

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2014
IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 09.59am.

Present:

The Speaker (Chairperson)
Mr S Dickson
Mrs K McKeivitt
Lord Morrow
Mrs S Overend
Mr P Ramsey
Ms C Ruane
Mr R Swann
Mr P Weir

In attendance:

Ms L Gordon	Clerk of Business
Mr T Reaney	Clerk/Director General
Dr G McGrath	Director, 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:

Mr A Rogers **OFMDFM**

1. **Apologies**

1.1 Apologies were **noted** from Gerry Kelly.

2. **Finalisation of the Order Paper for the plenary meeting on Friday 28 February**

Private Members' Business

2.1 The Speaker advised Members that he had received a valid notice under Standing Order 11 that the Assembly should meet at noon to discuss a motion on the 'Judgement In The Case Of R.v.Downey' (Mr P Robinson, Mrs A Foster, Mr S Wilson, Mr G Campbell).

- 2.2 Members **agreed** that the Assembly should meet at noon on Friday 28 February to debate the motion, and **agreed** the Order Paper.
- 2.3 Members **agreed** that 2 hours would be allocated to the debate, with 10 minutes to move, 10 minutes to wind and 5 minutes for all other speakers.
- 2.4 In response to a query from Mr Weir, the Speaker advised that he would consider the proposed amendments immediately after the meeting and that these were available from the Business Office.
- 2.5 Ms Ruane asked that Members should be given as much notice as possible about any selected amendments and the Speaker undertook to inform Whips of his decision at the earliest opportunity.

3. **Any other business**

- 3.1 Mr Dickson sought leave for Mr Chris Lyttle to present a Public Petition in accordance with Standing Order 22 on Monday 3 March. Members **noted** that this would require a revision to the Order Paper to be agreed.
- 3.2 Members expressed some concern about the late request, and that a revised Order Paper would be necessary. However, given the nature of the issue, it was **agreed** to schedule the presentation of a Public Petition by Mr Chris Lyttle relating to the 'Ovarian Awareness Campaign' on Monday 3 March and that a revised Order Paper should be issued.
- 3.4 Members noted that the Local Government Bill had not been considered by the Executive at its meeting on 27 February and that, at this stage, the arrangements that had been put in place for a revised provisional Order Paper for Tuesday 11 March were not required at present.

The Speaker brought the meeting to a close at 10.03am.

The Speaker
Chairperson