

*MEETING OF THE CHAIRPERSONS' LIAISON GROUP*

**TUESDAY 29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015**

Present: Ms Anna Lo, MLA (Chairperson)

Ms Michaela Boyle, MLA

Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson, MLA

Mr Paul Givan, MLA

Mr William Irwin, MLA

Mr Alex Maskey, MLA

Mr Patsy McGlone, MLA

Mr Daithí McKay, MLA

Mr Robin Swann, MLA

In attendance: Mr Trevor Reaney, Chief Executive & Clerk

Mrs Nuala Dunwoody, Clerk Assistant

Mr Damien Martin, Clerk Assistant

Mr Trevor Allen, Senior Assistant Clerk

Mrs Tara McClafferty, Assistant Assembly Clerk

Mr George McClelland, Clerical Supervisor

Apologies: Ms Maeve McLaughlin, MLA

*12.49pm The meeting commenced in closed session.*

The Chairperson welcomed Mrs Dobson and Mr Givan to the group as newly appointed chairpersons of the Audit Committee and the Committee on Standards and Privileges.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies are listed above.

**2. Minutes of the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015 were agreed.

*12.58pm Mr Swann left the meeting*

*12.59pm Mrs Dobson left the meeting*

### **3. Matters Arising**

#### Electronic Packs

Mr McKay raised an issue in relation to electronic packs and tabled paper packs and asked the decision of 16<sup>th</sup> June to only provide electronic meeting packs to members be reviewed so that chairpersons are allowed to have printed meeting packs, at their own discretion. Mr McGlone added his opinion that he would be better able to conduct the Committee meeting if he was provided with a paper copy of the pack rather than relying solely on his electronic pack. Mr McKay also raised the issue of tabled packs and the difficulties in working with two electronic packs simultaneously. Mr Reaney said that there were two main drivers for introducing the electronic pack and they were to move into a more digital world and to reduce costs. Mr Martin pointed out that the administrative posts associated with printing and collating committee packs had already been surrendered.

*Agreed:* It was proposed and agreed that chairpersons can opt to receive their main pack in hard copy or electronically.

### **4. CLG Priorities for 2015-16**

Chairpersons noted a paper and received a briefing from Mr Trevor Allen on the Chairpersons' Liaison Group (CLG) priorities for 2015-16.

*1.16pm Mrs Dobson re-joined the meeting.*

*1.17 pm Mr McKay and Mr McGlone left the meeting.*

*Agreed:* Chairpersons agreed to consider an analysis of committees' strategic plans.

Chairpersons discussed the impact of holding external committee meetings and visits and the consensus was that it is important to continue to build and maintain relationships with other legislatures, local stakeholders and to learn from good practice and that this could be achieved while keeping the overall cost of these visits and meetings down.

*Agreed:* Clerk Assistants agreed to give consideration to measuring the impact of holding external committee meetings and events, including by seeking views from other jurisdictions.

*1.26 pm Mr Givan left the meeting.*

## **5. Review of Public Petitions Procedures in the Northern Ireland Assembly**

Chairpersons noted correspondence from the Chairperson of the Committee on Procedures and a paper from Mr Trevor Allen on the Committee for Procedures Review of Public Petitions Procedures in the Northern Ireland Assembly.

*1.29 pm Mrs Dobson and Mr Irwin left the meeting.*

1.29pm The Chairperson adjourned as the meeting became inquorate.

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Ms Anna Lo, Chairperson

20<sup>th</sup> October 2015