



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY
FIRST MINISTER
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 14 MAY 2014
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present:	Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson) Mr Chris Lyttle (Deputy Chairperson) Mr Leslie Cree Mrs Brenda Hale Mr Alex Maskey Mr George Robinson
Apologies:	Miss Megan Fearon Ms Bronwyn McGahan Mr Jimmy Spratt
In Attendance:	Mrs Shauna Mageean (Assembly Clerk) Mr Keith McBride (Assistant Assembly Clerk) Mr Stephen Magee (Clerical Supervisor) Miss Sabra Wray (Clerical Officer)

The meeting began in public session at 3.34 p.m.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairperson's Business

Refugee Week and Community Relations Week Motion

Agreed: The Committee agreed a motion for Refugee Week and Community Relations Week, which is 16-22 June 2014.

Black and Minority Ethnic Parliament

The Chairperson advised Members that the Assembly is facilitating the NI Council for Ethnic Minorities in organising a Black and Minority Ethnic Parliament event on Tuesday 24 June 2014. Assembly Outreach is suggesting that Members of this Committee may wish to be involved in the networking event on that day.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content to support the event and that Members would advise the Committee Office of their ability to attend the event.

Committee for Education

The Committee noted an invitation from the Committee for Education to attend its 'The World in Your Classroom' event on Tuesday 27 May, at 12.30 p.m. in the Long Gallery.

Committee Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

3. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2014

Agreed: The draft minutes of the proceedings of the 7 May 2014 were agreed by the Committee.

4. Matters Arising

Committee for Education

The Committee noted a response from the Committee for Education advising of the briefings it has received in relation to underachievement among Protestant Boys as highlighted in the third Community Relations Council Peace Monitoring Report.

List of Outstanding Correspondence

The Committee noted the list of outstanding correspondence.

5. Correspondence

Public Administration Select Committee Report – Time for a People’s Ombudsman Service

The Committee noted correspondence from the Northern Ireland Ombudsman providing comment on the Public Administration Select Committee’s (PASC) Report ‘Time for a People’s Ombudsman Service’. The Committee noted that many of the recommendations are being taken forward in the Committee’s proposed legislation.

Programme for Government Progress Reports

The Committee noted a copy of the strategic online report on progress against Programme for Government Commitments.

Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment to the Department in relation to the Barroso Desk Officers and how it ensures the dissemination of information from Brussels to the Committee, and the wider public, is efficient and effective.

The Committee noted an invitation from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment to attend an event on energy with the Green Investment Bank on 10 June 2014.

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission

The Committee considered correspondence from the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission advising of the Northern Ireland Office’s proposal to reduce funding to the Commission by 11.15%.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a briefing from the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission to discuss the implications of this proposal.

6. Delivering Social Change for Children and Young People

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 3.43 p.m.

Departmental officials Ms Margaret-Rose McNaughton, Ms Patricia Carey and Mrs Janet Smyth briefed the Committee on the consultation it undertook in relation to Delivering Social Change for Children and Young People. Questions and discussion followed.

Departmental officials left the meeting at 4.29 p.m.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to seek further information on its statutory duties in relation to the Child Poverty Act, its statutory duties in relation to the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People and its statutory duties to children and young people.

7. Good Relations Indicators – Summary of Consultation Responses

The Committee considered a written briefing from the Department providing a summary of responses to the Department's consultation on the draft Good Relations Indicators.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from Departmental officials on the consultation responses.

8. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Forward Work Programme from May to July.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to the Department's request to reschedule the briefing on its June Monitoring Round proposals to 4 June 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Ministers to seek confirmation of the date that Ministers will brief the Committee.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule consideration of the proposed Ombudsman Bill on 4 June 2014 and 2 July 2014.

9. Any Other Business

None.

10. Date, Time and Location of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 1.45 p.m. on Wednesday 28 May 2014, in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4.40 p.m.

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