

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2014
IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 12.35pm.

Present:

- Mr P Weir (Acting Chairperson)**
- Mr S Dickson**
- Mr R McCartney**
- Lord Morrow**
- Mrs S Overend**
- Mr P Ramsey**
- Ms C Ruane**
- Mr R Swann**

In attendance:

Dr A McGarel	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 C McNickle	Assistant Assembly Clerk

Observers:

- Principal Deputy Speaker McLaughlin**
- Deputy Speaker Beggs**
- Deputy Speaker Dallat**
- Junior Minister Bell**
- Junior Minister McCann**
- Mr K Kerr** **OFMDFM**

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies were noted from The Speaker and Mr Gerry Kelly.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16 September were **agreed** and signed by the Acting Chairperson.

3. **Matters arising**

3.1 There were no matters arising.

4. **Finalisation of the Order Papers for the plenary meetings in week commencing 29 September**

Assembly Business

4.1 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Alliance Party to change Committee Membership on Monday 29 September.

Executive Business

4.2 Members **noted** that there was no change to Executive Business previously scheduled for Monday 29 September and Tuesday 30 September.

Committee Business

4.3 Members **noted** that there was no Committee Business scheduled for Monday 29 September and Tuesday 30 September.

Private Members' Business

4.4 Members **noted** that Sinn Féin had reworded their motion on Monday 29 September regarding 'Funding for Students Facing Financial Hardship'.

4.5 Members **noted** a request from the Acting Chairperson, on behalf of the DUP, to swap their motion on the 'National Crime Agency', scheduled for Tuesday 30 September, with a motion on the 'Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Team'.

4.6 Junior Minister Bell advised that, should the swap take place, the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure would not be available to respond to Private Members' Business before 3.30pm.

4.7 Following consideration on this matter it was **agreed** that, on Tuesday 30 September, the Alliance Party's motion on the 'Investigation of Allegations of Abuse at Kincora Boys' Home' would be scheduled as the first Private Members' Motion followed by the motion on the 'Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Team'.

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

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

5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 06 October 2014**

Executive Business

5.1 Members **noted** that Question Time to the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister and to the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure was scheduled for Monday 06 October.

5.2 Members **noted** that Question Time to the Minister of Education and to the Minister for Regional Development was scheduled for Tuesday 07 October.

Committee Business

5.3 Members **noted** that there were no requests for Committee Business for either day.

Private Members' Business

5.4 Members **agreed** to schedule two Private Members' Motions on Monday 06 October. Under the system of allocation, the selections lay with the DUP and Sinn Féin and the following motions were selected:

- 'National Crime Agency' (Mr G Campbell and Mr W Irwin);
- 'Voting Rights' (Ms M Fearon, Mr P Flanagan, Mr C Hazzard and Mr D McKay).

5.5 Members **agreed** to schedule two Private Members' Motions on Tuesday 07 October. Under the system of allocation, the selections lay with the SDLP and the UUP and the following motions were selected:

- 'Roads Maintenance' (Mr J Dallat, Mr J Byrne and Mr P McGlone);
- 'Funding Crisis in Victims and Survivors Service' (Mr M Nesbitt and Mr L Cree).

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

5.7 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 07 October. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with the SDLP and the following topic was selected:

- 'Jobs in South Down' (Mr S Rogers).

5.8 Junior Minister Bell advised that all Ministers were available to respond to the motions.

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

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

6.1 Members considered the most recent figures on late answers to written questions and it was **agreed** to forward the statistics to the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister for review.

6.2 Ms Ruane expressed concern that the statistics regarding late answers from the Assembly Commission were influenced by the lack of provision to answer written questions in both English and Irish.

6.3 It was **noted** that further statistics would be provided for the period from September to the Christmas recess in due course.

7. **Any other business**

7.1 There was no other business.

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

8.1 Members **agreed** to meet at approximately 12.30pm on Tuesday 30 September 2014 in Room 106.

The Acting Chairperson brought the meeting to a close at 12.45pm

**The Acting Chairperson
Ms C Ruane**