

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

**TUESDAY 25 OCTOBER 2016**  
**IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

**MINUTES**

*The meeting began at 1.05pm.*

**Present:**

**The Speaker (Chairperson)**  
**Mr A Attwood**  
**Mr T Clarke**  
**Mr S Dickson**  
**Dr S Farry**  
**Mr D McAleer**  
**Mr C McGrath**  
**Mrs S Overend**  
**Mr R Swann**

**In attendance:**

<b>Dr A McGarel</b>	<b>Clerk of Business</b>
<b>Dr 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>Ms F Leneghan</b>	<b>PS/Speaker</b>
<b>Mr G Ervine</b>	<b>Assistant Assembly Clerk</b>

**Observers:**

**Junior Minister Fearon**  
**Junior Minister Ross**  
**Mr A Rogers**      **The Executive Office**

1.    **Apologies**

1.1    There were apologies from Mr G Lyons and Ms C Ní Chuilín.

2.    **Minutes of previous meetings**

2.1    The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18 October were **agreed**.

3.    **Matters arising**

4.    **Finalisation of the Order Paper for plenary meetings in week commencing 07 November 2016**

### Executive Committee Business

- 4.1 Members **noted** the motion on the draft Water Meters Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016, scheduled for Monday 07 November, had been removed from business.
- 4.2 Members **noted** that there was no further change to Executive Committee Business previously scheduled for Monday 07 November.
- 4.3 Members **noted** that there was no change to Executive Committee Business previously scheduled for Tuesday 08 November.

### Private Members' Business

- 4.4 Members **noted** that there was no change to Private Members' Business previously scheduled for Monday 07 November.
- 4.5 Members **noted** that Ms Jennifer McCann's name was added to the Order Paper in relation to the motion on 'Legacy Issues', scheduled for Tuesday 08 November.
- 4.6 Members **noted** that there was no further change to Private Members' Business scheduled for Tuesday 08 November.
- 4.7 Junior Minister Fearon advised that no further Executive Business was expected at this stage.
- 4.8 The draft Order Papers were **agreed**.
5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 14 November 2016**

### Executive Business

- 5.1 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Monday 14 November:
  - Question Time to the Minister for Infrastructure and the Minister of Justice.
- 5.2 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Tuesday 15 November:

- Question Time to the Minister of Education and the Minister for Communities.

### Committee Business

- 5.3 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Committee for Communities to extend the Committee Stage of the Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Bill for Monday 14 November.

### Private Members' Business

- 5.4 Members **agreed** to schedule two Private Members' Motions on Monday 14 November and two Private Members' Motions on Tuesday 15 November.
- 5.5 Under the system of allocation, the selections for Monday 14 November lay with UUP and DUP and the selections for Tuesday 15 November lay with Sinn Féin and DUP. The following motions were selected:
- 'Health and Wellbeing 2026: Delivering Together and Systems, Not Structures: Changing Health and Social Care' (Mrs J Dobson and Mr R Butler).
  - 'Nurture Provision' (Lord Morrow, Mr D Hilditch, Ms C Lockhart and Mr P Logan).
  - 'Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation' (Ms L Dillon, Ms C Archibald and Mr O McMullan).
  - 'Sporting Events and Activity-based Tourism' (Mr M Storey, Mr T Buchanan, Mr G Dunne and Mr G Lyons).
- 5.6 Following a request from Mr Swann, Members **agreed** that up to 2 hours should be allocated for the motion on 'Health and Wellbeing 2026: Delivering Together and Systems, Not Structures: Changing Health and Social Care', with the usual speaking times.
- 5.7 Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour 30 minutes should be allocated for the other motions, with the usual speaking times.
- 5.8 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 15 November. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with Sinn Féin and the following adjournment debate was selected:
- 'Proposed Closure of the Cookstown Social Security Office' (Ms Dillon).
- 5.9 Junior Minister Fearon advised that the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs would not be available in relation to the Sinn Féin motion

'Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation'; Mr McAleer undertook to inform the Business Office of his party's new selection following the meeting.

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

6. **Draft Response on the Assembly and Executive Reform (Assembly Opposition) Act**

6.1 Members were referred to the draft response to the Committee on Procedures in relation to the consultation on the Assembly and Executive Reform (Assembly Opposition) Act.

6.2 Members were content that the response focussed on the three sections of the Act that were within the remit of the Business Committee; Section 7 on speaking rights in the Assembly, section 8 on enhanced speaking rights for the Opposition and section 10 on membership of the Business Committee for the Opposition.

6.3 Mr Attwood requested that the response to Section 10 included that the Business Committee had recently decided by majority vote that membership of the Business Committee would not be open to parties with two members.

6.4 Mr Attwood also requested that the response to Section 8 highlighted that the Business Committee decision on the issue of speaking rights for the Opposition had been by majority vote.

6.5 Members **agreed** for this response to be finalised after discussions on speaking rights and Business Committee membership at the next meeting.

7. **Any Other Business**

7.1 Members were referred to correspondence from the Green Party, People Before Profit Alliance and the TUV in relation to a representative of the five Members being allocated a place on the Business Committee.

7.2 Members **agreed** that this issue would be re-visited at the next meeting of the Business Committee.

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

8.1 Members **agreed** to meet at 1:00pm on Tuesday 08 November 2016 in Room 106.

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

**The Speaker  
Chairperson**