



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 29TH JANUARY 2013, ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,
BALLYMISCAW, STORMONT**

Present: Mr Stephen Moutray (Chairperson)
Mr Roy Beggs
Mr Stewart Dickson
Mr Paul Givan
Mr Simon Hamilton
Mr John McCallister
Mr Raymond McCartney
Mr Conall McDevitt
Ms Cairtriona Ruane
Mr Pat Sheehan

Apologies: None.

In Attendance: Mr John Simmons (Assembly Clerk)
Ms Ursula McCanny (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Joe Westland (Clerical Supervisor)

The meeting opened at 11.02 am in public session.

1. Apologies

None.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 15th January 2013.

3. Matters Arising

The Committee noted the memo from the Health Committee regarding two of the recommendations in its recent Report on health inequalities. The recommendations relate to the restructuring of Departments, which was the subject of the Assembly and Executive Review Committee's previous Review.

There were no further matters arising.

4. D'Hondt, Community Designation and Provisions for Opposition

The Chairperson reminded Members that at the meeting of 15th January, the Committee discussed issues relating to its Review of d'Hondt, community designation and provisions for opposition. At that meeting, the Committee discussed the initial draft 'Call for Evidence' paper and suggested some amendments to it. The Chairperson informed Members that a revised paper has been provided to Members in this week's meeting pack, for Committee revision and agreement.

The Chairperson reminded Members that the Committee had the option of moving into closed session for this discussion.

Agreed: To move into closed session.

The Committee moved into closed session at 11.04 am.

Mr Pat Sheehan joined the meeting at 11.04 am.

The Clerk of the Committee proceeded to brief Members on the amended 'Call for Evidence' paper and the other papers provided to Members. The Committee proceeded to have a discussion based on these papers.

Ms Caitríona Ruane left the meeting at 11.09 am.

Mr Simon Hamilton left the meeting at 11.09 am.

Ms Caitríona Ruane rejoined the meeting at 11.10 am.

Mr John McCallister joined the meeting at 11.10 am.

Ms Caitríona Ruane left the meeting at 11.11 am.

Ms Caitríona Ruane rejoined the meeting at 11.12 am.

Mr Roy Beggs joined the meeting at 11.14 am.

Agreed: To continue the discussions at the Committee's next meeting, with the aim of finalising the 'Call for Evidence' paper.

The Committee discussed the draft Stakeholder list and suggested some amendments.

The Chairperson noted an acknowledgement received from the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, in response to the Committee's letter requesting that a summary of the outcome of the recent NIO consultation on 'Measures to improve the operation of the Northern Ireland Assembly' be forwarded to the Committee as soon as it is available. The acknowledgement states that a reply will be forwarded to the Committee as soon as possible.

5. Forward Work Programme

The Chairperson advised Members that the purpose of this agenda item was to give consideration to the timeline for the Committee's current Review and some evidence sessions in February and March.

The Chairperson asked the Committee if they were content with the forward work programme as drafted.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme, with the addition of other academics/expert witnesses to the evidence sessions already scheduled or with the addition of further evidence sessions.

Mr Paul Givan joined the meeting at 11.26 am.

The Committee discussed the possibility of an information-gathering visit to another legislature to inform the current Review.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to discuss this further at its next meeting.

The Chairperson proposed that the meeting move into open session.

Agreed: To move into open session.

The Committee moved into open session at 11.28 am.

6. Any Other Business

There were no other items of business.

7. Date, Time and Place of next Meeting

The next meeting of the Assembly and Executive Review Committee will be held on Tuesday 12th February, at 11.00 am in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.29 am.

Mr Stephen Moutray
Chairperson
Assembly and Executive Review Committee