



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2013, ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,
BALLYMISCAW, STORMONT**

Present: Mr Stephen Moutray (Chairperson)
Mr Roy Beggs
Mr Gregory Campbell
Mr Stewart Dickson
Mr Paul Givan
Mr Raymond McCartney
Mr Seán Rogers
Ms Caitríona Ruane
Mr Pat Sheehan

Apologies: None.

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

Mr Raymond McCaffrey (Research Officer)
Mrs Kiera McDonald (Legal Adviser)

The meeting opened at 10.37am in public session.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 10th September 2013.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Draft End of Session Report

The Chairperson referred the Committee to the draft End of Session Report for AERC for the period of September 2012 to August 2013. The Clerk proposed one minor amendment.

Mr Raymond McCartney joined the meeting at 10.39am.

Agreed: Content with the Report as amended and for it to be published.

5. Topic of Committee's Next Review

The Chairperson reminded Members that, at the meeting on 10th September 2013, the Committee agreed that the topic of its next Review would be Petitions of Concern.

The Chairperson invited a Research Officer from Assembly Research and Information Service to join the meeting, to brief the Committee on research papers that were first presented to it during its previous Review.

The Assembly Research Officer joined the meeting at 10.40am.

An Assembly Research Officer briefed the Committee on the Research Paper entitled 'Additional information on Petitions of Concern' and an extract from the paper 'Opposition, community designation and D'Hondt'.

Mr Stewart Dickson and Mr Gregory Campbell joined the meeting at 10.44am.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

The Chairperson advised Members that, as the Committee was to receive a briefing from Assembly Legal Service on an issue relevant to the current Review, 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 10.47am.

The Chairperson welcomed an Assembly Legal Adviser and invited her to join the meeting.

The Assembly Legal Adviser joined the meeting at 10.47am

Mr Roy Beggs joined the meeting at 11.03am.

The Assembly Legal Adviser briefed the Committee on legal advice that was first presented to the Committee in May 2013.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

The Chairperson thanked the Assembly Legal Adviser.

The Chairperson advised the Committee that they had the option of remaining in closed session to continue this discussion.

Agreed: To remain in closed session.

The Committee discussed key issues relating to Petitions of Concern.

Mr Raymond McCartney left the meeting at 11.06am.

Mr Stewart Dickson left the meeting at 11.09am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the secretariat would provide draft Terms of Reference for the Review at its next meeting.

The Committee moved into open session at 11.26am.

6. Forward Work Programme

The Chairperson advised Members that the purpose of this agenda item was for Members to consider the meetings scheduled for the Committee's current Review.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the Forward Work Programme as drafted.

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 8th October at 10.30am in room 21.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.27am.

Mr Stephen Moutray, Chairperson

Assembly and Executive Review Committee