



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 19 JANUARY 2016, ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,
BALLYMISCAW, STORMONT**

Present: Mr Pat Sheehan (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Danny Kennedy
Ms Paula Bradley
Mr Raymond McCartney
Mr Gregory Campbell
Ms Caitriona Ruane
Mr Alastair Ross

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

The Deputy Chairperson commenced the meeting inquorate and in closed session at 10.08am.

1. Briefing by Bill Office

Aoibhinn Treanor joined the meeting at 10.08am.

The Clerk from the Bill Office briefed the Committee on a number of procedural matters. The Committee considered whether it wished to register its opposition to Clauses 2-24 of the Bill and Paragraphs 1-15 of the Schedule.

Mr Campbell joined the meeting at 10.22am.

Agreed: The Committee unanimously agreed not to table its opposition stand part to clauses 2-24 of the Bill and paragraphs 1-15 of the Schedule.

2. Apologies

Mr Stephen Moutray
Mr Seán Rogers

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the Committee meeting held on Tuesday 12 January 2016.

4. Matters Arising

The Committee noted that the Second Stage of the Assembly Members (Reduction of Numbers) Bill will take place in Plenary on 25 January 2016. The Deputy Chair informed Members he would be speaking on behalf of the Committee.

5. Assembly and Executive Reform (Assembly Opposition) Bill – Review Draft Report

The Committee considered and was content with the draft report (up to paragraph 52) of the Committee Stage of the Assembly and Executive (Assembly Opposition) Bill.

Ms Paula Bradley left the meeting at 10.28am

The meeting was suspended at 10.28am owing to lack of quorum

The meeting recommenced at 3.23pm in open session, and the following members were present:

Ms Paula Bradley
Mr Danny Kennedy
Mr Raymond McCartney
Mr Alastair Ross
Ms Caitriona Ruane
Mr Pat Sheehan

The Committee considered and was content with the remainder of the draft report of the Committee Stage of the Assembly and Executive (Assembly Opposition) Bill.

6. Assembly and Executive Reform (Assembly Opposition) Bill – Agree Final Report

Agreed: The Committee was content that the Table of Contents and Powers and Membership (Paragraphs 1-2) stand part of the final report.

Agreed: The Committee was content that the List of Abbreviations and Acronyms stand part of the final report.

Agreed: The Committee was content that paragraphs 3-8 stand part of the final report.

Agreed: The Committee was content that paragraphs 10-21 stand part of the final

report.

Agreed: The Committee was content that paragraphs 22-25 stand part of the final report.

Agreed: The Committee was content that paragraphs 26-122 stand part of the final report.

Agreed: The Committee was content that the clause-by-clause table stands part of the final report.

Agreed: The Committee was content that Appendix 1 Minutes of Proceedings of the Committee stand part of the final report.

Agreed: The Committee was content that Appendix 2 Minutes of Evidence stand part of the final report.

Agreed: The Committee was content that Appendix 3 Written Submissions stand part of the final report.

Agreed: The Committee was content that Appendix 4 Correspondence and Research Papers stand part of the final report.

Agreed: The extract of the minutes of proceeding and minutes of evidence (Hansard) from today's meeting will be included in the final report.

Agreed: The Committee was content that the Deputy Chairperson of the Committee approves the extract of the minutes of proceedings from today's meeting for inclusion in the final report.

Agreed: The Committee was content that the Hansard edition of the meeting be included in the final report.

Agreed: The Committee was content that the Committee Secretariat makes any formatting/editorial changes required to the report in advance of publication.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the report be the Eighth Report of the Assembly and Executive Review Committee to the Assembly.

Agreed: The Committee was content that the Business Office is advised of the Committee's agreement to publish the report.

7. Any Other Business

The Committee noted the correspondence from the Speaker regarding his plans for marking International Women's Day by hosting an Assembly Women's Week, week beginning 7 March 2016.

Ms Ruane informed the Committee that she had attended a women's conference in London recently and wished to put on the record that the AERC Report on 'Women in Politics and the Northern Ireland Assembly' is regarded as a very important report.

Ms Ruane noted the engagement of herself and fellow Committee member Ms Bradley in the organisation of the Assembly's Women's week and encouraged the Committee to do anything it can to move forward the recommendations made in the Committee Report.

8. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

Agreed: Members agreed that the Committee Secretariat would contact Members to arrange.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 15.40pm.

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