



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2012, ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,
BALLYMISCAW, STORMONT**

Present:	Mr Stephen Moutray (Chairperson)	
	Mr Roy Beggs	
	Mr Gregory Campbell	
	Mr Stewart Dickson	
	Mr Paul Givan	
	Mr Simon Hamilton	
	Mr John McCallister	
	Mr Raymond McCartney	
	Mr Conall McDevitt	
Apologies:	Ms Caitriona Ruane	
	Mr Pat Sheehan	
In Attendance:	Mr John Simmons	(Assembly Clerk)
	Ms Ursula McCanny	(Assistant Assembly Clerk)
	Mr Christopher McNickle	(Clerical Officer)
	Mr Raymond McCaffrey	(Research Officer)
	Ms Kiera McDonald	(Legal Adviser)

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 noted the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 20th November 2012.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

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 Members that the Committee's Part 2 Report, agreed at the meeting of 20th November 2012, is scheduled to be debated on Monday 10th December 2012 with an indicative timing of 3.40pm, and that a media operational notice to that effect would be circulated on Friday 7th December. Copies of the embargoed Part 2 Report were tabled for Members.

Mr Simon Hamilton left the meeting at 11.04am.

5. AERC Next Review Subject

The Chairperson advised Members that, as the Committee was to receive a legal briefing from Assembly Legal Service on its next review subject, it would be appropriate for the Committee to go into closed session for the duration of the briefing and any subsequent discussion.

Agreed: To move into closed session.

The Committee moved into closed session at 11.05am.

The Chairperson welcomed a representative from Assembly Legal Service and invited her to join the meeting.

Assembly Legal Service representative joined the meeting at 11.05am.

The Assembly Legal Adviser briefed the Committee.

Mr Simon Hamilton joined the meeting at 11.07am.

Mr Roy Beggs left the meeting at 11.16am.

The Chairperson thanked the Assembly Legal Adviser.

The Committee moved into open session at 11.24am.

6. AERC Next Review Subject (continued)

The Chairperson welcomed a representative from Assembly Research and Information Service and invited him to join the meeting.

Assembly Research representative joined the meeting at 11.24am.

The Assembly Research representative briefed the Committee on the Research Paper entitled ‘*Oppostion, Community Designation and D’Hondt*’ as requested.

This was followed by a short discussion on the paper.

The Chairperson thanked the Assembly Research Officer.

The Chairperson reminded Members that the Committee had the option of moving into closed session to discuss the subject of its next review.

Agreed: To move into closed session.

The Committee moved into closed session at 11.42 am

Mr Stewart Dickson left the meeting at 11.42am.

Mr Roy Beggs joined the meeting at 11.43am.

Mr Paul Givan joined the meeting at 12.01pm.

The Committee discussed the topics to be covered in the Committee’s next Review in order to identify the key issues that should be included in a stakeholder ‘Call for Evidence’ paper and reflected in the overall Terms of Reference of the Review.

Agreed: To continue discussions on this at the Committee’s next meeting.

7. Forward Work Programme

The Chairperson advised the Members that that the purpose of this agenda item was to give consideration to the initial timeline for its next Review.

The Chairperson advised Members that the next meeting is not scheduled until 15th January 2013. He explained that the reason for this gap is, first, the upcoming Christmas recess, and, second, the need for the Committee Secretariat to spend time drafting Terms of Reference, a Stakeholder ‘Call for Evidence’ paper and a Stakeholder list, based on the Committee’s discussion to date.

The Committee moved into open session at 12.11 pm

8. Any Other Business

There were no other items of business.

9. Date, Time and Place of next Meeting

The next meeting of the Assembly and Executive Review Committee will be held on Tuesday 15th January, at 11.00am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.12 pm.

Mr Stephen Moutray
Chairperson
Assembly and Executive Review Committee