

**AD HOC COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER A STATUTORY RULE
LAID BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR
NORTHERN IRELAND**

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2015
ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Stewart Dickson MLA (Chairperson)
Ms Paula Bradley MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Colum Eastwood MLA
Mr Tom Elliott MLA
Mr Gerry Kelly MLA
Mr Seán Lynch MLA
Mr George Robinson MLA

In Attendance: Nick Mitford (Senior Assistant Clerk)
Neil Currie (Assistant Clerk)
Mr Michael Greer (Clerical Supervisor)

1.02pm The meeting began in closed session – the Clerk in the Chair.

1. Apologies

None.

2. Election of Chairperson

The Clerk called for nominations for the position of Committee Chairperson.

Mr Kelly proposed that Mr Dickson be elected as Chairperson of the Committee.
Ms Bradley seconded this and the nomination was accepted.

Agreed: There being no further nominations, the Committee agreed that

Mr Dickson, being the only candidate proposed, be elected as Chairperson of the Committee.

1.05pm The Chairperson took the Chair and the meeting was suspended in order for the Clerk to brief the Chairperson.

3. Election of Deputy Chairperson

1.08pm Mr Eastwood joined the meeting.

1.08pm The meeting resumed with all Members present.

The Chairperson called for nominations for the position of Deputy Chairperson.

Mr Kelly proposed that Ms Bradley be elected as Deputy Chairperson of the Committee. Mr Lynch seconded this and the nomination was accepted.

Agreed: There being no further nominations, the Committee agreed that Ms Bradley, being the only candidate proposed, be elected as Deputy Chairperson of the Committee.

1.10pm The meeting moved into public session.

4. Declaration of Interests

The Committee considered a briefing paper in relation to the declaration of registerable interests, including an extract from the Register of Members' Interests.

The Chairperson reminded Members of their obligation to declare any relevant financial or other interests before and during each Committee meeting.

Mr Dickson, Mr Elliott and Mr Lynch declared an interest as Members of the Committee for Justice.

Mr Kelly and Mr Robinson declared an interest as Members of the Committee on Procedures.

5. Committee staff details

Members noted the contact details for the Secretariat staff supporting the Committee.

6. Committee procedures

The Committee considered a briefing paper on the procedures of the Committee and the Chairperson reminded Members of the rules relating to privilege and sub-judice.

Agreed: It was agreed that all decisions shall be made by a simple majority vote by showing of hands unless a Member requests otherwise.

Agreed: It was agreed to permit each of the parties represented on the Committee to nominate the same number of deputies as they had Members on the

Committee. A party deputy may take the place of a Committee Member from that party who is unable to attend a Committee meeting.

The Chairperson asked Members to arrange for nominations to be provided to the Clerk in advance of the next meeting.

7. Background papers

The Committee considered a briefing paper, submissions from stakeholders and other relevant documentation in relation to the proposed draft affirmative Statutory Rule laid by the Attorney General for Northern Ireland (AGNI).

In considering the written evidence, the Committee noted the following:

- The Examiner of Statutory Rules, in his report dated 30 January 2015, stated that he was content with the Statutory Rule following his technical scrutiny.
- The Committee for Justice, who has statutory responsibility for the scrutiny of this particular Statutory Rule, completed its consideration of the matter on 4 February 2015 when it agreed to recommend that the Statutory Rule be affirmed by the Assembly.
- The AGNI is content for the Statutory Rule to proceed.

Agreed: It was agreed that no further written or oral evidence was required.

Agreed: Having considered all of the evidence in relation to the proposed draft affirmative Statutory Rule laid by the AGNI, the Committee agreed that the Statutory Rule should proceed to plenary for consideration by the Assembly.

Agreed: It was agreed that the Clerk should prepare a draft report for consideration at the next meeting.

Agreed: It was agreed that the Clerk should draft a letter to the Business Committee requesting that it table a Business Motion asking the Assembly to approve the Statutory Rule, for consideration at the next meeting.

8. Draft Forward Work Programme

Agreed: It was agreed that only one further meeting of the Committee was required, at which the draft report would be considered.

9. Any Other Business

None.

10. Time, date and place of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on 3 March 2015 at 1.00pm in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

1.21pm The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Stewart Dickson

Chairperson

Ad Hoc Committee to consider a Statutory Rule laid by the Attorney General for Northern Ireland

3 March 2015