

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

**TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2016**  
**IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

**MINUTES**

*The meeting began at 1.04pm.*

**Present:**

**The Speaker (Chairperson)**  
**Mr A Attwood**  
**Mr D Beattie**  
**Mr T Clarke**  
**Dr S Farry**  
**Mr G Lyons**  
**Mr D McAleer**  
**Mr C McGrath**  
**Ms C Ní Chuilín**  
**Mrs S Overend**

**In attendance:**

<b>Dr A McGarel</b>	<b>Clerk of Business</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>Mr R Jordan</b>	<b>Speaker's Office</b>

**Observers:**

**Ms C Ruane**      **Principal Deputy Speaker**  
**Junior Minister Fearon**  
**Junior Minister Ross**

**1. Apologies**

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

**2. Minutes of previous meetings**

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11 October were **agreed**.

**3. Matters arising**

3.1 The Speaker referred Members to paragraph 8.1 in the minutes of last week's meeting.

3.2 The Speaker informed Members that he had reviewed the Official Report and several minutes of the Business Committee and has written to Mr Attwood, Mr McCartney and Ms Ní Chuilín accordingly.

3.3 Members **agreed** that this matter had now been addressed.

4. **Finalisation of the Order Paper for plenary meetings in week commencing 24 October 2016**

Executive Committee Business

4.1 Members **noted** a request to schedule a motion on the draft Welfare Supplementary Payment (Benefit Cap) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 for Monday 24 October.

4.2 Members **noted** that there was no further change to Executive Committee Business previously scheduled for Monday 24 October.

4.3 Members **noted** a request to schedule a statement from the Minister of Finance on October Monitoring for Tuesday 25 October.

4.4 Members **noted** that there was no further change to Executive Committee Business previously scheduled for Tuesday 25 October.

Committee Business

4.5 Members **noted** that there was no change to Committee Business previously scheduled for Monday 24 October.

4.6 Members **noted** that there was still no Committee Business scheduled for Tuesday 25 October.

Private Members' Business

4.7 Members **noted** that there was no change to Private Members' Business previously scheduled for Monday 24 October.

4.8 Members **noted** that there was no change to Private Members' Business scheduled for Tuesday 25 October.

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

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

5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 07 November 2016**

Executive Business

5.1 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Monday 07 November:

- Motion on draft Water Meters Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.
- Question Time to the Executive Office and the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

5.2 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Tuesday 08 November:

- Motion on Child Support (Deduction Orders and Fees) (Amendment and Modification) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.
- Question Time to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Health.

Private Members' Business

5.3 Members **agreed** to schedule two Private Members' Motions on Monday 07 November and two Private Members' Motions on Tuesday 08 November.

5.4 Under the system of allocation, the selections for Monday 07 November lay with DUP and SDLP and the selections for Tuesday 08 November lay with Alliance and Sinn Féin. The following motions were selected:

- 'Review of On Street Parking' (Mr E Poots, Mr W Humphrey, Mr G Robinson MBE and Mr A Easton).
- 'Addressing the Past' (Mr C Eastwood, Mr A Attwood, Mr D McCrossan and Ms N Mallon).
- 'Ending All Forms of Paramilitarism' (Mr S Dickson, Mr T Lunn and Dr S Farry).
- 'Legacy Inquests' (Mr D Kearney, Ms M Boyle and Mr P Sheehan).

5.5 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 08 November. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with DUP and the following adjournment debate was selected:

- 'Improvements to A2 Dual Carriageway Junctions in North Down' (Mr G Dunne).

5.6 Junior Minister Fearon advised that all Ministers were available.

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

## 6. **Speaking Rights**

6.1 Members were referred to the advice paper regarding Plenary speaking lists, originally tabled at the Business Committee meetings on 26 May 2016 and 31 May 2016.

6.2 Mr Attwood stated that the issue of speaking lists has, once again, been raised in the Chamber, specifically by the People Before Profit Alliance. He also stressed that speaking lists should adhere to the principle of inclusion and asked for this matter to be re-visited.

6.3 Mr Clarke stated that Speaker's discretion is built into speaking rights within the Chamber and he would continue to support the use of option 1, as highlighted in the advice paper.

6.4 Ms Ní Chuilín stated that, outside new radical proposals for speaking rights, she would continue to support the use of option 1, as highlighted in the advice paper. Ms Ní Chuilín noted that the Sinn Féin position adheres to guidelines and is not denying anyone speaking rights within the Chamber.

6.5 Dr Farry stated that speaking rights should not simply be governed by raw numbers, but that there should be flexibility in order to hear a range of views. Dr Farry also suggested the use of technical groups or a pool of parties as a means of ensuring smaller parties were called to speak and provide a way of formalising the Speaker's current approach of calling smaller parties.

6.6 Members agreed that this issue would be re-visited when further information would be provided.

## 7. **Correspondence**

7.1 Members **noted** correspondence from the Committee on Procedures in relation to a review of provisions for Sanding Orders as set out in the Assembly and Executive Reform (Assembly Opposition) (Northern Ireland) 2016.

7.1 Members **agreed** for a draft response to be prepared, based on previous discussions, and brought to the next meeting.

## 8. **Any Other Business**

## 9. **Date and time of next meeting**

9.1 Members **agreed** to meet at 1:00pm on Tuesday 25 October 2016 in Room 106.

*The Chairperson brought the meeting to a close at 1.18pm*

**The Speaker**  
**Chairperson**