Formal Minutes of the Committee

Wednesday 16 May 2012

Members present:

Mr Laurence Robertson, in the Chair

Mr Joe Benton  Jack Lopresti
Oliver Colvile  Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Mr Stephen Hepburn  Nigel Mills
Kate Hoey  Ian Paisley
Naomi Long  David Simpson

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee hold meetings in Belfast and at Royal Portrush Golf Club in June to discuss, and observe arrangements for, the Irish Open Golf Tournament.

Resolved, That the Committee visit Belfast in July to observe the PSNI’s policing operation.

2. Electronic only distribution of committee papers

The Committee considered this matter.

3. An air transport strategy for Northern Ireland

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to An air transport strategy for Northern Ireland be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

AS 10  Kevin McLaughlin
AS 11  International Airlines Group
AS 12  Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (NI)
AS 13  CBI Northern Ireland

Nigel Smyth, Director, CBI NI and Matt Sheldon, Senior Policy Advisor, Infrastructure, CBI; and from Luke Pollard, Head of Public Affairs, ABTA, and Doreen McKenzie, Proprietor, Knock Travel, gave oral evidence in public.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 23 May at 2.15 p.m.]
Wednesday 23 May 2012

Members present:

Mr Laurence Robertson, in the Chair

Mr Joe Benton
Oliver Colvile
Lady Hermon
Kate Hoey
Naomi Long
Nigel Mills
Ian Paisley

1. **2011-12 Supplementary Estimate and 2012-13 Main Estimate**

   *Ordered*, That the following written evidence relating to the 2011-12 *Supplementary Estimates* and the 2012-13 *Main Estimates* be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

   - Northern Ireland Office Explanatory Memorandum on the 2011-12 Supplementary Estimate
   - Northern Ireland Office Explanatory Memorandum on the 2012-13 Main Estimate

2. **Future Programme**

   The Committee considered this matter.

3. **An air transport strategy for Northern Ireland**

   The Committee considered this matter.

   Davy McMurray, Regional Industrial Organiser, and Catherine Horgan, Angela Kelly and Paula Spiers, bmi Cabin Crew, Unite, gave oral evidence in public.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 13 June at 2.15 p.m.]
Wednesday 13 June 2012

Members present:

Mr Laurence Robertson, in the Chair

Mr David Anderson
Oliver Colvile
Mr Stephen Hepburn
Lady Hermon
Kate Hoey
Kris Hopkins
Naomi Long
Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Nigel Mills
Ian Paisley

1. Fuel laundering and smuggling in Northern Ireland

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Sentencing policy and consistency

Resolved, That the Chair take up this issue with the Secretary of State for Justice and the Minister of Justice.

4. Staffing of the Historical Enquiries Team

Resolved, That the Chair take up this issue with the Minister of Justice.

5. Backbench Business Committee debate on the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly (BIPA)

The Committee considered this matter.

6. UK City of Culture 2013

The Committee considered this matter.

7. An air transport strategy for Northern Ireland

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to An air transport strategy for Northern Ireland submitted by A Dunwoody (AS 14) and the British Airline Pilots Association (BALPA) (AS 15) be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Davy McMurray, Regional Industrial Organiser, and Catherine Horgan, Angela Kelly and Paula Spiers, bmi Cabin Crew, Unite, gave oral evidence in public.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 20 June at 2.15 p.m.]
Wednesday 20 June 2012

Members present:

Mr Laurence Robertson, in the Chair

Mr David Anderson  Naomi Long
Mr Joe Benton      Jack Lopresti
Oliver Colvile     Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Mr Stephen Hepburn Nigel Mills
Kate Hoey          Ian Paisley
Kris Hopkins       David Simpson

1. Fuel laundering and smuggling in Northern Ireland

Draft Special Report (Fuel laundering and smuggling in Northern Ireland: Government Response to the Committee’s Third Report of Session 2010-12), proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time and agreed to.

The responses by the Government and by the Ministry of Justice to the Committee’s Third Report of Session 2010-12 were appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the First Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

2. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee visit Stormont in July to attend an event relating to the Decade of Centenaries.

3. 2011-12 Supplementary Estimate

The Committee considered this matter.

4. NAO report on Healthcare across the UK

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Backbench Business Committee debate on the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly (BIPA)

The Committee considered this matter.
6. Report from the Omagh Support and Self Help Group (OSSHG)

The Committee considered this matter.

7. An air transport strategy for Northern Ireland

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to An air transport strategy for Northern Ireland submitted by Andrew Ellis (AS 16) be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP, Minister of State, Department for Transport, and Jonathan Sedgwick, International Director, UK Border Agency, gave oral evidence in public.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 4 July at 2.15 p.m.]

Wednesday 27— Thursday 28 June

The Chair, David Anderson, Oliver Colvile, Mr Stephen Hepburn, Nigel Mills, Ian Paisley and David Simpson visited Belfast and Portrush, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 16 May.
Wednesday 4 July 2012

Members present:

Mr Laurence Robertson, in the Chair

Mr Joe Benton  Olver Colvile  Mr Stephen Hepburn  Kate Hoey
Jack Lopresti  Dr Alasdair McDonnell  Nigel Mills  David Simpson

1. Specialist Adviser

Ordered, That Mr David Watkins be reappointed as a Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee.

2. The Omagh bombing

The Committee considered this matter.

3. NAO report on Healthcare across the UK

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee visit Dublin in November in connection with its inquiries into fuel laundering and smuggling and various other issues, and that the Chair seek the approval of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the visit.

5. Prospective hosting of The Open by Royal Portrush Golf Club

Resolved, That the Chair have authority to work with the Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment to try to secure the aim to bring a future Open Championship to Royal Portrush.

6. Electronic only distribution of committee papers

The Committee considered this matter.

7. Regional Aid

The Committee considered this matter.

8. An air transport strategy for Northern Ireland

The Committee considered this matter.
Ordered, That the written evidence relating to An air transport strategy for Northern Ireland submitted by David Donnelly (AS 17) and Eric McGreevy (AS 18) be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Arlene Foster MLA, Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Danny Kennedy MLA, Minister for Regional Development, David Thomson, Head of Policy Group, Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, and Dr Andrew Grieve, Head of Air and Sea Ports, Department for Regional Development, gave oral evidence in public.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 11 July at 9.30 a.m.

Wednesday 11 July 2012

Members present:

Mr Laurence Robertson, in the Chair

Mr David Anderson
Mr Joe Benton
Oliver Colville
Lady Hermon
Kate Hoey

Naomi Long
Jack Lopresti
Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Nigel Mills
David Simpson

1. The Omagh bombing

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 5 September at 2.15 p.m.

Wednesday 11 — Thursday 12 July

The Chair, Mr David Anderson, Oliver Colville, Mr Stephen Hepburn and Nigel Mills visited Belfast to observe the PSNI’s policing operations, in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 16 May.
Wednesday 5 September 2012

Members present:

Mr Laurence Robertson, in the Chair

Mr David Anderson
Mr Joe Benton
Oliver Colvile
Mr Stephen Hepburn
Kate Hoey
Kris Hopkins

Naomi Long
Jack Lopresti
Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Nigel Mills
Ian Paisley
David Simpson

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee visit Northern Ireland to visit JTI and Wrightbus in Ballymena, Children in Crossfire in Londonderry and to a Save the Children FAST site.

2. An air transport strategy for Northern Ireland

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to An air transport strategy for Northern Ireland submitted by the UKBA (AS 19) be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. Annual Northern Ireland Economic Conference

Resolved, That the Chairman have leave to attend the Annual NI Economic Conference at Titanic Belfast on 19 September in a representative capacity.

4. Operation of the NI Assembly

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, that the Chair write to the Secretary of State asking if the consultation period for its consultation could be extended.

5. Fuel laundering and smuggling in Northern Ireland

The Committee considered this matter.

Mike Norgrove, Director, Excise, Customs, Stamps and Money, Sarah Harlen, Deputy Director, Environmental and Transport Taxes, John Whiting, Assistant Director, Criminal Investigation, and Pat Curtis, National Oils Lead, Specialist Investigations, HMRC, gave oral evidence in public.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 12 September at 2.15 p.m.]
Wednesday 12 September 2012

MORNING SITTING

Members present:

Mr Laurence Robertson, in the Chair

Mr David Anderson  Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Mr Joe Benton       Nigel Mills
Lady Hermon         Ian Paisley
Kris Hopkins        David Simpson
Naomi Long

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. An air transport strategy for Northern Ireland

The Committee considered this matter.

Willie Walsh, Chief Executive, International Airlines Group (IAG), gave oral evidence in public.

[Adjourned till this day 3.15 p.m.]
Wednesday 12 September 2012

AFTERNOON SITTING

Members present:

Mr Laurence Robertson, in the Chair

Mr Joe Benton
Lady Hermon
Kris Hopkins
Naomi Long

Jack Lopresti
Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Nigel Mills
Ian Paisley

1. “Perspectives on the Ulster Covenant”

Resolved, That Kate Hoey and Ian Paisley have leave to visit Stormont to attend the launch of the “Perspectives On” lecture series in Parliament Buildings, Stormont, on 24 September, in a representative capacity.

2. An air transport strategy for Northern Ireland

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to An air transport strategy for Northern Ireland submitted by Ryanair (AS 20) be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Kate Sherry, Deputy Route Director of Route Development, Ryanair; and Paul Simmons, UK Director, easyJet, gave oral evidence in public.

[Adjourned to a day and time to be fixed by the Chair

Tuesday 18 September

The Chair attended the Annual NI Economic Conference at Titanic Belfast, in a representative capacity, in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 5 September.

Monday 24 September

Kate Hoey and Ian Paisley visited Stormont to attend the launch of the “Perspectives On” lecture series, in a representative capacity, in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 12 September.
Wednesday 24 October 2012

Members present:

Mr Laurence Robertson, in the Chair

Mr David Anderson    Jack Lopresti
Oliver Colvile       Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Mr Stephen Hepburn   Nigel Mills
Kate Hoey            Ian Paisley
Lady Hermon          David Simpson
Naomi Long

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Chair and Kate Hoey represent the Committee at services to mark the 25th anniversary of the Remembrance Day bomb in Enniskillen on Thursday 8 November.

Resolved, That Ian Paisley represents the Committee at a service to mark the 30th anniversary of the Droppin’ Well bomb at Ballykelly Church of Ireland on Sunday 9 December.

2. NIO memoranda on the 2011-12 Supplementary Estimate

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the 2011-12 Supplementary Estimates be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Office, 15 June 2012
Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Office, 8 October 2012

3. An air transport strategy for Northern Ireland

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the further written evidence relating to An air transport strategy for Northern Ireland submitted by Belfast City Airport Watch (AS 03a) be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Dr Liz Fawcett, Chair, Steering Group, Barney Gadd, Old Stranmills Residents’ Association and member of Steering Group, Joe McGlade, Park Road and District Residents’ Association and member of Steering Group, and Jenny Simon, Sydenham resident, Belfast City Airport Watch (BCAW) and from John Rooney, Vice Chair of the NI Assembly and Business Trust and Regional Liaison Officer, Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) and Glyn Roberts, Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Independent Retail Trade Association (NIIRTA), gave oral evidence in public.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 24 October at 2.15pm]
Wednesday 31 October 2012

Members present:

Mr Laurence Robertson, in the Chair

Mr David Anderson  Jack Lopresti
Mr Joe Benton  Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Oliver Colvile  Nigel Mills
Kate Hoey  Ian Paisley
Lady Hermon  David Simpson
Naomi Long

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. An air transport strategy for Northern Ireland

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the supplementary written evidence relating to An air transport strategy for Northern Ireland submitted by Belfast City Airport Watch (AS 03b) be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. Responsibilities of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

The Committee considered this matter.

Rt Hon Theresa Villiers, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Julian King, Director General, and Richard Penman, Director, Northern Ireland Office, gave oral evidence in public.

[Adjourned till a date and time to be fixed by the Chair.

Thursday 1—Friday 2 November

The Chair, Mr David Anderson, Mr Joe Benton, Oliver Colvile, Jack Lopresti, Dr Alasdair McDonnell, and Nigel Mills visited Dublin in connection with its inquiries into an air transport strategy for Northern Ireland, fuel laundering and smuggling and various other issues, in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 4 July 2012.
Thursday 8 November

The Chair and Kate Hoey visited Enniskillen to represent the Committee at services to mark the 25th anniversary of the Remembrance Day bomb, in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 24 October 2012.

Tuesday 20 November 2012

Members present:

Mr Laurence Robertson, in the Chair

Mr Joe Benton  
Oliver Colvile  
Kate Hoey  
Lady Hermon

Naomi Long  
Jack Lopresti  
Nigel Mills  
Ian Paisley

1. Fuel laundering and smuggling in Northern Ireland

Ordered, That the supplementary written evidence relating to Fuel laundering and smuggling in Northern Ireland submitted by HMRC (FLS 01) be reported to the House for printing.

2. An air transport strategy for Northern Ireland

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Thursday 22 November at 10am

Thursday 29 and Friday 30 November

The Chair, Joe Benton, Mr Stephen Hepburn, Lady Hermon, Kate Hoey, Jack Lopresti, Nigel Mills, Ian Paisley and David Simpson visited Belfast and Ballymena in relation to the inquiry into fuel laundering and smuggling in Northern Ireland, in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 5 September 2012.
Thursday 22 November 2012

Members present:

Mr Laurence Robertson, in the Chair

Oliver Colvile  
Kate Hoey  
Naomi Long  
Nigel Mills  
Ian Paisley

1. An air transport strategy for Northern Ireland

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (An air transport strategy for Northern Ireland), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the First Report of the Committee, HC 76.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 5 December at 2.15pm]
Wednesday 5 December 2012

Members present:

Mr Laurence Robertson, in the Chair

Mr Joe Benton                Jack Lopresti
Oliver Colvile               Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Mr Stephen Hepburn           Nigel Mills
Lady Hermon                  Ian Paisley
Kate Hoey

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee inquires into *The implementation of the Armed Forces Covenant in Northern Ireland*.

Resolved, That the Committee takes oral evidence from the Chief Constable of the Police Service for Northern Ireland in early 2013.

Resolved, That the Committee takes oral evidence from the Community Relations Council in early 2013.

Resolved, That the Committee visits the USA in 2013 in connection with the inquiry into *the implementation of the Armed Forces Covenant in Northern Ireland* and various other issues, and that the Chair seek the approval of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the visit.

2. Fuel laundering and smuggling in Northern Ireland

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till 2.15 pm on Wednesday 9 January 2013]

Sunday 9 December

Ian Paisley visited Ballykelly to represent the Committee at services to mark the 30th anniversary of the Droppin’ Well bomb, in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 24 October 2012.
Wednesday 9 January 2013

Members present:

Mr Laurence Robertson, in the Chair

Oliver Colvile
Mr Stephen Hepburn
Lady Hermon
Kate Hoey
Naomi Long

Jack Lopresti
Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Nigel Mills
Ian Paisley
David Simpson

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Fuel laundering and smuggling in Northern Ireland

The Committee considered this matter.

3. The work of the Community Relations Council

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the written evidence submitted by the Community Relations Council be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Tony McCusker, Chair, and Jacqueline Irwin, Chief Executive Officer, Community Relations Council, gave oral evidence in public.

[Adjourned till 10.30 am on Wednesday 16 January 2013]
Wednesday 16 January 2013

MORNING SITTING

Members present:

Mr Laurence Robertson, in the Chair

Mr David Anderson  
Oliver Colvile  
Naomi Long  
Jack Lopresti  
Nigel Mills  
Ian Paisley  
David Simpson

1. Current events in Northern Ireland

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till 2.15pm

Wednesday 16 January 2013

AFTERNOON SITTING

Members present:

Mr Laurence Robertson, in the Chair

Mr David Anderson  
Oliver Colvile  
Lady Hermon  
Jack Lopresti  
Dr Alasdair McDonnell  
Nigel Mills  
Andrew Percy  
Ian Paisley  
David Simpson

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. An air transport strategy for Northern Ireland: follow up

The Committee considered this matter.

Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP, Secretary of State for Transport, gave oral evidence in public.

[Adjourned till 2.15 pm on Wednesday 23 January 2013
1. Declaration of interests

Andrew Percy declared his interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992 (see Appendix A).

2. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Implementation of the Armed Forces Covenant in Northern Ireland

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till tomorrow at 9.45 am]
Thursday 24 January 2013

Members present:

Mr Laurence Robertson, in the Chair

Mr David Anderson  Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Oliver Colvile        Nigel Mills
Lady Hermon          Andrew Percy
Kate Hoey            Ian Paisley
Naomi Long           David Simpson

1. Current issues facing the Police Service of Northern Ireland

The Committee considered this matter.

Chief Constable Matt Baggott CBE QPM, Deputy Chief Constable Judith Gillespie OBE, and Assistant Chief Constable Drew Harris OBE, Police Service of Northern Ireland; and Terry Spence QPM, Chairman, and Mark Lindsay, Vice Chairman, Police Federation for Northern Ireland, gave oral evidence in public.

[Adjourned till 2.15 pm on Wednesday 30 January 2013]
Wednesday 30 January 2013

Members present:

Mr Laurence Robertson, in the Chair

Mr David Anderson  Jack Lopresti
Mr Joe Benton  Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Oliver Colvile  Nigel Mills
Lady Hermon  Ian Paisley
Kate Hoey  David Simpson

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Fuel laundering and smuggling in Northern Ireland

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Implementation of the Armed Forces Covenant in Northern Ireland

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the written evidence submitted by the Northern Ireland Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committee be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Chris Carson, Acting Chairman, and Iain Creswell, Local Authority Lead, Northern Ireland Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committee, gave oral evidence in public.

[Adjourned till 9.45 am on Wednesday 6 February 2013]
Wednesday 6 February 2013

Members present:

Mr Laurence Robertson, in the Chair

Mr David Anderson       Naomi Long
Mr Joe Benton            Jack Lopresti
Oliver Colville         Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Lady Hermon              Nigel Mills
Kate Hoey                David Simpson

1. An air transport strategy for Northern Ireland

Draft Special Report (An air transport strategy for Northern Ireland: Government Response to the Committee’s First Report of Session 2012-13), proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time and agreed to.

The response by the Government to the Committee’s First Report of Session 2012-13 was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the Second Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

2. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee visit Northern Ireland on 25 and 26 February in connection with the inquiry into the draft Northern Ireland Bill.

3. Implementation of the Armed Forces Covenant in Northern Ireland

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the written evidence submitted by the Department for Social Development NI be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

The Committee took oral evidence in private.

[Adjourned till 2.15 pm on Wednesday 13 February 2013]
Wednesday 13 February 2013

Members present:

Mr Laurence Robertson, in the Chair

Mr David Anderson  Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Mr Joe Benton      Nigel Mills
Oliver Colvile     Ian Paisley
Lady Hermon        Andrew Percy
Jack Lopresti      David Simpson

1. Electronic only distribution of committee papers

The Committee considered this matter.

2. The work of the Community Relations Council

Ordered, That the supplementary written evidence submitted by the Community Relations Council be reported to the House for printing.

3. Draft Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till 1.45 pm on Monday 25 February 2013]
**Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 February 2013**

The Chair, Mr David Anderson, Oliver Colvile, Mr Stephen Hepburn, Lady Hermon, Kate Hoey, Dr Alasdair McDonnell, Nigel Mills, Ian Paisley and David Simpson visited Belfast in connection with the Committee’s inquiry into the Draft Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 6 February.

**Monday 25 February 2013**

The Committee met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, Stormont

Members present:

Mr Laurence Robertson, in the Chair

Mr David Anderson
Oliver Colvile
Mr Stephen Hepburn
Lady Hermon
Kate Hoey
Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Ian Paisley
David Simpson

1. Future programme

Resolved, That the Chairman have leave to meet with the Chair of the Parades Commission and the Chief Constable of the PSNI, in Belfast on 25 March, in a representative capacity.

2. Non-jury trial arrangements for NI

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Draft Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the written evidence submitted by the Green Party and Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Trevor Reaney, Clerk/Director General, NI Assembly; Steven Agnew MLA, Leader, and Ross Brown, Research Assistant, Green Party in NI; Jim Allister MLA, Leader, TUV; David McNarry MLA, Stormont Party Leader, and Councillor Henry Reilly, UKIP; David Ford MLA, Leader, and Stewart Dickson MLA, Chief Whip, Alliance Party; and Professor Michael O’Flaherty, Chief Commissioner, Virginia McVea, Director, and David Russell, Deputy Director, NI Human Rights Commission, gave oral evidence in public.

[Adjourned till 9.45 am tomorrow, Tuesday 26 February 2013]
Tuesday 26 February 2013

The Committee met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, Stormont

Members present:

Mr Laurence Robertson, in the Chair

Mr David Anderson Oliver Colvile Mr Stephen Hepburn Lady Hermon Kate Hoey

Dr Alasdair McDonnell Nigel Mills Ian Paisley David Simpson

1. Draft Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill

The Committee considered this matter.

Mike Nesbitt MLA, Leader, and Tom Elliott MLA, UUP; David McClarty MLA; Rt Hon Peter Robinson MLA, Leader, and Richard Bullick, Special Adviser, DUP; Dr Alasdair McDonnell MP MLA, Leader, and Conall McDevitt MLA, SDLP; and Raymond McCartney MLA, and Sean Oliver, Special Adviser, Sinn Féin, gave oral evidence in public.

[Adjourned till 2.15 pm tomorrow, Wednesday 27 February 2013]
Wednesday 27 February 2013

Members present:

Mr Laurence Robertson, in the Chair

Mr David Anderson          Naomi Long
Joe Benton                  Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Oliver Colvile             Nigel Mills
Lady Hermon                Ian Paisley
Kate Hoey                  David Simpson

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Non-jury trial arrangements for NI

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Implementation of the Armed Forces Covenant in Northern Ireland

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Implementation of the Armed Forces Covenant in Northern Ireland be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (AFC 04)
Committee on the Administration of Justice (AFC 05)
The Regimental Association of The Royal Irish Regiment (AFC 06)
Royal British Legion (AFC 07)
Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (AFC 08)
Ministry of Defence (AFC 09)

Rt Hon Mark Francois MP, Minister of State for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans, Rear Admiral Simon Williams, Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Personnel and Training) and Gavin Barlow, Ministry of Defence, gave oral evidence in public.

[Adjourned till 2.15 pm on Wednesday 6 March 2013]
1. Future programme

Resolved, That David Anderson have leave to attend the Children in Crossfire event, “The Culture of Compassion”, to be held in Londonderry on 18 April, in a representative capacity.

2. Implementation of the Armed Forces Covenant in Northern Ireland

Ordered, That the written evidence from Combat Stress be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. Draft Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the Draft Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

- Friends of the Earth (DNI 03)
- Sinn Féin (DNI 06)
- Irish Human Rights Commission (DNI 09)
- Committee on the Administration of Justice (DNI 11)
- Electoral Commission (DNI 13)

Sir Christopher Kelly, Chair of the Committee on Standards in Public Life; Seamus Magee, Head of the Electoral Commission in NI, Anna Carragher, Northern Ireland Commissioner and Peter Horne, Director of Party and Election Finance, the Electoral Commission; and from Niall Bakewell, Northern Ireland Activism Coordinator and Declan Allison, Northern Ireland Campaigner, Friends of the Earth, gave oral evidence in public.

[Adjourned till 9.45 am on Thursday 7 March 2013]
Thursday 7 March 2013

Members present:

Mr Laurence Robertson, in the Chair

Mr Joe Benton
Oliver Colvile
Kate Hoey
Naomi Long

Nigel Mills
Ian Paisley
David Simpson

1. Draft Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill

The Committee considered this matter.

Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, gave oral evidence in public.

[Adjourned till 2.30 pm on Wednesday 20 March 2013]
Wednesday 20 March 2013

Members present:

Mr Laurence Robertson, in the Chair

Mr Joe Benton  Naomi Long
Oliver Colvile  Nigel Mills
Kate Hoey  Ian Paisley
Lady Hermon  David Simpson

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. NIO memoranda on the 2012-13 Supplementary Estimate

Ordered, That the written evidence from the NIO relating to the 2012-13 Supplementary Estimate be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Resolved, That further information be sought from the NIO on the 2012-13 Supplementary Estimate.

3. Implementation of the Armed Forces Covenant in Northern Ireland

Ordered, That the written evidence from the DUP be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

4. Fuel laundering and smuggling in Northern Ireland

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Draft Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (Draft Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Second Report of the Committee, HC 1003.

[Adjourned till 2.15 pm on Wednesday 17 April 2013

Monday 25 March

The Chairman visited Belfast to meet with the Chair of the Parades Commission and the Chief Constable of the PSNI, in a representative capacity, in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 25 February 2013.
Wednesday 17 April 2013

Members present:

Mr Laurence Robertson, in the Chair

Mr Joe Benton
Oliver Colvile
Lady Hermon
Kate Hoey
Naomi Long

Jack Lopresti
Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Nigel Mills
David Simpson

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Non-Jury Trial Arrangements for Northern Ireland

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Chair write to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to advise her that the Committee accepts the need for the provisions of the Order to be renewed.

3. Fuel laundering and smuggling in Northern Ireland

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Implementation of the Armed Forces Covenant in Northern Ireland

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Implementation of the Armed Forces Covenant in Northern Ireland be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Army Families Federation (AFC 12)
SSAFA Force Help (AFC 13)
Help for Heroes (AFC 14)

Col Richard Gordon DL, Branch Chairman for NI, SSAFA Forces Help, and Brian Maguire, Area Manager for Ireland, Royal British Legion; and from Peter Poole, Director of Strategic Planning and Partnerships, Combat Stress, and Col Paul Cummings, Director of Welfare, ABF The Soldiers' Charity gave oral evidence in public.

[Adjourned till 2.15 pm on Wednesday 24 April 2013]
David Anderson visited Londonderry to represent the Committee at the Children in Crossfire event, “The Culture of Compassion”, in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 6 March 2013.

**Wednesday 24 April 2013**

Members present:

Mr Laurence Robertson, in the Chair

Mr David Anderson  
Mr Stephen Hepburn  
Lady Hermon  
Kate Hoey  
Naomi Long  
Dr Alasdair McDonnell  
Nigel Mills  
Ian Paisley  
David Simpson

1. **Future programme**

The Committee considered this matter.

2. **Rt Hon Nigel Dodds MP**

Resolved, That the Chair write to Mr Dodds to express the Committee’s concern and to wish him a swift, and full, recovery following his recent illness.

3. **Fuel laundering and smuggling in Northern Ireland**

The Committee considered this matter.

4. **Implementation of the Armed Forces Covenant in Northern Ireland**

The Committee considered this matter.


[Adjourned till 2.15 pm on Wednesday 15 May 2013 in the next Session of Parliament]
APPENDIX A

DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS’ INTERESTS

Interests declared by Committee Members in the previous Session are available in the Committee’s Formal Minutes for 2010-12. These are available on the formal minutes page of the Committee’s website (http://www.parliament.uk/niacom/).

Andrew Percy

Remunerated employment, office, profession etc

Payments from ComRes, Four Millbank, London SW1P 3JA, for opinion surveys:

December 2011, £75. Hours: 30 mins. Payment donated to a constituent raising money for a charity. (Registered 13 January 2012)

3 July 2012, £75. Hours: 30 mins. Payment donated to charity via a constituent’s sponsored walk. (Registered 24 July 2012)

5 December 2012, £75. Hours: 30 mins. Payment donated to charity. (registered 6 December 2012)

Payment from Dods, 21 Dartmouth Street, London SW1H 9BP, for opinion survey:

4 July 2012, £100. Hours: 30 mins. Payment to Brigg & Goole Conservative Association. (Registered 24 July 2012)

Payment from Ipsos MORI, 79-81 Borough Road, London SE1 1FY, for interview:

11 July 2012, £150. Hours: 1 hr. (Registered 24 July 2012)

27 November 2012, £150. Hours: 1 hr. Payment donated to charity. (Registered 29 November 2012)

Overseas visits

Name of donor: Australia Israel Cultural Exchange
Address of donor: Suite 838, St Kilda Road Towers, 1 Queen’s Road, Melbourne, Victoria 3004, Australia
Amount of donation (or estimate of the probable value): £1,416
Destination of visit: Israel and the Palestinian territories
Date of visit: 7-10 January 2012
Purpose of visit: participation in the Australia Israel UK Leadership Dialogue. (Registered 30 January 2012)
Name of donor: Ministry of External Affairs, Republic of China (Taiwan)
Address of donor: c/o Taipei Representative Office in the UK, 50 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1 W0EB
Amount of donation (or estimate of the probable value): £3,600, which includes travel to and from Taiwan, £2,500, travel within the country, £200, accommodation £700 and meals £200
Destination of visit: Taipei City and Taoyuan County
Date of visit: 18-22 May 2012 inclusive
Purpose of visit: part of a parliamentary delegation at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to attend the Presidential inauguration ceremony and to gain a better understanding of economic and political issues concerning the country as well as bilateral relations between Taiwan and the UK (Registered 21 June 2012)

Declarations made in the previous session are available in the formal minutes for Session 2010–12, which are on the Committee’s website.