**NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY**

**BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

# TUESDAY 14 APRIL 2015

**IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

**MINUTES**

##### The meeting began at 12.32pm.

**Present: The Speaker (Chairperson)**

**Mr S Dickson**

**Mr G Kelly**

**Lord Morrow**

**Mrs S Overend**

**Mr P Ramsey**

**Ms C Ruane**

**Mr R Swann**

**Mr P Weir**

In attendance: Dr A McGarel Clerk of Business

**Ms N Dunwoody Clerk Assistant**

**Mr D Martin Clerk Assistant**

**Mr R Ramsey Adviser to the Speaker**

**Ms F Leneghan PS/Speaker**

**Mr C McNickle Assistant Assembly Clerk**

**Observers: Deputy Speaker Beggs**

**Deputy Speaker Dallat**

**Junior Minister Bell**

**Mr A Rogers OFMDFM**

1. **Apologies**

* 1. Apologies were received from Mrs Karen McKevitt.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting**

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 24 March were **agreed**.

3. **Matters arising**

3.1 There were no matters arising.

4. **Finalisation of the Order Papers for the plenary meetings in week commencing 20 April 2015**

Assembly Business

4.1 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the DUP to change Committee Membership on Monday 20 April.

Executive Business

4.2 Members **noted** that there was no change to Executive Business previously scheduled for either day.

Committee Business

4.3 Members **agreed** to schedule the First Stage of the Public Services Ombudsperson Bill requested by the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister for Monday 20 April subject to the Speaker’s approval.

4.4 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Committee for Education to extend the Committee Stage of the Special Education Needs and Disability Bill to 13 November for Monday 20 April.

4.5 Members **agreed** to schedule a Prayer of Annulment Motion from the Committee for Education regarding the Department of Education’s Retention and Disposal Schedule for Employee Records from Monday 20 April.

4.6 Members **noted** that there was no change to Committee Business previously scheduled for Tuesday 21 April.

Private Members’ Business

4.7 Members **noted** that there was no change to Private Members’ Business previously scheduled for Monday 20 April.

4.8 Members **agreed** to reschedule, due tounusual circumstances, the Adjournment Debate proposed by Mr Dallat for Tuesday 14 April to Tuesday 21 April and for the Adjournment Debate proposed by Mr Moutray for 21 April to the next adjournment debate opportunity.

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

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

5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 27 April 2015**

Executive Business

5.1 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Monday 27 April:

* Question Time to the First Minister and deputy First Minister and to the Minister for Social Development;
* Motion to approve the Social Security Benefits Up-rating Order (Northern Ireland) 2015.

5.2 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Tuesday 28 April:

* Question Time to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and to the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure;
* Consideration Stage of the Reservoirs Bill (NIA Bill 31/11-15).

Committee Business

5.3 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Assembly and Executive Review Committee on its Report on the Operation of the Provisions of Parts 3 and 4 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 on Monday 27 April.

5.4 Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour 30 minutes should be allocated for the motion, with 10 minutes allocated to move, 10 minutes to wind and 5 minutes for all other speakers.

5.5 Members **agreed** to schedule the First Stage of the Ombudsman and Commissioner for Complaints (amendment) Bill subject to the Speaker’s approval on Monday 27 April.

5.6 Members **noted** that there were no requests for Committee Business for Tuesday 28 April.

Private Members’ Business

5.7 Members **agreed** to schedule one Private Members’ Motion on Monday 27 April.

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

* Marriage Equality (Ms C Ruane, Mr D McKay, Mr C Hazzard and Ms M Fearon)

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

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

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

6. **Any other business**

6.1 Members **agreed** that there should be no plenary sitting on 5 May because of the general election. Ms Ruane stressed that no Executive Business should be lost as a result of this decision and to facilitate the reallocation of business, Members further **agreed** to:

* Reduce the lunchtime suspension on 12 May to half an hour (12.30 – 1.00pm)
* Reschedule questions to the Ministers of Education and Employment and Learning to 11 and/or 12 May.

6.2 The Speaker advised Members of his growing concern at the number of questions being withdrawn for Question Time and the number of Members not in their place when their question was called. Members **agreed** that the Speaker should forward an updated list of these Members to party Whips for information and to the Committee on Procedures for consideration.

6.3 Members **agreed** to consider their ongoing need for a hard copy of the committee pack and to inform committee staff if they were content to move to an electronic version only.

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

7.1 Members **agreed** to meet at approximately 12.30pm on Tuesday 21 April 2015 in Room 106.

*The Chairperson brought the meeting to a close at 12.46pm*

**The Speaker**

**Chairperson**