

AD HOC JOINT COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE MENTAL CAPACITY BILL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Tuesday, 19 May 2015
Room 30, Parliament Buildings**

Present: Mrs Pam Cameron MLA
Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson MLA
Mr Alex Easton MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Mr Patsy McGlone MLA
Mr Alastair Ross MLA

Apologies: Mr Tom Elliott MLA

In Attendance: Dr Kathryn Aiken (Clerk)
Ms Sohui Yim (Assistant Clerk)
Mr Innis Mennie (Clerical Supervisor)

The meeting commenced at 12.00 p.m. in closed session with the Clerk in the Chair.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Election of Chairperson

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

Pam Cameron proposed that Alastair Ross be elected as Chairperson of the Committee. Jo-Anne Dobson seconded this and the nomination was accepted.

Agreed: That there being no further nominations, Alastair Ross, being the only candidate proposed, be elected as Chairperson of the Committee.

The Chairperson took the Chair at 12.03 p.m. and the meeting was suspended in order for the Clerk to brief the Chairperson.

12.04 p.m. Meeting resumed.

3. Election of Deputy Chairperson

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

Jo-Anne Dobson proposed that Patsy McGlone be elected as Deputy Chairperson of the Committee. Alex Easton seconded this and the nomination was accepted.

Agreed: That there being no further nominations, Patsy McGlone, being the only candidate proposed, be elected as Deputy Chairperson of the Committee.

The meeting moved into public session at 12.05pm.

4. Declaration of interests

The Committee considered guidance on interests which need to be registered.

The Chairperson reminded Members of the obligations to declare any relevant interests before and during each Committee meeting.

5. Selection of meeting slot

The Committee discussed an appropriate meeting slot for the Committee to meet every week.

Agreed: To meet on Monday afternoons at 12pm.

Agreed: As the next Committee meeting day falls on a bank holiday, to meet on Tuesday, 26 May 2015 in the afternoon instead.

6. Committee procedures

The Committee considered guidance in relation to Committee procedures. The Chairperson reminded Members of the rules relating to privilege and sub-judice.

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

Agreed: That the Committee will exercise its power to call witnesses to give both written and oral evidence to the Committee, as required.

Agreed: That given the complexity of the Bill and that this is a joint ad hoc committee where membership must be drawn from the membership of the Health and Justice Committees, it would be not appropriate to allow for deputies at this time.

7. Draft timetable and other handling arrangements

The Chairperson advised Members that the Bill was likely to be introduced week commencing 1 June 2015. The Chairperson suggested that in order to best make use of the Committee's time, the Committee could issue its call for written evidence immediately after the Bill is introduced.

Agreed: To issue the call for evidence once the Bill is introduced to the Assembly.

Agreed: To place the public notice calling for written evidence in the Belfast Telegraph, the Irish News, the Newsletter and on the Assembly website.

Agreed: To write to the list of suggested stakeholders seeking written evidence.

Agreed: To allow a 4-week period for responses to the call for evidence.

8. Draft Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered a draft forward work programme.

Agreed: To receive briefings from the DHSSPS and DOJ over the next five meetings on the various Parts of the Bill.

Agreed: To receive a background briefing on the Bill from Assembly Research at the next Committee meeting.

9. Any Other Business

None.

10. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, 26 May 2015 Parliament Buildings. The Clerk will advise Members of the room/time for the meeting.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.15 pm.

Signed: _____

Chairperson

Date: _____