



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER 2015, ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,
BALLYMISCAW, STORMONT**

Present: Mr Pat Sheehan (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Danny Kennedy
Ms Caitriona Ruane
Ms Paula Bradley
Mr Sean Rogers
Mr Alastair Ross

In Attendance: Mr Keith McBride (Assembly Clerk)
Ms Pamela Carson (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Jim Nulty (Clerical Supervisor)

The Deputy Chairperson opened the meeting at 10.12am.

1. Apologies

Mr Stephen Moutray
Mr Raymond McCartney
Mr Trevor Lunn

**2. Assembly and Executive Reform (Assembly Opposition) Bill – Committee
Deliberations on the Bill including Review of Evidence**

John McCallister and Peter Hutchinson joined the meeting at 10.13am

The Committee continued its deliberations on a clause-by-clause basis by focussing on a table containing a summary of responses received under the Call for Evidence and the Sponsor's responses to the issues raised, his policy intention and suggested amendments for each clause.

Ms Ruane stated that an opposition can be formed, through Standing orders, without legislation and that 'Fresh Start' was the way forward.

Paragraphs 1-2 of the Schedule

The Committee considered the submissions from stakeholders in respect of Paragraphs 1-2 of the Schedule of the Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that no further information was required and that it would not pursue an amendment to Paragraphs 1-2 of the Schedule.

Paragraphs 3-6 of the Schedule

The Committee considered the submissions from stakeholders in respect of Paragraphs 3-6 of the Schedule of the Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that no further information was required and that it would not pursue an amendment to Paragraphs 3-6 of the Schedule.

Paragraph 7 of the Schedule

The Committee considered the submissions from stakeholders in respect of Paragraph 7 of the Schedule and the draft proposed amendments put forward by the Bill Sponsor.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that no further information was required and that it would not pursue an amendment to Paragraph 7 of the Schedule.

Mr Rogers joined the meeting at 10.17am.

Paragraph 8 of the Schedule

The Committee considered the submissions from stakeholders in respect of Paragraph 8 of the Schedule.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that no further information was required and that it would not pursue an amendment to Paragraph 8 of the Schedule.

Mr Kennedy joined the meeting at 10.18am.

Paragraph 9 of the Schedule

The Committee considered the submissions from stakeholders in respect of Paragraph 9 of the Schedule.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that no further information was required and that it would not pursue an amendment to Paragraph 9 of the Schedule.

Paragraph 10 of the Schedule

The Committee considered the submissions from stakeholders in respect of Paragraph 10 of the Schedule.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that no further information was required and that it would not pursue an amendment to Paragraph 10 of the Schedule.

Paragraph 11 of the Schedule

The Committee considered the summary of responses from stakeholders in respect of Paragraph 11 of the Schedule.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that no further information was required and that it would not pursue an amendment to Paragraph 11 of the Schedule.

Paragraph 12 of the Schedule

The Committee considered the responses from stakeholders in respect of Paragraph 12 of the Schedule.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that no further information was required and that it would not pursue an amendment to Paragraph 12 of the Schedule.

Paragraph 13 of the Schedule

The Committee considered the responses from stakeholders in respect of Paragraph 13 of the Schedule.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that no further information was required and that it would not pursue an amendment to Paragraph 13 of the Schedule.

Paragraph 14 of the Schedule

The Committee considered the responses from stakeholders in respect of Paragraph 14 of the Schedule. The Bill Sponsor advised that he would be taking forward the suggested amendment from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that no further information was required and that it would not pursue an amendment to Paragraph 14 of the Schedule.

Paragraph 15

The Committee considered the responses from stakeholders in respect of Paragraph 15 of the Schedule.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that no further information was required and that it would not pursue an amendment to Paragraph 15 of the Schedule.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the Committee meeting held on Tuesday 1 December 2015.

4. Matters Arising

The Committee noted that the pre-introductory briefing by OFMDFM on the proposed Assembly Members (Reduction of Numbers) Bill has been provisionally scheduled for 12 January 2016.

5. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the draft Forward Work Programme and agreed that formal clause-by-clause deliberations of the Bill will be completed at the next meeting on 12 January 2016.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 12 January 2016 at 10.00am in Room 21.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 10.25am.

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