



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2013, ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,
BALLYMISCAW, STORMONT**

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

Apologies: Mr Roy Beggs
Mr Pat Sheehan

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

The meeting opened at 11.03 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 29th January 2013.

3. Matters Arising

The Committee noted the letter from OFMDFM dated 4 February 2013, sent in response to the letter sent by the Committee on 23rd October 2012, in relation to its previous Review.

Mr John McCallister joined the meeting at 11.09 am.

Mr Conall McDevitt joined the meeting at 11.13 am.

The Committee noted the ‘Publication of Draft Legislation Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions)’, issued by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on 11th February 2013. Members discussed some aspects that impact on the Committee’s current Review and agreed amendments to the Terms of Reference and ‘Call for Evidence’ paper accordingly.

There were no further matters arising.

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

The Chairperson reminded Members that at the meeting of 29th January 2013, the Committee discussed issues relating to its Review of d’Hondt, community designation and provisions for opposition. At that meeting, the Committee considered the redrafted ‘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 consideration and agreement.

The Chairperson advised Members that some amendments were also made to the stakeholder list, based on the discussion at the meeting of 29th January. An updated version of the stakeholder list was tabled, which includes additional academics suggested to the Committee Secretariat.

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

Agreed: To move into closed session.

The Committee moved into closed session at 11.19 am.

The Clerk of the Committee briefed 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.

The Committee discussed the draft stakeholder list.

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

Agreed: The Committee agreed to further discuss a possible visit 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 11.32 am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the ‘Call for Evidence’ paper and that it should be issued for consultation.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the stakeholder list.

5. Forward Work Programme

The Chairperson advised Members that 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 Members if they were content with the forward work programme as drafted.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme.

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 26th February, at 10.30 am in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.34 am.

Mr Stephen Moutray
Chairperson
Assembly and Executive Review Committee