



**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY  
FIRST MINISTER  
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS  
WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE 2015  
SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson)  
Mr Chris Lyttle (Deputy Chairperson)  
Ms Megan Fearon  
Mr Alex Maskey  
Ms Bronwyn McGahan  
Mr Stephen Moutray  
Mr Jimmy Spratt

Apologies: Mr Michael Copeland  
Mrs Brenda Hale  
Mr David McIlveen  
Mr Alex Attwood

In Attendance: Mrs Kathy O'Hanlon (Assembly Clerk)  
Miss Karen Jardine (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Stephen Magee (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mr Alyn Hicks (Bill Team - for item 1 only)  
Ms Eilis Haughey (Bill Clerk - for item 2 only)

*The meeting began in closed session at 2.10 pm.*

**1. NIPSO Bill**

*Mr Alyn Hicks joined the meeting at 2.10 pm.*

The Committee noted correspondence from the Northern Ireland Assembly Ombudsman outlining a requested amendment to Schedule 7 of the Bill relating to the Local Government Act (NI) 2014.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it was content for this amendment to be made.

Mr Hicks updated the Committee on the outcome of the most recent meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Public Services Ombudsperson Bill.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to ask the drafter to bring forward an option that makes matters relating to students in third-level education at Clause 18 more straightforward.

The Committee noted the detailed paper from Northern Ireland Assembly Ombudsman's office in response to the request for a definition of 'maladministration'. The Committee also noted a paper from Assembly Research on the etymology of the term 'Ombudsman'.

*Agreed:* Members agreed to consider the papers and raise any further issues at the next meeting of the Committee; and to forward both papers to the Ad Hoc Committee for information.

The Chairperson advised that an informal meeting with representatives of the Medical Protection Society to discuss their concerns regarding the NIPSO legislation was arranged for Wednesday 17 June at 10am.

*Mr Hicks left the meeting at 2.26 pm.*

## **2. Children's Services Co-operation Bill**

The Committee received an informal briefing from the Ms Eilis Haughey, Bill Clerk, on matters relating to the Children's Services Co-operation Bill.

*Mr Spratt joined the meeting at 2.31pm.*

*Mr Spratt left the meeting at 2.45pm.*

*Mr Maskey left the meeting at 2.46pm, and the Committee lost its decision-making quorum.*

*The Chairperson suspended the meeting at 2.46pm.*

*The Chairperson resumed the meeting at 2.50pm with the following Members in attendance:*

*Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chair), Mr Chris Lyttle (Deputy Chair), Ms Megan Fearon, Ms Bronwyn McGahan, Mr Stephen Moutray, Mr Jimmy Spratt.*

*The meeting moved into open session at 2.59 pm.*

## **3. Apologies**

Apologies were noted as above.

#### **4. Chairperson's Business**

##### Children in Northern Ireland

The Chairperson advised Members that he had met with Ms Pauline Leeson CBE and Ms Ellen Finlay from Children in Northern Ireland following their request to meet regarding the proposed restructuring of Government departments.

##### Centre for Effective Services

The Committee noted an invitation to the Centre for Effective Services launch of 'A Primer on Implementing Whole of Government Approaches' which is to be held on 11 June at the Stormont Hotel Belfast.

##### Policy Forum for Northern Ireland

The Committee noted an invitation to the Policy Forum for Northern Ireland Keynote Seminar 'Education in Northern Ireland: raising standards, school accountability and leadership' which is to be held in central Belfast on Wednesday 2 December 2015.

##### University of Ulster Queen's University Belfast

The Committee noted an invitation to a joint initiative by the Ulster University and Queen's University Belfast on 'Commemoration and Conflict in Northern Ireland: The Public Sector, Risk and Resilience' which is to be held in Queen's University Belfast on 22 September 2015.

##### Committee Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

#### **5. Draft Minutes of the meetings held on 3 June 2015**

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the proceedings of 3 June 2015 as amended were agreed by the Committee with one amendment.

#### **6. Matters Arising**

##### List of Outstanding Correspondence

The Committee noted the list of outstanding correspondence.

#### **7. Correspondence**

##### OFMDFM Procurement Activity Report

The Committee noted the OFMDFM Procurement Activity Report for May 2015.

### Joint Ministerial Committee (Europe)

The Committee noted a report from junior Ministers on the Joint Ministerial Committee (Europe) meeting on 2 March 2015.

*Agreed:* Members agreed to forward the report to other Statutory Committees for information.

### Minority Ethnic Development Fund

The Committee noted a response from OFMDFM regarding a request from the All Party Group on Ethnic Minority Communities to the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an urgent meeting.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the response to the All Party Group on Ethnic Minority Communities.

### Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

The Committee noted a response from Mr Jonathan Bell MLA regarding his appointment as Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment.

## **8. Draft Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted the draft Forward Work Programme to July 2015.

## **9. Children's Services Co-operation Bill.**

The Committee noted that draft amendments from the Department were not available for consideration; and noted an updated timetable for the Committee Stage of the Bill.

*Agreed:* Members agreed that an extraordinary meeting of the Committee should be arranged as soon as is practical following receipt of the Department's proposed amendments to the Bill.

## **10. Programme for Government**

*Departmental officials joined the meeting at 3.06 pm*

Dr Mark Browne, Mr Joe Reynolds and Ms Grainne Killen, appeared before the Committee for discussion and questions on the performance of OFMDFM against its 2014/15 Programme for Government targets.

*Mr Moutray left the meeting at 3.07pm.*

Officials agreed to provide further information on a number of issues including: how the Community Relations Council feeds into the Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) Ministerial Panel; the review of the equality and good relations impact assessment; the number of successful applicants to the 2015 Summer Scheme pilot programme; and detail on the development of the good relations indicators, including how these might be used to assess the progress of the various strands of the T:BUC strategy.

*The officials left the meeting at 3.48 pm.*

#### **11. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

#### **12. Date, Time and Location of next meeting**

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee is at 2.00 pm in Room 30 on Wednesday 17 June 2015.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.49 pm.*

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