

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

**TUESDAY 02 FEBRUARY 2016**  
**IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

**MINUTES**

*The meeting began at 4.34pm.*

**Present:**

**The Speaker (Chairperson)**  
**Mr T Clarke**  
**Mr G Kelly**  
**Mr A Maginness**  
**Mr K McCarthy**  
**Mrs K McKeivitt**  
**Mrs S Overend**  
**Ms C Ruane**  
**Mr P Weir**

**In attendance:**

<b>Dr A McGarel</b>	<b>Clerk of Business</b>
<b>Mr G McGrath</b>	<b>Director of Parliamentary Services</b>
<b>Mr P Gill</b>	<b>Clerk Assistant</b>
<b>Mr J McMillen</b>	<b>Legal Services and Governance</b>
<b>Mr R Ramsey</b>	<b>Adviser to the Speaker</b>
<b>Ms F Leneghan</b>	<b>PS/Speaker</b>
<b>Mr G Ervine</b>	<b>Assistant Assembly Clerk</b>
<b>Miss A Ferguson</b>	<b>Speaker's Office</b>

**Observers:**

1. **Apologies**

1.1 There were apologies from Mr S Dickson and Mr R Swann.

2. **Additional Sitting to Complete Unfinished Business**

2.1 The Speaker **informed** Members that valid Petitions of Concern had been tabled today in relation to Clause 13, Clause 21 and the Schedule of the Assembly and Executive Reform (Assembly Opposition) Bill at Consideration Stage.

- 2.2 In accordance with Standing Order 28(1) no vote may be held on a matter which is the subject of a Petition of Concern until at least one day after the petition has been tabled. This meant that today's proceedings on the Bill would stop after the Question that Clause stand 12 part of the Bill and the unfinished business needed to be rescheduled to the next sitting or to an additional sitting.
- 2.3 Mr Weir informed Members that the DUP preferred to reschedule this business for the next sitting, Monday 08 February, as it is likely that next week's sittings would stretch into Wednesday anyway. This would allow the Business Committee to give people advance notice of this.
- 2.4 Ms Ruane informed Members that Sinn Féin also preferred to reschedule the business for Monday 08 February, and again, this would be a good opportunity to plan for a sitting on Wednesday 10 February.
- 2.5 Mrs McKeivitt informed Members that the SDLP were supportive of the business being rescheduled for Monday 08 February.
- 2.6 Mr McCarthy informed Members that the Alliance Party were supportive of the business being rescheduled for Monday 08 February.
- 2.7 Mrs Overend informed Members that the UUP were content with business being rescheduled for Monday 08 February, but recorded frustration that the Petitions of Concern were only tabled today.
- 2.8 Ms Ruane acknowledged this point and explained that the delay in tabling the Petitions of Concern was unavoidable.

### 3. **Additional Item of Business from the Executive**

- 3.1 The Speaker **informed** Members that since next week's Order Papers had been agreed at the earlier meeting, the Executive had requested an additional item of business for inclusion on Monday 08 February; the Supply Resolution for the 2013-2014 Excess Vote.
- 3.2 Members **agreed** for this motion to be added to the revised Order Paper for Monday 08 February, which will be included in the debate on the supply resolutions.
- 3.3 The draft Revised Order Paper for Monday 08 February was **agreed**.

3.4 Ms Ruane informed Members that it would be helpful if Party Whips encouraged their Members to keep contributions as brief as possible during lengthy debates.

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

4.1 Members **agreed** to meet at 1.00pm on Tuesday 09 February 2016 in Room 106.

*The Chairperson brought the meeting to a close at 4.50pm*

**The Speaker**  
**Chairperson**