



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 23RD APRIL 2013, ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,
BALLYMISCAW, STORMONT**

Present: Mr Pat Sheehan (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Roy Beggs
Mr Gregory Campbell
Mr Stewart Dickson
Mr Paul Givan
Mr Simon Hamilton
Mr Seán Rogers
Ms Caitríona Ruane

Apologies: Mr Stephen Moutray
Mr Conall McDevitt

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

Professor Yvonne Galligan, Queen's University Belfast.

The meeting opened at 10.04 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 9th April 2013.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

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

The Deputy Chairperson reminded the Committee that the purpose of this agenda item was for the Committee to consider oral evidence on its Review of d'Hondt, community designation and provisions for opposition.

The Deputy Chairperson invited Professor Yvonne Galligan from Queen's University Belfast, to join the meeting.

Professor Yvonne Galligan joined the meeting at 10.06 am

Professor Yvonne Galligan briefed the Committee on her written submission to the Committee's Review.

This was followed by a question and answer session.

Mr Paul Givan joined the meeting at 10.24 am

Mr Roy Beggs left the meeting at 10.28 am.

Mr Gregory Campbell joined the meeting at 10.30 am.

The Deputy Chairperson thanked Professor Galligan for her oral evidence to the Committee.

Professor Galligan left the meeting at 10.55am

Ms Cairtriona Ruane left the meeting at 10.57am.

The Deputy Chairperson advised Members that a folder was circulated containing papers referred to during the Committee's recent visit to the Scottish Parliament, plus a brief summary of the issues discussed.

The Deputy Chairperson advised Members that following a further written request of 9th April 2013 to the political parties and independent Members of the Assembly requesting that they respond to the Committee's Call for Evidence, a response had been received from the UUP, and was included in the meeting pack.

The Deputy Chairperson asked Members whose parties have not yet replied to make an effort to ensure that a response is made as soon as possible to the Call for Evidence.

The Deputy Chairperson advised Members that papers were received from the Committee on Procedures with regard to the Committee's current Review, specifically in relation to Petitions of Concern.

The Clerk briefed the Committee on the papers and advised Members of a draft response to the Committee on Procedures stating that the Assembly and Executive Review Committee will consider the issue raised as part of its current Review.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to send the response to the Committee on Procedures.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request advice from Assembly Legal Service on the subject.

Forward Work Programme

The Deputy Chairperson advised the Committee that the purpose of this agenda item was to note the upcoming Committee meetings scheduled for May and June, with the current Review planned to be completed by the end of June.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that they were content with the Forward Work Programme as drafted.

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 7 May 2013, at 10.00 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Deputy Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.07 am.

Mr Pat Sheehan
Deputy Chairperson
Assembly and Executive Review Committee