

DRAFT
NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 06 SEPTEMBER 2016
IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 1.00pm.

Present:

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

In attendance:

Dr A McGarel	Clerk of Business
Dr G McGrath	Director of Parliamentary Services
Mr D Martin	Clerk Assistant
Mr P Gill	Clerk Assistant
Ms T Caul	Director of 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 Fearon
Junior Minister Ross
Mr A Rogers **The Executive Office**

1. Apologies

1.1 There was an apology from Mr G Lyons.

2. Minutes of previous meetings

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21 June were **agreed**.

2.2 The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 27 June were **agreed**.

3. **Matters arising**

4. **Opposition Days**

4.1 Members were referred to the advice paper regarding opposition days.

4.2 Members **agreed** the request from the Executive Office regarding scheduling first stage of Bills on opposition days.

4.3 Mr Swann proposed that the number of opposition days is increased from a minimum of 10 days per session to a minimum of 15 days per session.

4.4 Members **voted** on the proposal as follows:

For - 28 votes

Against - 73 votes

4.5 The proposal was, therefore, **negatived**.

4.6 Ms Ní Chuilín proposed that the criteria for the allocation of opposition days is as set out at paragraph 11 of the advice paper.

4.7 Members **voted** on the proposal as follows:

For - 73 votes

Against - 28 votes

4.8 The proposal was, therefore, **agreed**.

4.9 Mr Swann proposed that an opposition day consists of four and a half hours of business selected by the Official Opposition, as opposed to four hours.

4.10 Members **voted** on the proposal as follows:

For - 36 votes

Against - 65 votes

4.11 The proposal was, therefore, **negatived**.

4.12 Mr Attwood stated for the record that he hopes the Executive will stand by its commitment that only first stages of Primary Legislation would be scheduled on opposition days.

4.13 Members **agreed** the indicative schedule for opposition days between now and December 2016.

4.14 Members **agreed** that the Speaker writes to the Executive Office to inform it of the Business Committee's decision for opposition days.

5. **Finalisation of the Order Paper for plenary meetings in week commencing 12 September 2016**

Assembly Business

5.1 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from Sinn Féin to change Committee Membership for Monday 12 September.

Executive Business

5.2 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Monday 12 September:

- Ministerial Statement from the Minister of Finance on the North-South Ministerial Council in Special EU Programmes Sectoral Format.
- Question Time for the Minister for Economy and the Minister of Education.

5.3 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Tuesday 13 September:

- Ministerial Statement from the Executive Office on the North-South Ministerial Council Plenary meeting.
- Ministerial Statement from the Executive Office on the British-Irish Council.
- Ministerial Statement from the Minister of Justice on Inter-Governmental Agreement on Cooperation on Criminal Justice Matters.
- Question Time for the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Health.

Private Members' Business

5.4 Members **agreed** to schedule two Private Members' Motions on Monday 12 September and one Private Member's Motion on Tuesday 13 September.

5.5 Under the system of allocation, the selections for Monday 12 September lay with DUP and Sinn Féin and the selection for Tuesday 13 September lay with DUP. The following motions were selected:

- ‘Stalking’ (Mrs B Hale, Mr P Frew, Mrs P Cameron and Ms P Bradley).
- ‘Housing Selection Scheme’ (Mr F McCann, Mrs M Gildernew and Ms C Ní Chuilín).
- ‘Rail Services between Belfast City Centre and Belfast International Airport’ (Mr P Girvan, Mr T Clarke and Mr E Poots).

5.6 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 13 September. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with Sinn Féin and the following adjournment debate was selected:

- ‘Investing in Town Centres in Upper Bann’ (Ms C Seeley).

5.7 Junior Minister Fearon advised that all Ministers were available.

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

6. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 19 September 2016**

Executive Business

6.1 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Monday 19 September:

- First Stage of the Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Bill, subject to necessary consents.
- Question Time for The Executive Office and the Minister for Infrastructure.

6.2 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Tuesday 20 September:

- Ministerial Statement from the Minister for Infrastructure on the North-South Ministerial Council Waterways.
- Ministerial Statement from the Minister for Communities on the North-South Ministerial Council Language Body Sectoral Format.
- Question Time to the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

Private Members’ Business

6.3 Members **agreed** to schedule two Private Members’ Motions on Monday 19 September and two Private Members’ Motions on Tuesday 20 September.

- 6.4 Under the system of allocation, the selections for Monday 19 September lay with UUP and Sinn Féin and the selections for Tuesday 20 September lay with DUP and SDLP. The following motions were selected:
- ‘A Vision for Northern Ireland Outside the European Union’ (Mr M Nesbitt, Mr S Aiken and Mr P Smith).
 - ‘Japanese Knotweed’ (Mrs P Cameron, Lord Morrow, Mr G Middleton and Mr W Irwin).
 - ‘Rural Bank Closures’ (Mr R McPhillips, Mr P McGlone, Mr D McCrossan and Mr C McGrath).
- 6.5 Ms Ní Chuilín undertook to inform the Business Office of her party’s selection following the meeting.
- 6.6 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 20 September. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with DUP and the following adjournment debate was selected:
- ‘Future of Health Service in North Antrim’ (Mr M Storey)
- 6.7 Junior Minister Fearon advised that the Minister for the Economy would not be available in relation to the SDLP motion ‘Rural Bank Closures’; Mr Attwood undertook to inform the Business Office of his party’s new selection following the meeting.
- 6.8 The provisional Order Papers were **agreed**.

7. **Correspondence**

- 7.1 Members **noted** correspondence from the Executive Office regarding the exchange of Question Time dates and Ministerial Oral Statements.
- 7.2 Members **noted** correspondence from the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and **agreed** to change the date of her Question Time slot from Tuesday 15 November to Monday 07 November.
- 7.3 Members **noted** correspondence from the Minister for Communities and **agreed** to change the date of his Question Time slot from Tuesday 25 October to Monday 24 October.
- 7.4 Members **noted** correspondence from the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and **agreed** to change the date of her Question Time slot from Monday 10 October to Monday 03 October.

8. **Any Other Business**

8.1 Members **agreed** that the latest version of 'Speaker's Rulings and Conventions', updated to August 2016, is issued.

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

9.1 Members **agreed** to meet at 1:00pm on Tuesday 13 September 2016 in Room 106.

The Chairperson brought the meeting to a close at 1.24pm

**The Speaker
Chairperson**