



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

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

Present: Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson)
Mr Chris Lyttle (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Andy Allen
Mr Gordon Lyons
Mr Alex Maskey

Apologies: Mr David McIlveen

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

The meeting began in public session at 11.10am.

1. Apologies

Apologies were as recorded above.

2. Departments Bill - Pre-introductory briefing

Junior Ministers and departmental officials joined the meeting at 11.11am.

Junior Minister McCann and junior Minister Pengelly briefed the Committee on the Departments Bill, and the rationale for seeking to progress the Bill through the accelerated passage procedure. The junior Ministers were joined by Mr Tony Canavan, Head of Institutional Review Division, OFMDFM and Mr Geoffrey Simpson, Equality and Reform Directorate, OFMDFM

Questions and discussion followed and the evidence session was recorded by Hansard.

Junior Minister Pengelly committed to working with the Committee regarding the scrutiny and consideration of the Transfer of Functions Order, including corresponding about the relevant procedures in respect of the development of policy or additional functions.

Junior Ministers and departmental officials left the meeting at 11.32am.

Following discussion, Mr Gordon Lyons proposed that the Committee support accelerated passage for the Departments Bill.

The Chairperson put the question:

“That the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister is content to support a request for accelerated passage for the Departments Bill.”

The Committee divided on the motion proposed by Mr Lyons:

Ayes 3

Noes 2

AYES

Mr Lyons

Mr Lyttle

Mr Maskey

NOES

Mr Allen

Mr Nesbitt

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content to support a request for accelerated passage in respect of the Departments Bill.

3. Correspondence

Attorney General for Northern Ireland

The Committee noted correspondence from OFMDFM regarding the extension of the current appointment of Mr John Larkin QC as Attorney General until 23 May 2019.

Minority Ethnic Development Fund

The Committee noted a response from OFMDFM regarding the Minority Ethnic Development Fund.

Summer Camps Pilot Programme

The Committee noted a response from OFMDFM which provided information on the organisations which operated summer camps in 2015 under Together: Building a United Community.

Committee for Finance and Personnel - November Monitoring Round

The Committee noted a memo from the Committee for Finance and Personnel which included correspondence from the Department of Finance and Personnel on the recent November Monitoring Round.

4. Any Other Business

Assembly Members (Reduction of Numbers) Bill

Members noted that a proposal under *A Fresh Start: The Stormont Agreement and Implementation Plan* provides for a reduction in the number of Assembly members for the 2021 Assembly elections. Members also noted that it is expected that the Assembly Members (Reduction of Numbers) Bill will proceed via the accelerated passage procedure.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content that the Assembly and Executive Review Committee was the most appropriate Committee to receive a pre- introductory briefing on the Assembly members (Reduction of Numbers) Bill.

Meeting on 2 December 2015

Agreed: The Committee agreed to meet on Wednesday 2 December to discuss matters relating to the Public Services Ombudsman Bill.

5. Date, Time and Location of next meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee is at 2 pm in Room 30 on Wednesday 2 December 2015.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.38am.

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