



## United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

### Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) Joint Committee

#### Note of Ninth Meeting - 19 November 2013

- Present:** Christine Collins (CC) (NIHRC – Commissioner)  
(Chair)  
Paul Yam (PY) (NIHRC – Commissioner)  
Stella Burnside (SB) (ECNI – Commissioner)  
Murray Watt (MW) (ECNI – Commissioner)
- In attendance:** Colin Caughey (CC) (NIHRC)  
Deborah Howe (DH) (ECNI)  
Darren McKinstry (DM) (ECNI)  
Paul Noonan (PN) (ECNI)  
David Russell (DR) (NIHRC)
- Apologies:** Evelyn Collins (EC) (ECNI – Chief Executive)  
Virginia McVea (VM) (NIHRC – Chief Executive)

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Welcome, Introductions and Overview</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Minutes of the last meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> February 20123 and actions arising <b>(Chair)</b></li></ul>	<b>CRPD/13/2/1</b>
	The Chair (CC) welcomed everyone to the meeting.	

	<p>It was agreed to amend the reference in the minutes of the previous meeting to evidence given by IMNI to the Assembly Ad Hoc Committee on the Welfare Reform Bill to evidence separately given by NIHRC and ECNI. The minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2013 were then adopted.</p>	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Update on Key Areas of Work</b>	
2.1	State Party Implementation and Monitoring (DM)	CRPD/13/2/2
	<p>DM provided an outline of IMNI (ECNI / NIHRC) work on State Party Implementation and Monitoring:</p> <p><b>Implementing the UNCRPD in NI</b></p> <p><b><i>Advancing the NI Disability Strategy</i></b></p> <p>DM updated on the publication of the Disability Strategy, the signature projects announced and the creating of a monitoring and evaluation sub-group.</p> <p>Members discussed the relative lack of clarity for stakeholders re: Delivering Social Change (the framework for delivery of the strategy); timelines for delivery of key actions, monitoring; and role of DPOs relative to work required from officials/NISRA to set out proposed indicators / data sources</p> <p>OFMdfm to be contacted to seek</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timeline for implementation of key actions under disability strategy;</li> <li>• Terms of Reference and key timelines for monitoring group;</li> <li>• Update on progress to date against the above / Disability Strategy;</li> </ul>	<p>PN to contact OFMdfm</p>

<p>Joint Committee wish to see response from OFMdfM at the Feb 2014 Joint Committee meeting.</p> <p><b>Monitoring Implementation of the UNCRPD in NI</b></p> <p><b><i>NI Disability Strategy</i></b></p> <p>PN updated on working ECNI analysis of NI Disability Strategy - including on narrower coverage of the Strategy relative to wider UNCRPD, and how in some cases the Annex to the Strategy had inappropriately linked UNCRPD articles to the Programme for Government (e.g. removal of peace lines as an improvement to accessibility).</p> <p>IMNI to convey critique of NI Disability Strategy to OFMdfM (following NIHRC input into draft). This should be raised with officials in the first instance, but consideration also to be given to raising the matter with Junior Ministers if leadership deemed to be an issue.</p> <p>It was agreed that key queries to be raised will include: How OFMdfM intends to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the UNCRPD if the Disability Strategy only has partial coverage of substantive Articles;</li> <li>• report to UN on progress against all UNCRPD articles (or identify future articles for prioritisation), in context where Disability Strategy monitoring does not cover all substantive UNCRPD articles.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Jurisdictional (State Party) Reporting</i></b></p> <p>Wider comments also focussed on ensuring OFMdfM well prepared to report to UN on implementation of UNCRPD in NI. It was felt important that OFMdfM were prompted to ensure they were correctly reporting, as</p>	<p>NIHRC to input into draft critique</p> <p>ECNI/NIHRC to engage with OFMDFM on views (Senior Staff to consider approach)</p> <p>NIHRC to consider how training on treaty monitoring might provide an</p>
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<p>required by the UNCRPD. Planned NIHRC training on treaty monitoring may provide an opportunity to advance this.</p> <p><b><i>UK State Party Report</i></b></p> <p>DM briefly updated on ECNI working analysis of UK State Party report as set out in paper, including lack of clarity on differences in legislative and policy context in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>NIHRC raised concerns about lack of evidence being presented by OFMdfM in support of position in Northern Ireland.</p> <p><b><i>Ongoing IMNI Evaluation work</i></b></p> <p>DM briefly reminded Commissioners on wider IMNI preparations for monitoring i.e. ECNI research commissioned in 2010 to consider gaps in policies and programmes which identified range of shortfalls, included 3 key cross cutting areas (Article 8: Awareness raising; Article 29: Participation in public / political life; and Articles 9, 21 and 31: Access to information and statistics/data collection).</p> <p>DM noted ECNI currently seeking to contract an update of this work. NIHRC to be represented on steering group.</p> <p>ECNI have also considered progress relative to Article 19 (Independent Living); Article 25 (Health) and Article 26 (Habilitation).</p>	<p>opportunity</p> <p>NIHRC to input views to inform IMNI consideration of key aspects to highlight in IMNI Jurisdictional and UKIM parallel reports</p> <p>NIHRC/ECNI to consider appropriateness of content of NI Jurisdictional report</p>
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2.3	Research and Policy Update <b>(DM/CC)</b>	CRPD/13/2/3
	<p>DM referred Committee members to a range of responses to policy consultations undertaken by ECNI, NIHRC and IMNI, in order to reinforce the implementation of the CRPD in the development of public policy in Northern Ireland, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northern Ireland Housing Executive (supported by DSD and DHSSPS): <i>“Inter Departmental Review of Housing Adaptations Services”</i> (ECNI) (May 2013);</li> <li>• Department for Social Development: <i>“Discretionary Support Policy”</i> (ECNI) (April 2013);</li> <li>• Department for Finance and Personnel: <i>“Welfare Reform - Rate Rebate Replacement Arrangements”</i> (ECNI) (April 2013);</li> <li>• Department for Health, Social Services and Public Safety: <i>“Who Cares? The Future of Adult Care and Support in Northern Ireland”</i> (ECNI) (March 2013);</li> <li>• Department for Health, Social Services and Public Safety: <i>“Autism Strategy (2013 - 2020) and Action Plan (2013 - 2015)”</i> (IMNI) (March 2013);</li> <li>• Department for Social Development: <i>PIP assessment ‘moving around activity’</i> (ECNI) (August 2013);</li> <li>• Department for Enterprise Trade and Investment: <i>Taking Control - A Financial Capability Strategy for Northern Ireland</i> (ECNI) (July 2013);</li> </ul>	

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Department for Regional Development: <i>Blue Badge Scheme in Northern Ireland – Changes to the Automatic Eligibility Criteria Scheme Administration Blue Badge Fee and Free Parking in the Department’s Car Parks</i> (ECNI)(July 2013);</li><li>• Department for Work and Pensions: <i>2013 Commissioning Strategy for welfare-to-work outcomes and services</i> (ECNI) (October 2013);</li><li>• Department for Health Social Services and Public Safety: <i>Minimum Care Standards for Independent Health Care Establishments Policy Consultation</i> (ECNI)(September 2013);</li><li>• Department of Education: <i>Consultation on proposed changes to the Common Funding Scheme for Schools</i> (NIHRC)(October 2013);</li><li>• Department of Justice: <i>Consultation on Civil Legal Aid Remuneration</i> (NIHRC)(November 2013).</li></ul> |  |
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2.4	Engagement Activities <b>(DM)</b>	CRPD/13/2/4
	<p><b>Expert Seminar</b></p> <p>CC set out the focus of the Dec 12 expert seminar for DPOs and noted option for IMNI to engage directly with expert via a separate meeting on that day.</p> <p><b>Wider Engagement</b></p> <p>DM/PN/CC set out initial thinking about wider engagement :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to raise awareness of UNCRPD reporting; and</li> <li>- opportunities for disabled persons / DPOs to input directly to the Committee and to inform the IMNI input to the UKIM submission.</li> </ul> <p><b>Engagement with State Party</b></p> <p>It was noted that engagement with ODI and jurisdictional representatives was scheduled for the 20 Nov UKIM meeting.</p> <p>Further engagement with OFM regarding both implementation and monitoring (covering many of the points above) would occur in Q3-Q4.</p>	<p>CC to develop agenda for Dec 12 sessions with DPOs and IMNI Staff / Commissioners</p> <p>PN/DH/CC to develop further</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Dates of next meetings</b>	
	<p>It was agreed that the next meetings of the Joint Committee would take place during 2014, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tue 18 Feb 2014 @ 2pm (ECNI)</li> <li>○ Tue 18 Nov 2014 @ 2pm (NIHRC) – date to be confirmed with any new Commissioners.</li> </ul>	