



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**TUESDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2012, ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,  
BALLYMISCAW, STORMONT**

Present: Mr Stephen Moutray (Chairperson)  
Mr Roy Beggs  
Mr Gregory Campbell  
Mr Stewart Dickson  
Mr Simon Hamilton  
Mr John McCallister  
Mr Raymond McCartney  
Mr Conall McDevitt  
Ms Cairtriona Ruane

Apologies: Mr Pat Sheehan (Deputy Chairperson)

In Attendance: Mr John Simmons (Assembly Clerk)  
Ms Ursula McCanny (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Andrienne Magee (Clerical Officer)  
Mr Christopher McNickle (Clerical Officer)

*The meeting opened at 11.02 am in public session.*

**1. Apologies**

Apologies are detailed above.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 23rd October 2012.

**3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

*Mr Stewart Dickson joined the meeting at 11.03 am.*

**4. Review of Parts III and IV of the Northern Ireland Act in the Context of Reviewing the Size of the NI Assembly and the Number of NI Departments**

The Chairperson advised the Members that the purpose of this agenda item was to consider items under Part 2 of the Committee's Review, that is, the number of NI Departments.

The Chairperson reminded the Members that, at the 23<sup>rd</sup> October meeting, the Committee had agreed to write to OFMDFM requesting information on costs, savings and the impact on employment from any restructuring of NI Departments. Members noted a copy of this letter and were advised by the Chairperson that, to date, no response had been received from OFMDFM other than an acknowledgement.

The Chairperson reminded Members that the Committee had the option of moving into closed session to discuss aspects of the Committee's Review on the number of Departments.

*Agreed:* To move into closed session.

*The Committee moved into closed session at 11.04 am.*

The Clerk briefed the Committee on the papers before Members.

The Chairperson drew Members' attention to the initial draft Report and stated that the aim of the session was to continue the Committee's discussions on the key issues of the Review, in order to agree the Committee's position and, consequently, the conclusions to be included in the Report.

The Committee discussed a number of matters relating to the Committee's Review on the number of Government Departments.

*Mr McCartney left meeting at 11.10am.*

*Mr McCallister joined the meeting at 11.15am.*

*Mr Campbell joined the meeting at 11.18am.*

*Mr McDevitt left the meeting at 11.36am.*

*Mr McDevitt and Mr McCartney rejoined the meeting at 11.38am.*

*Agreed:* To finalise discussions and agree the Part 2 Report at the next Committee meeting.

## **5. Forward Work Programme**

The Chairperson advised Members that the purpose of this agenda item was to consider options for the Committee's next review work, scheduled to commence early December 2012.

The Committee discussed the possible topics for their next review.

Agreed: To continue discussions on the topic of the Committee's next review work at a future meeting.

Agreed: To enquire of the Northern Ireland Office regarding the outcome of the Secretary of State's Public Consultation on '*Measures to Improve the Operation of the Northern Ireland Assembly*', which closed on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2012 and the timeline of the Secretary of State's proposed Bill.

*Ms Ruane left the meeting at 11.56am.*

*The Committee moved into open session at 12.02pm.*

*Mr Campbell left the meeting at 12.02pm.*

## **7. Any Other Business**

There were no other items of business.

## **8. Date, Time and Place of next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Assembly and Executive Review Committee will be held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November, at 11.00am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.03pm.*

**Mr Stephen Moutray**  
**Chairperson**  
**Assembly and Executive Review Committee**