



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

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

Present: Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson)
Mr Chris Lyttle (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Leslie Cree
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)
Ms Jenny McCullough (Clerical Officer)

The meeting began in public session at 2.03 p.m.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairperson's Business

Age NI and Age Sector Platform

The Committee considered a request from Age NI and the Age Sector Platform to launch its joint Age Sector position paper on Age Discrimination in Goods, Facilities and Services.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to liaise with Age NI and the Age Sector Platform to discuss the launch.

Committee Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

Junior Ministers

The Committee considered a response from the Department to the Committee's request that junior Ministers brief the Committee on 30 April or 7 May 2014. The response advised that junior Ministers are unable to brief the Committee on either of those dates due to diary commitments and an alternative date will be scheduled.

3. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 9 April 2014

Agreed: The draft minutes of the proceedings of the 9 April 2014 were agreed by the Committee.

4. Matters Arising

NISRA Evaluation of District Council Good Relations Programme

The Committee noted a response from the Department providing a copy of NISRA's evaluation of the District Council Good Relations Programme.

International Relations Strategy

The Committee noted a response from the Department providing further information following the briefing on the Executive's International Relations Strategy on 26 March 2014.

Commissioner for Complaints – Court of Appeal Decision

The Committee noted a response from the Department to the Committee's request for comment on the Court of Appeal decision regarding the Commissioner for Complaints and financial redress.

Fermanagh Trust

The Committee considered a response from the Department to the Fermanagh Trust's letter in relation to community energy. The response advised that The Department for Social Development would have responsibility for this issue.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the response to the Fermanagh Trust and suggest that they liaise with the Department for Social Development.

Community Relations Council

The Committee noted a response from the Community Relations Council providing a copy of its response to the consultation on the Good Relations Indicators.

List of Outstanding Correspondence

The Committee noted the list of outstanding correspondence.

5. Correspondence

Commission for Victims and Survivors

The Committee noted correspondence from the Commission for Victims and Survivors advising of a consultation on its draft Equality Action Plan and disability Action Plan.

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

The Committee noted correspondence from a numbers of environmental NGOs to the First Minister and deputy First Minister in relation to the transfer of funds for the next Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

The Committee noted a response from the Department to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment in relation to the Barroso Desk officers.

The Committee noted a response from the Department to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment in relation to its request for clarification on the Pension Fund Investment.

Committee for Education

The Committee noted a response from the Department to the Committee for Education in relation to Clauses 3 and 34 of the Education Bill.

PlayBoard

The Committee considered correspondence from PlayBoard advising of its 'Let Us Play' campaign and requesting an opportunity to brief the Committee on this campaign.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a written briefing from PlayBoard on the 'Let us Play' campaign.

Maze/Long Kesh Corporation

The Committee noted correspondence from the Business Office advising that the Annual Report and Accounts for 2011/12 and 2012/13 for the Maze/Long Kesh Corporation had been laid.

Mr Maskey joined the meeting at 2.12 p.m.

6. Age Discrimination Legislation Regarding Goods, Facilities and Services

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.13 p.m.

Mrs Hale joined the meeting at 2.15 p.m.

Mr Moutray left the meeting at 2.53 p.m.

Departmental officials, Ms Patricia Carey and Mr David McGowan briefed the Committee on the progress of age discrimination legislation in relation to goods, facilities and services. Questions and discussion followed.

Departmental officials left the meeting at 3.06 p.m.

7. Executive Response to the PEDU Report on the 2012 Flooding

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 3.08 p.m.

Departmental officials, Mr Alan Maitland, Mr Keith Jagelman and Ms Julie Cuming briefed the Committee on the Executive's response to PEDU's Report on the 2012 flooding. Questions and discussion followed.

Departmental officials left the meeting at 3.44 p.m.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the Executive's response to the Report to the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development and the Committee for Regional Development.

8. Committee Inquiry into the Barroso Taskforce

The Committee considered the responses to its request for written evidence for its Inquiry into the Barroso Taskforce.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to begin work on a draft Report on the inquiry.

9. Forward Work Programme

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

Agreed: The Committee agreed to postpone its planned visit to Brussels until the autumn time.

10. Any Other Business

None.

11. Date, Time and Location of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday 7 May 2014, in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.50 p.m.

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