

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

**TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2015**  
**IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

**MINUTES**

*The meeting began at 3.00pm.*

**Present:**

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

**In attendance:**

<b>Dr A McGarel</b> <b>Mr T Reaney</b> <b>Mr G McGrath</b>	<b>Clerk of Business</b> <b>Clerk/Chief Executive</b> <b>Director of Clerking and Reporting</b>
<b>Ms N Dunwoody</b> <b>Mr H Widdis</b>	<b>Clerk Assistant</b> <b>Director of Legal Services and Governance</b>
<b>Mr R Ramsey</b> <b>Ms F Leneghan</b> <b>Mr G Ervine</b>	<b>Adviser to the Speaker</b> <b>PS/Speaker</b> <b>Assistant Assembly Clerk</b>

**Observers:**

<b>Mr J Dallat</b> <b>Junior Minister McCann</b> <b>Junior Minister McIlveen</b> <b>Mr A Rogers</b>	<b>Deputy Speaker</b> <b>OFMDFM</b>
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**1. Apologies**

1.1 There was an apology from Lord Morrow.

**2. Consideration of DUP proposal 'That this Assembly goes into Recess until 05 October 2015 or until the Business Committee Determines Otherwise'.**

2.1 Mr Weir proposed a motion that the Assembly goes into recess until 05 October 2015 or the Business Office determines otherwise.

- 2.2 Mr Weir stated that the DUP does not feel that the Assembly can carry on with business as usual, especially given the further developments involving senior members of Sinn Féin.
- 2.3 Ms Ruane informed Members that Sinn Féin was strongly opposed to the proposal and that it was important that the Assembly was allowed to carry on with the work it was elected to do.
- 2.4 Mr Ramsey informed Members that, although the SDLP recognised the current difficulties, it was opposed to the proposal, especially given the implied threat from the DUP to walk away from the Executive.
- 2.5 Mr Dickson informed Members that Alliance supported the proposal and felt that this was the least worst option moving forward.
- 2.6 Mr Swann informed Members that the UUP remained unchanged and was therefore opposed to the proposal.
- 2.7 Mr Kelly added that to go into recess or suspension allows those involved in the recent murders to dictate to these institutions.
- 2.8 Members **voted** on the proposal as follows:
- For - 46 votes  
Against - 54 votes
- 2.9 The proposal was, therefore, **negatived**.
- 2.10 Members agreed a line for media, including the outcome of the vote.
3. **Date and time of next meeting**
- 3.1 Members **agreed** to meet at 1.00pm on Tuesday 15 September 2015 in Room 106.

*The Chairperson brought the meeting to a close at 3.10pm*

**The Speaker**  
**Chairperson**