



# Northern Ireland Assembly

## AD HOC COMMITTEE ON A BILL OF RIGHTS

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**Thursday 5 November 2020  
Room 29, Parliament Buildings**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Present, Room 29:      | Emma Sheerin MLA (Chairperson)<br>Mike Nesbitt MLA (Deputy Chairperson)<br>Michelle McIlveen MLA<br>Christopher Stalford MLA |
| Present, via StarLeaf: | Paula Bradshaw MLA<br>Mark Durkan MLA<br>John O'Dowd MLA (deputising for Carál Ní Chuilín MLA)                               |
| In Attendance:         | Caroline Perry (Assembly Clerk)<br>Gareth Cross (Clerical Officer)   |

*The meeting commenced in open session at 2.06 p.m.*

#### **1. Apologies**

None.

#### **2. Briefing by the Kevin Hanratty, Director of the Human Rights Consortium and Christopher McCrudden, Professor of Human Rights and Equality Law at Queen's University, Belfast**

Kevin Hanratty, Director of the Human Rights Consortium and Chris McCrudden, Professor of Human Rights and Equality Law at Queen's University, Belfast, joined the meeting via StarLeaf at 2.08 p.m.

Their briefing provided an overview of the five models identified in the report, *Economic and Social Rights in Northern Ireland: Models of Enforceability*, which the Human Rights Centre at Queen's University was commissioned to produce by the Human Rights Consortium. The purpose of these models is to stimulate debate about how economic and social rights can be better delivered. The models span the middle of the spectrum between full enforceability and declaratory principles. They are: i) pre-legislative scrutiny; ii) a piecemeal approach that includes socio-economic requirements in specific legislation; iii) fundamental non-justiciable constitutional duties; iv) progressive implementation with light-touch judicial review; and, v) trade conditionality.

Regarding future involvement, Christopher McCrudden told the Committee that he would be happy to respond with research if it has any further questions.

*Paula Bradshaw joined the meeting at 2:11pm.*

*Christopher Stalford joined the meeting at 2:20pm.*

*John O'Dowd joined the meeting at 3:34pm*

The oral evidence was followed by a question and answer session.

The Chairperson thanked Kevin and Chris for their evidence.

The briefing session was reported by Hansard.

### **3. Chairperson's Business**

The Chair reminded the Committee that the virtual launch of its Bill of Rights consultation would be held on zoom after the meeting. She invited Members to join her and asked them to promote the consultation on social media and via other networks.

*Agreed:* The Ad Hoc Committee agreed the Consultation press release and All Party Notice.

### **4. Draft Minutes**

*Agreed:* The Ad Hoc Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 22 October 2020.

## **5. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

## **6. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

## **7. Forward Work Programme**

The Chairperson referred Members to the draft Forward Work Programme.

Members noted the Forward Work Programme.

## **8. Any other business**

There was no other business.

## **9. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting**

The next meeting will be on Thursday 12 November 2020 at 2.00p.m. in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

*The meeting adjourned at 3.38 p.m.*

**Ms Emma Sheerin MLA**  
**Chairperson, Ad Hoc Committee on a Bill of Rights**