



# Northern Ireland Assembly

## COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Tuesday 2 December 2014**  
**Room 30, Parliament Buildings**

Present: Mr Alex Maskey MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Mickey Brady MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Ms Paula Bradley MLA  
Mr Jim Allister MLA  
Mr Maurice Devenney MLA  
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA  
Mr Sammy Wilson MLA

In Attendance: Dr Kevin Pelan (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Stephen Todd (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Stewart Kennedy (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mr Richard Reid (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Michael Copeland MLA  
Mr Fra McCann MLA

The Chairperson declared the meeting open to the public at 9.42am.

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were as noted above.

#### **2. Matters Arising**

**2.1** The Chairperson noted that a small number of stakeholders have replied to the Committee's call for evidence for the Pensions Bill, indicating their intention to

provide a written submission, but that at this stage, no stakeholders have indicated that they are in a position to give oral evidence to the Committee.

### **3. Pensions Bill – Briefing by NIPSA**

The following officials joined the meeting at 9.46am:

- Mr Bumper Graham, NIPSA
- Mr John O’Farrell, NI-ICTU

The officials briefed the Committee on their views on the Pensions Bill, speaking to their written submission. In particular they noted a number of changes which the Bill would introduce which they opposed.

The Committee questioned officials on these issues, seeking information on practical implications associated with opposing the Bill.

*Stewart Dickson MLA joined the meeting at 10.18am.*

*Stewart Dickson MLA declared an interest as a retired member of NIPSA.*

The officials took questions from the Committee.

The officials left the meeting at 10.39am.

*This session was recorded by Hansard.*

### **4. Pensions Bill – Departmental Briefing**

The following officials joined the meeting at 10.40am:

- Gerry McCann, Social Security Policy and Legislation Division, Department for Social Development
- Seamus Cassidy, Social Security Policy and Legislation Division, Department for Social Development
- Anne McCleary, Social Security Policy and Legislation Division, Department for Social Development
- Doreen Ray, Department for Social Development

The officials briefed the Committee on issues raised during the briefing from NIPSA.

*Agreed:* The Department agreed to provide the Committee with written clarification on issues addressed during today’s briefings.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from the Social Security Agency on its communications strategy in respect of the Pensions Bill at its meeting of 9 December 2014.

The officials left the meeting at 10.55am.

*This session was recorded by Hansard.*

**5. Date, time and place of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee for Social Development will take place on 4 December 2014 at 10.00am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 10.55am.

**Alex Maskey**

**Chairperson, Committee for Social Development**

**11 December 2014**