



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2014, ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,
BALLYMISCAW, STORMONT**

Present: Mr Stephen Moutray (Chairperson)
Mr Roy Beggs
Ms Paula Bradley
Mr Gregory Campbell
Mr Paul Givan
Mr Trevor Lunn
Ms Caitríona Ruane
Mr Pat Sheehan

Apologies: Mr Raymond McCartney

In Attendance: Mr John Simmons (Assembly Clerk)
Ms Kate McCullough (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Jim Nulty (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Jonathan Kerr (Clerical Officer)

The meeting opened at 10.34am in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr. Raymond McCartney.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 24 June 2014.

3. Matters Arising

Members noted Political Parties were to be encouraged to respond to the request for priority issues for future reviews by AERC.

Caitríona Ruane joined the meeting at 10.36am

The Committee noted additional information provided by Professor Galligan from Queen's University regarding gender and politics both in the UK and Ireland.

The Committee also noted the postponement by the Speaker of the event with the Presiding Officer for the National Assembly of Wales on 'encouraging female involvement in public life' until a later date.

4. End of Session Report 2013-2014

The Committee considered the draft End of Session Report 2013-14 and of the Members' attendance figures for the same period.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the End of Session Report with a slight amendment and to contact the Committee Secretariat Office if there were any queries on attendance figures.

5. Women in Politics and the Northern Ireland Assembly Review – Barriers and Challenges (Evidence Session)

Witnesses joined the meeting at 10.39am

Chairperson left the meeting at 10.39am and the Deputy Chairperson took on the role of Chairperson at 10.39am.

Paul Givan joined the meeting at 10.51am

Members received evidence from Anne McVicker, Director of Women's Resource and Development Agency, Lynn Carvill, Chief Executive of Women's Tec and Annie Campbell, Director NI Women's Aid Federation NI on the key challenges and barriers for women in politics.

Paul Givan left the meeting at 11.00am

The Deputy Chairperson thanked the witnesses for their presentation and discussion which followed.

Witnesses left the meeting at 11.39am.

Agreed: To request from the NI Assembly Research and Information Service provide research on current training and development from community to the Government / NI Assembly level for women in or considering politics.

6. Breakdown of the Responses Received to Date from the Call for Evidence

Members noted the breakdown of the responses received.

Agreed: To prepare a draft programme for a half day event for consideration by the Committee at the next meeting.

7. Committee's Visit to Iceland

Members noted the draft visit programme and information in relation to the visit to Iceland from 24-26 September 2014 as part of its current Review of women in politics.

Caitriona Ruane left the meeting at 11.54am

8. Additional information relating to the Review

The Committee noted some additional information relating to the Review.

9. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the draft Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed with the Forward Work Programme as drafted.

10. Any Other Business

There were no other items of business.

11. Date, Time and Place of next Meeting

The next meeting of the Assembly and Executive Review Committee will be held on Tuesday 7 October at 10.30am in room 21.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.56am.

**Mr Pat Sheenan, Deputy Chairperson
Assembly and Executive Review Committee**