

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 05 JANUARY 2016
IN ROOM 401, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 1.03pm.

Present:

The Speaker (Chairperson)
Mr S Dickson – joined from off-site location
Mr G Kelly
Mr A Maginness
Mrs K McKeivitt
Lord Morrow – joined from off-site location
Mrs S Overend – joined from off-site location
Mr R Swann – joined from off-site location
Mr P Weir

In attendance:

Dr A McGarel	Clerk of Business
Mr P Gill	Acting Clerk Assistant
Ms T Caul	Acting Director Legal Services and Governance
Mr R Ramsey	Adviser to the Speaker
Ms F Leneghan	PS/Speaker
Mr G Ervine	Assistant Assembly Clerk

Observers:

Junior Minister McCann
Junior Minister Pengelly
Mr A Rogers **OFMDFM**

1. **Apologies**

1.1 There was an apology from Ms Caitríona Ruane.

2. **Minutes of previous meetings**

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 01 December were **agreed**.

3. **Matters arising**

4. **Finalisation of the Order Papers for the plenary meetings in week commencing 11 January 2016**

- 4.1 The Speaker **informed** Members that he had received a letter from the First Minister advising him of his intention to resign his position as First Minister on Monday 11 January.
- 4.2 The Speaker **also informed** Members that when this resignation takes effect it will result in vacancies in the office of First Minister and deputy First Minister.
- 4.3 Members **agreed** to schedule the filling of vacancies in the office of First Minister and deputy First Minister for Monday 11 January.
- 4.4 Members **agreed** to allow for speeches when the posts of First Minister and deputy First Minister have been filled using the approach used for Matters of the Day, with the total time for comments by others limited to thirty minutes and individual contributions lasting no longer than three minutes.
- 4.5 The Speaker **informed** Members that it is his intention to afford Peter Robinson the opportunity to make a personal statement before a new First Minister is appointed. This will be dealt with under Speaker's Business with a similar process as outlined above. The Clerk was asked to issue a guidance note on the two processes to all parties.

Assembly Business

- 4.6 Members **noted** that a motion to suspend Standing Orders 10(2) to 10(4) for Monday 11 January had been agreed at the meeting on 01 December.
- 4.7 Members **noted** that the consideration of business not concluded on Monday 11 January had been agreed as the first item of business for Tuesday 12 January at the meeting on 01 December.
- 4.8 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the SDLP to change Committee Membership on Tuesday 12 January.

Executive Business

- 4.9 Members **noted** the notification of a Ministerial Statement from the Minister of Justice for Monday 11 January.
- 4.10 Members **noted** a request to schedule the First Stage of the Rates (Amendment) Bill for Monday 11 January.
- 4.11 Members **noted** that the Consideration Stage of the Legal Complaints and Regulation Bill has been removed from business scheduled for Monday 11 January.

- 4.12 Members **noted** that there was no further change to Executive Committee Business previously scheduled for Monday 11 January.
- 4.13 Members **noted** the notification of a Ministerial Statement from the Minister for Employment and Learning for Tuesday 12 January.
- 4.14 Members **noted** a request to schedule the First Stage of the Assembly Members (Reduction in Numbers) Bill for Tuesday 12 January.
- 4.15 Members **noted** the Legislative Consent Motion on the Housing and Planning Bill: Amendment of Estate Agents Act 1979 has been removed from business scheduled for Tuesday 12 January.
- 4.16 Members **noted** that there was no further change to Executive Committee Business previously scheduled for Tuesday 12 January.

Committee Business

- 4.17 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety to extend the Committee Stage of the Health and Personal Social Services (Amendment) Bill for Monday 11 January.
- 4.18 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Committee for Social Development to extend the Committee Stage of the Houses in Multiple Occupation Bill for Monday 11 January.
- 4.19 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Committee for Social Development to extend the Committee Stage of the Licensing Bill for Monday 11 January.
- 4.20 Members **noted** that there was still no Committee Business scheduled for Tuesday 12 January.

Private Members' Business

- 4.21 Members **noted** that there was still no Private Members' Business scheduled for Monday 11 January.
- 4.22 Members **noted** that there was no change to Private Members' Business previously scheduled for Tuesday 12 January.
- 4.23 Junior Minister McCann advised that no further business was expected at this stage.

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

5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 18 January 2016**

5.1 Members **noted** correspondence from the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment and **agreed** to swap the date of his Question Time slot with Education from Tuesday 19 January to Monday 18 January.

Executive Business

5.2 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Monday 18 January:

- Consideration Stage of the Legal Complaints and Regulation Bill.
- Question Time to the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister and the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment.

5.3 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Tuesday 19 January:

- Ministerial Statement from the Minister for Social Development on British-Irish Council: Housing Workstream.
- Motion on draft Police Pension (Consequential Provisions) (Amendment) Regulations 2016.
- Accelerated Passage Motion: Rates (Amendment) Bill.
- Second Stage of the Rates (Amendment) Bill.
- Consideration Stage of the Departments Bill.
- Question Time to the Minister for Employment and Learning and the Minister of Education.

Committee Business

5.4 Members **noted** that there were no requests for Committee Business for Monday 18 January.

5.5 Members **noted** that there were no requests for Committee Business for Tuesday 19 January.

Private Members' Business

5.6 Members **agreed** to schedule one Private Members' Motion on Monday 18 January.

5.7 Under the system of allocation, the selection for Monday 18 January lay with UUP. The following motion was selected:

- ‘Threats to the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service’ (Mrs J Dobson and Mr M McGimpsey)

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 19 January. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with DUP. The DUP indicated that they would be rescheduling the adjournment debate that was not spoken to on Tuesday 17 November 2015 as follows:

- ‘Use of the Stormont Estate’ (Mr R Newton)

5.10 Junior Minister McCann indicated that Ministers were available to respond to the motions.

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

6. **Correspondence**

6.1 Members **noted** correspondence from the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister following the Speaker’s request for an updated list of departmental responsibilities.

6.2 Members **agreed** to defer discussion on this issue until next week’s meeting.

7. **Date and time of next meeting**

7.1 Members **agreed** to meet at 1.00pm on Tuesday 12 January 2016 in Room 106.

The Chairperson brought the meeting to a close at 1.19pm

The Speaker
Chairperson