

**NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY**  
**BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY 29 APRIL 2014**  
**IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

**MINUTES**

*The meeting began at 12.35pm.*

**Present:**

**The Speaker**  
**Mr J Byrne**  
**Mr G Kelly**  
**Ms A Lo**  
**Lord Morrow**  
**Mrs S Overend**  
**Ms C Ruane**  
**Mr R Swann**  
**Mr P Weir**

**In attendance:**

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

**Observers:**

**Principal Deputy Speaker McLaughlin**  
**Mr A Rogers**                      **OFMDFM**

**1. Apologies**

1.1 Apologies were received from Mr Stewart Dickson, Mrs Karen McKeivitt and Mr Pat Ramsey.

**2. Minutes of previous meetings**

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 08 April were **agreed** and signed by the Speaker.

3. **Matters arising**

3.1 There were no matters arising.

4. **Finalisation of the Order Paper for the plenary meeting on 06 May 2014**

Executive Business

4.1 Members **noted** that there was no change to Executive Committee Business previously scheduled for Tuesday 06 May.

Committee Business

4.2 Members **noted** that there was no Committee Business requested for Tuesday 06 May.

Private Members' Business

4.3 Members **noted** that there was no change to Private Members' Business previously scheduled for Tuesday 06 May.

4.4 Mr Alan Rogers advised that no further business was expected at this stage.

4.5 The draft Order Paper was **agreed**.

5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 12 May 2014**

Executive Business

5.1 Members **noted** that the following business was scheduled for Monday 12 May:

- Question Time to the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister and to the Minister of the Environment;
- First Stage of the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill, subject to the necessary consent;
- Second Stage of the Work and Families Bill.

5.2 Members **noted** that the following business was scheduled for Tuesday 13 May:

- Question Time to the Minister of Finance and Personnel and to the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety;
- Ministerial statement on the North South Ministerial Council meeting in education sectoral format.

5.3 Members **noted** the possibility of further ministerial statements on either day.

#### Committee Business

5.4 Members **noted** that there was no Committee Business requested for Monday 12 May.

5.5 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister on the Northern Ireland Peace Monitoring Report Number Three.

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

#### Private Members' Business

5.7 Members **agreed** to schedule one Private Members' Motion on Tuesday 13 May.

5.8 Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with Sinn Féin and the following motion was selected:

- 'Single Region Designation under Common Agricultural Policy Reform' (Mr O McMullan, Mr D McAleer, Mr C Ó hOisín).

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

5.10 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 13 May. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with the DUP and the following topic was selected:

- 'Social Housing in North Belfast' (Mr W Humphrey).

5.11 Mr Alan Rogers advised that all Ministers were available to respond to the motions.

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

6. **Assembly Business in Week Commencing 19 May 2014**

6.1 Members reconsidered the issue of whether the Assembly should sit on Monday 19 May and Tuesday 20 May, given that the European and Local Government elections would be taking place on Thursday 22 May.

6.2 Members **noted** that Ministers have proposed to schedule the following Executive Committee Business on Monday 19 May:

- Motion: Draft Renewables Obligation (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014 (Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment);
- Motion: Draft Local Government (Transitional, Supplementary, Incidental and Modifications) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 (Minister of the Environment);
- Motion: Draft Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors (Minister of the Environment).

6.3 Members **further noted** that, should the Assembly sit on Tuesday 20 May, the Minister of Justice may wish to move the Second Stage of the Justice Bill, although some flexibility was likely.

6.4 Following discussion, two proposals emerged. Mr Weir, Mr Byrne and Ms Lo indicated support for the Assembly to sit only on the Monday, to dispose of any Executive Committee Business and all four Question Time slots. Ms Ruane and Mr Swann indicated support for the Assembly to sit on both days, to dispose of any Executive Committee Business, with Question Times as normal.

6.5 Members voted in favour of the proposals as follows:

That the Assembly should sit only on Monday 19 May, to dispose of any Executive Committee Business and all four Question Time slots – 59 votes;

That the Assembly should sit on both days to dispose of any Executive Committee Business, with Question Times as normal – 42 votes.

6.6 The proposal that the Assembly should sit only on Monday 19 May, to dispose of any Executive Committee Business and all four Question Time slots, was, therefore, **carried**.

7. **Any other business**

- 7.1 The Speaker referred Members to a letter from the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment asking to change her Question Time slot from 24 June 2014 to 16 June 2014.
- 7.2 Members **noted** that the Minister for Social Development was content to accommodate the proposed change.
- 7.3 Members **agreed** to the request.
- 7.4 Members **noted** that the Assembly Commission had agreed to close Parliament Buildings on Friday 09 May due to the staging of the Giro d'Italia and that, because the Business Office will be closed, normal arrangements will be affected regarding the submission of amendments to motions and the submission of Assembly questions.
- 7.5 Members **further noted** that amendments proposed to motions on the Order Papers for both Monday 12 and Tuesday 13 May must be submitted by 9.30am on Thursday 08 May, and Assembly questions submitted electronically on the Friday will be processed on Monday 12 May and will be deemed to have been tabled out of Monday's allocation of five Questions per Member. An All Party Notice setting out the arrangements would issue in due course.

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

- 8.1 Members **agreed** to meet at approximately 12.30pm on Tuesday 06 May 2014 in Room 106.

*The Speaker brought the meeting to a close at 12.50pm*

**The Speaker  
Chairperson**