



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY
FIRST MINISTER
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
MONDAY 27 APRIL 2015
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson)
Mr Alex Attwood
Mrs Brenda Hale
Mr Alex Maskey
Ms Bronwyn McGahan
Mr Stephen Moutray
Mr Jimmy Spratt

Apologies: Mr Michael Copeland
Mr Chris Lyttle (Deputy Chairperson)

In Attendance: Mrs Kathy O'Hanlon (Assembly Clerk)
Miss Karen Jardine (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Stephen Magee (Clerical Supervisor)
Miss Zuzana Polackova (Clerical Officer)

The meeting began in public session at 12.20pm.

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

2. Chairperson's Business

Colleges NI

The Committee noted an invitation from Colleges NI to the BEST Awards 2015 scheduled for Wednesday 27 May 2015 in the Ramada Plaza Hotel, Belfast.

Engaging Conflict and Peace Through Identity

The Committee noted an invitation to a two-day workshop entitled 'Engaging Conflict and Peace Through Identity', hosted by the Institute for the Study of Conflict

Transformation and Social Justice and the Organisation for Intra-Cultural Development at Queen's University, Belfast which is to be held on Thursday 4 and Friday 5 June.

Committee Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

3. Draft Minutes of the meetings held on 22 April 2015

Agreed: The draft minutes of the proceedings of 22 April 2015 were agreed by the Committee.

4. Matters Arising

NIPSO

Members noted a response from the Speaker regarding accelerated passage for the Ombudsman and Commissioner for Complaints (Amendment) Bill; and that the Bill had been introduced to the Assembly just before the Committee meeting.

The Committee noted a draft press release to be issued to coincide with the Second Stage of the Bill on 11 May 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the draft press release; and that the press release should be published to coincide with the Second Stage of the Bill.

Members also noted a draft platform piece to be issued to coincide with the Second Stage of the Bill on 11 May 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the draft platform piece.

Members noted an example of a draft delegated powers memorandum in relation to the Public Services Ombudsperson Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for a complete memorandum to be circulated by email, and that any Member wishing to discuss the memorandum at the meeting on 13 May should notify the Clerk. Members noted that, in the absence of such a request, the memorandum will be deemed approved and published on the website.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to publish the financial implications paper previously prepared by Assembly Research and Information Service.

Committee for Finance and Personnel

Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding its Report on Sickness Absence in the Northern Ireland Public Sector

List of Outstanding Correspondence

The Committee noted the list of outstanding correspondence.

5. Correspondence

Committee for Education

The Committee noted copy correspondence from the Committee for Education to OFMDFM regarding the Delivering Social Change Literacy and Numeracy Signature Programme.

OFMDFM briefing

The Committee noted a response from OFMDFM regarding an invitation to Ministers to brief the Committee on the work of the Department.

Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

The Committee noted copy correspondence from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment to the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels.

EU Matters

The Committee noted the latest issue of the EU Matters newsletter which has been prepared by the Northern Ireland Assembly EU Affairs Manager.

Together: Building a United Community

The Committee noted a response from the Department to a request for information on the budget profile for Together: Building a United Community initiatives.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to include the correspondence to the papers for its Inquiry into Building a United Community.

6. Draft Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme up to July 2015, and that the Committee would next meet on Wednesday 13 May.

7. Children's Services Co-operation Bill - Evidence from OFMDFM officials

Departmental officials joined the meeting at 12.25 pm.

Margaret Rose McNaughton, June Wilkinson and Peter Hutchinson appeared before the Committee for discussion and questions on the Children's Services Co-operation Bill.

The evidence session was recorded by Hansard.

Mrs Hale left the meeting at 12.46pm.

Mr Attwood left the meeting at 12.47pm.

The witnesses left the meeting at 12.57 pm.

8. Children's Services Co-operation Bill - Evidence from Bill Sponsor

The witnesses joined the meeting at 12.57pm.

Mr Steven Agnew MLA and Mr Ross Brown Party Researcher, Green Party appeared before the Committee for discussion and questions on the Children's Services Co-operation Bill. The evidence session was recorded by Hansard.

Mr Moutray left the meeting at 1.18pm. The Committee lost its decision-making quorum. In the absence of a decision-making quorum proceedings continued in line with Standing Order 49(5).

The witnesses left the meeting at 1.33pm.

9. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Date, Time and Location of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 2 pm in Room 30 on Wednesday 13 May 2015.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1.34 pm.

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