

MEETING OF THE CHAIRPERSONS' LIAISON GROUP

TUESDAY 9 DECEMBER 2014

Present: Mr Patsy McGlone MLA (Chairperson)
Mrs Anna Lo MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mrs Michaela Boyle MLA
Mr William Irwin MLA
Mr Nelson McCausland MLA
Miss Michelle McIlveen MLA

In attendance: Mr Trevor Reaney, Clerk/Chief Executive
Dr Gareth McGrath, Director of Clerking and Reporting
Mrs Nuala Dunwoody, Clerk Assistant
Mr Damien Martin, Clerk Assistant
Mr Trevor Allen, Senior Assistant Clerk
Mr Oliver Bellew, Assistant Assembly Clerk
Mr George McClelland, Clerical Supervisor
Ms Patricia Casey, Bill Clerk
Mr Kevin Shiels, Politics Plus
Miss Aoibhinn Treanor, Bill Clerk

Apologies: Mr Daithí McKay MLA
Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA
Mr Alex Maskey MLA

12.46pm The meeting opened in closed session.

1. Apologies

Apologies are listed above.

2. Minutes of the meeting on 21st October 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2014 were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Staffing and Budgets

Nuala Dunwoody, Clerk Assistant, updated chairpersons on action taken to address specific budgetary/staffing issues relating to committee teams.

Politics Plus

Chairpersons noted a briefing paper by Politics Plus in relation to the framework for a joint initiative with the National Assembly for Wales for committee chairpersons. Kevin Shiels, Politics Plus, informed chairpersons that the original date and list of attendees for the programme had changed and that a finalised itinerary would issue once all attendees had been confirmed.

12.48pm Mr Irwin joined the meeting

4. Committee Review Group: Update on Implementation of Recommendations

Chairpersons noted a briefing paper by the Clerk Assistants in relation to the status of the recommendations made by the Committee Review Group in its report. Nuala Dunwoody, Clerk Assistant, advised chairpersons that, as all recommendations had either been actioned or were in the process of being actioned, there would be no further updates to CLG on this matter. In response to a query, Chairpersons were reminded that the report of the Committee Review Group is available at [here](#) .

5. Legislative Work Programme

Chairpersons noted a briefing paper by the Clerk Assistant in relation to the Assembly's Legislative Work Programme. The Chairperson welcomed Patricia Casey and Aoibhinn Treanor from the Assembly Bill Office to the meeting and invited them to brief members on the work programme. Chairpersons noted the number of bills currently passing through the Assembly and those which were anticipated to come before the Assembly this mandate. Chairpersons were advised of approaches to effectively manage the large volume of bills scheduled for introduction later this session.

6. Budgets 2015-16

Chairpersons noted a briefing paper by the Clerk to the Finance and Personnel Committee in relation to the 2015-16 budget process. Trevor Allen, Senior Assistant Clerk, updated chairpersons on the position and advised of the proposed timeline for consideration of the budget. Damien Martin, Clerk Assistant, advised that statutory committees have again been provided with a very limited period of time in which to scrutinise the budget and the Clerk Assistants will be reviewing what action can be taken in future years to improve the process for budget scrutiny.

7. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: Chairpersons noted, and agreed, the draft forward work programme.

8. Any other business

Rotation of committee meeting rooms

Agreed: Following concerns raised in relation to the use of the Senate chamber, chairpersons agreed that the Clerk Assistants would give consideration to options in relation to meeting room allocations.

Chief Executive

Chairpersons offered their sympathies to Trevor Reaney, Clerk/Chief Executive, on the passing of his father.

9. Date, time and venue of next meeting

The next meeting of the Liaison Group is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 20 January 2015 at 12.45pm in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

1.08pm The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Mr Patsy McGlone, Chairperson

20 January 2015