p.m.

Departmental officials, Mr Ricky Irwin and Mr Ken Fraser briefed the Committee on the draft Racial Equality Strategy. Questions and discussion followed. Officials agreed to make some amendments to the consultation questions.

The Committee condemned the racial abuse of Anna Lo MLA, which occurred at the weekend.

Departmental officials left the meeting at 3.02 p.m.

7. Statutory Rule – Salaries Order 2014

The Committee considered Statutory Rule (SR 2014/55) in relation to the Salaries (Assembly Ombudsman and Commissioner for Complaints) Order (NI) 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it had no objection with SR 2014/55 The Salaries (Assembly Ombudsman and Commissioner for Complaints) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014, subject to the Report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules.

8. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted its Forward Work Programme.

9. Any Other Business

None.

The meeting moved into closed session at 3.06 p.m.

10. Report on Assembly Committees European Priorities for 2014

The Committee considered its draft Report Assembly Committees European Priorities for 2014.

Agreed: The Committee read and agreed the Membership and Powers.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the list of Appendices to be included in the Report.

Agreed: The Committee read and agreed the Introduction.

Agreed: The Committee read and agreed the Committee EU Priorities.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that an extract from the Minutes of Proceedings of today's meeting should be included in Appendix 1 of the report and that the Deputy Chairperson approve that extract for inclusion.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Report be printed as the Eleventh Report of the Committee.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to table a motion for a 'Take Note' debate on the Report. The Committee agreed to the wording of the motion.

11. Date, Time and Location of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday 19 March 2014, in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The Deputy Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.08 p.m.

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