



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee on Procedures

Minutes of Proceedings

2 June 2021

Meeting Location: Virtual Meeting (Room 29)

Present by Video-Conference:

Ms Carál Ní Chuilín MLA (Chairperson)

Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

Mrs Rosemary Barton MLA

Mr Maurice Bradley MLA

Ms Sinéad Bradley MLA

Ms Nicola Brogan MLA

Mr Gerry Carroll MLA

Ms Linda Dillon MLA

Mr Gary Middleton MLA

Apologies: None

In Attendance by Video-Conference:

Emer Boyle (Committee Clerk)

Paul Gill (Clerk Assistant) (Item 10)

Stewart Kennedy (Assistant Clerk)



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Joanne Keenan (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced at 2.32pm in open session.

Mrs Rosemary Barton experienced continued Wi-Fi connection issues from the commencement of the meeting, making repeated efforts to join, but she was unable to hear or participate.

Agreed: The Committee agreed not to move to closed session at the end of the meeting to consider a draft letter to MLAs regarding Simultaneous Interpretation.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19 May 2021.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. House of Commons Procedure Committee Inquiry – Briefing by RaiSe

Ms Emma Dellow-Perry (Assembly Researcher) joined the meeting at 2.35pm.



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The Chairperson reminded the Committee that it had commissioned research in order to help inform its response to the House of Commons Procedures Committee Inquiry.

The Committee noted a covering memo from the Clerk and a research paper on Inter-Parliamentary Relations.

The Chairperson welcomed Ms Dellow-Perry to the meeting.

Ms Dellow-Perry briefed the Committee on the research paper.

The Chairperson thanked Ms Dellow-Perry for her briefing.

Ms Dellow-Perry left the meeting at 2.48pm.

The Chairperson reminded Members that the Committee will consider a draft response to the House of Commons Inquiry at a future meeting.

5. Standing Orders – Temporary Provisions

The Chairperson reminded the Committee that, at the last meeting, the Committee agreed to seek the views of the Business Committee and CLG on whether there is support for a further extension to the temporary provisions in Standing Orders.

The Committee noted a paper from the Clerk.

The Committee noted responses from the Business Committee and CLG.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to extend the temporary provisions (Standing Orders 110 – 116) to the end of the 2017-22 mandate.

Agreed: The Committee agreed a draft motion to amend Standing Order 110.

6. Correspondence

The Committee considered a letter from the Chairperson of the Women's Caucus which asked the Committee to consider whether a mechanism could be established



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within Standing Orders to allow the Women's Caucus to table motions and be added to the Order Paper.

Agreed: Given that there are alternative ways for the Women's Caucus to table motions and given the Committee's busy work programme for the remainder of the mandate, the Committee agreed to respond to the Chairperson advising that the Committee is not in a position to prioritise additional work to its forward work programme but will keep it in mind should time allow.

The Committee noted a memo from the Committee and Members Support Office regarding social media training for MLAs and support staff. The Committee also noted the latest publication of the NI Human Rights Commission newsletter.

7. Forward Work Programme

The Committee agreed the draft Forward Work Programme.

8. Chairperson's Business

There was no Chairperson's business.

9. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

10. NDNA Commitments for Committee on Procedures – Simultaneous Translation and Summary

The Chairperson reminded the Committee that, at the last meeting, the Committee agreed that provision for simultaneous and passive interpretation should be made



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available in the Assembly and for the Clerk to bring back a draft motion for consideration at today's meeting.

The Committee noted a paper from the Clerk.

Mrs Rosemary Barton left the meeting due to Wi-Fi connection failure (and was not able to re-join).

The Committee considered a draft motion and the question was put as to whether the Committee was content with the draft motion.

The Committee divided: Ayes 5; Noes 3.

Ayes: Ms Carál Ní Chuilín, Ms Nicola Brogan, Ms Linda Dillon, Ms Sinéad Bradley and Mr Gerry Carroll.

Noes: Mr Thomas Buchanan, Mr Maurice Bradley and Mr Gary Middleton

Agreed: The Committee agreed a draft motion.

Agreed: The Committee agreed a draft letter and its Annex to all MLAs.

Agreed: The Committee agreed not to embargo the letter and Annex to all MLAs.

The Committee noted a summary of the NDNA commitments which might have an impact on Assembly Standing Orders.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Agreed: It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Wednesday 16 June 2021 at 2.30pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 3.16pm.

Carál Ní Chuilín MLA



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Chairperson, Committee on Procedures
16 June 2021