



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY
FIRST MINISTER
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 2 OCTOBER 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
Mr George Robinson

Apologies:

Ms Bronwyn McGahan
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)
Ms Roisin Kelly (Bill Clerk) Item 7 only
Mr Alyn Hicks (Assistant Assembly Clerk) Item 7 only

The meeting began at 2.01 pm in public session.

1. Apologies

As detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

Current Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

3. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2013

Agreed: The draft minutes of the proceedings of the 25 September 2013 were agreed by the Committee.

4. Matters Arising

List of Outstanding Issues

The Committee noted the list of outstanding issues.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chairperson would request an informal meeting with the First Minister and deputy First Minister to discuss outstanding issues.

5. Correspondence

Report on Parliaments and Human Rights

The Committee noted a copy of the Executive Summary of a Report by Murray Hunt on Parliaments and Human Rights. The Chairperson advised Members that details had been passed onto Politics Plus.

Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety

The Committee considered a response from the Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety in relation to the Delivering Social Change Signature Project Event on 13 November 2013.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to request a written briefing and to invite officials to attend the event.

Integration of the Roma

The Committee considered a response from the Department providing further information on its work in relation to a proposal on effective Roma integration measures in EU Member States.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities to request their views on the proposal.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to seek further information on the Roma Tension Monitoring Unit and to request further information on how inclusion in the Racial Equality Strategy will retain focus on this issue.

Mrs Hale joined the meeting at 2.10 p.m.

Committee for Education

The Committee noted a copy of a response from the First Minister and deputy First Minister to the Committee for Education in relation to nurture units.

Investing Activity Report - September

The Committee noted a copy of September's Investment Strategy Investing Activity Report.

Joint Ministerial Committee (Europe)

The Committee noted an update from junior Ministers on the meeting of the Joint Ministerial Council (Europe) in June 2013.

Delivering Social Change Signature Projects Event

Agreed: The Committee agreed the format for the Delivering Social Change Signature Projects Event on 13 November 2013.

6. Bright Start: Childcare Strategic Framework

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.16 p.m.

Mr Robinson joined the meeting at 2.30 p.m.

Miss Fearon left the meeting at 2.38 p.m.

Departmental officials Dr Denis McMahon, Ms Margaret Rose McNaughton and Mr Martin Tyrell briefed the Committee on the Bright Start: Childcare Strategic Framework Document. Questions and discussion followed.

Departmental officials left the meeting at 3.05 p.m.

The meeting moved into closed session at 3.05 p.m.

7. Ombudsman Proposals

Assembly officials provided the Committee with an update on progress of the drafting instructions for the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman Bill. The Committee discussed some issues that emerged following the Committee's Report on the proposals and made decisions on a number of issues.

Mr Eastwood left the meeting at 3.41 p.m.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider the outstanding issues at next weeks meeting.

8. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

Victims and Survivors Service

The Committee considered a request from the Victims and Survivors Service to brief the Committee next week in closed session on research it had commissioned.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Victims and Survivors Service briefing next week would begin in open session and then move into closed session to discuss the research.

9. Any Other Business

None

10. Date, Time and Location of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in on Wednesday 9 October 2013 2.00 p.m. in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.50 pm

Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA

Chairperson,

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