



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2015, ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,
BALLYMISCAW, STORMONT**

Present: Mr Stephen Moutray (Chairperson)
Mr Pat Sheehan (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Danny Kennedy
Mr Raymond McCartney
Ms Caitriona Ruane
Mr Trevor Lunn
Mr Gregory Campbell

In Attendance: Ms Claire McCanny (Senior Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Ms Pamela Carson (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Jim Nulty (Clerical Supervisor)

The Deputy Chairperson opened the meeting at 10.11am in public session.

1. Apologies

Ms Paula Bradley
Mr Alastair Ross
Mr Sean Rogers

2. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the Committee meeting held on Tuesday 10 November 2015.

3. Matters Arising

The Committee was advised of the submissions received under the Committee's Call for Evidence which closed on 10 November 2015.

Agreed: Members agreed that the submissions received should be published on the Committee web page.

Members were referred to the Assembly Research Paper on assessing the estimated costs of the Assembly Opposition Bill and advised that the paper highlights a number of issues which require clarification from the Bill Sponsor to facilitate greater financial scrutiny of the Bill.

Agreed: Members agreed that a copy of the Research Paper should be forwarded to the Bill Sponsor, John McCallister, requesting a response on the issues raised in the paper.

4. Assembly and Executive Reform (Assembly Opposition) Bill – Briefing by Professor Derek Birrell

Professor Birrell joined the meeting at 10.12am

Professor Birrell presented his written evidence on the Assembly and Executive Reform (Assembly Opposition) Bill. This was followed by a question and answer session.

Ms Ruane left the meeting at 10.18am.

The meeting was inquorate so a short suspension was called at 10.18am.

Ms Ruane rejoined the meeting at 10.22am.

The meeting was reopened at 10.22am.

Mr Lunn joined the meeting at 10.32am.

Mr Kennedy left the meeting at 10.45am.

Mr Kennedy rejoined the meeting at 10.47am.

5. Assembly and Executive Reform (Assembly Opposition) Bill – Briefing by Mr John McCallister MLA

Mr John McCallister MLA and Mr Peter Hutchinson joined the meeting at 10.49am

Mr McCallister briefed the Committee on issues raised during previous evidence sessions and his written response to the Committee before addressing specific issues in respect of individual clauses in the Bill. This was followed by a question and answer session.

Agreed: Members agreed to request legal advice on issues related to the Bill.

Mr Campbell joined the meeting at 10.50am.

Mr Moutray joined the meeting at 11.04am.

Ms Ruane left the meeting at 11.15am.

Mr Moutray left the meeting at 11.19am.

Mr Moutray rejoined the meeting at 11.27am.

Mr Lunn left the meeting at 11.27am.

6. Forward Work Programme

Members were referred to the Forward Work Programme in their pack and advised that this covers the period up to 26 January 2016 (end of the Committee Stage of the Bill).

Agreed: Members agreed the Forward Work Programme.

7. Any Other Business

Members discussed correspondence from the Open Government Network NI.

Agreed: Members agreed to write to Open Government Network NI to advise that under Standing Order 59 3(b) the Committee may only consider ‘such other matters relating to the functioning of the Assembly or the Executive Committee as may be referred to it by the Assembly.’

8. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 24 November 2015 at 10.00am in Room 21.

The Deputy Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.51am

**Mr Stephen Moutray, Chairperson
Assembly and Executive Review Committee**