

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 21 JANUARY 2014
IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 12.33pm.

Present:

The Speaker
Mr G Kelly
Mr K McCarthy
Mrs K McKeivitt
Lord Morrow
Mrs S Overend
Mr P Ramsey
Mr R Swann
Mr P Weir

In attendance:

Ms L Gordon	Clerk of Business
Dr G McGrath	Director of Clerking and Reporting
Ms N Dunwoody	Clerk Assistant
Mr R Ramsey	Adviser to the Speaker
Ms F Leneghan	PS/Speaker
Mr H Widdis	Director of Legal Services
Mr C McNickle	Assistant Assembly Clerk

Observers:

Principal Deputy Speaker McLaughlin
Junior Minister Bell
Junior Minister McCann
Mr A Rogers **OFMDFM**

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies were noted from Mr Stewart Dickson and Ms Caitriona Ruane.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14 January were **agreed** and signed by the Speaker.

3. **Matters arising**

3.1 There were no matters arising.

4. **Finalisation of the Order Papers for the plenary meetings in week commencing 27 January**

Assembly Business

4.1 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Alliance Party to change Committee Membership on Monday 27 January.

Executive Business

4.2 Members **noted** that there was the possibility of a statement on the EU Fisheries Council on Monday 27 January.

4.3 Members **noted** that there was no change to Executive Business previously scheduled for Tuesday 28 January.

Committee Business

4.4 Members **noted** that there was no Committee Business requested for Monday 27 January or Tuesday 28 January.

Private Members' Business

4.5 Members **noted** that there was no change to Private Members' Business scheduled for Monday 27 January or Tuesday 28 January.

4.6 Junior Minister Bell advised that no further business was expected at this stage.

4.7 The draft Order Papers were **agreed**.

5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 03 February 2014**

Executive Business

5.1 Members **noted** that Question Time to the Minister for Social Development and to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development was scheduled for Monday 03 February.

5.2 Members **noted** that the following business was scheduled for Tuesday 04 February:

- Question Time to the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure and to the Minister of Education;
- Second Stage of the Reservoirs Bill;
- Final Stage of the Public Service Pensions Bill.

Committee Business

5.3 Members **agreed** to provisionally schedule a motion from the Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety on 'Health Inequalities experienced by people with a Learning Disability' on Monday 03 February 2014, subject to its formal agreement by that committee at its next meeting, with the usual timings.

5.4 Members **noted** that no Committee Business had been requested for Tuesday 04 February.

Private Members' Business

5.5 Members **agreed** to schedule one Private Members' Motion on Monday 03 February, but none on Tuesday 04 February.

5.6 Under the system of allocation the selection lay with the DUP. However, Mr Weir asked to postpone the party's selection until business was being selected for the week beginning 10 February. Sinn Féin, as the next party due to select, agreed to accommodate the request and to select a motion for plenary business on Monday 03 February.

5.7 Mr Kelly undertook to inform the Business Office of his party's selection as soon as possible.

5.8 Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour 30 minutes should be allocated for the motion, with the usual speaking times.

5.9 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 04 February. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with Sinn Féin and the following topic was selected:

- 'Provision of health services at the South West Acute Hospital, Enniskillen' (Mr P Flanagan).

5.10 Junior Minister Bell advised that all Ministers were available to respond.

5.11 The provisional Order Papers were **agreed**.

6. **Update on statistics on late answers to written questions**

6.1 Members **noted** the most recent figures on late answers to written questions. Further statistics would be provided for the period from January to the Easter recess in due course.

7. **Any other business**

7.1 The Speaker referred Members to a letter from the First Minister and the deputy First Minister asking to change their Question Time slot from 10 March 2014 to 03 March 2014.

7.2 Members **noted** that the Minister for Employment and Learning was content to accommodate the proposed change.

7.3 Members **agreed** to the request.

7.4 Members **noted** that a party had recently notified the Business Office that it had been asked to present a public petition. Members further **noted** that, as the matters to which the public petition related were outside the legislative competence of the Assembly and did not, therefore, comply with the requirements of Standing Order 22(3), the presentation of the petition could not be scheduled.

8. **Date and Time of next meeting**

8.1 Members **agreed** to meet at approximately 12.30pm on Tuesday 28 January 2014 in Room 106.

The Speaker brought the meeting to a close at 12.46pm

**The Speaker
Chairperson**