



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

# Ad Hoc Committee on a Bill of Rights

## Minutes of Proceedings

Thursday 18 November 2021

**Meeting Location:** Hybrid Meeting – Room 29, Parliament Buildings, and via StarLeaf

**Present:** Emma Sheerin MLA (Chairperson)  
Paula Bradshaw MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Alan Chambers MLA  
Mark Durkan MLA  
Paul Frew MLA  
Carál Ní Chuilín MLA

**Apologies:** No apologies were received.

**In Attendance:** Caroline Perry (Assembly Clerk)  
Jonathan Lamont (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Shirleen Cornelissen (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced at 2.36pm in open session.



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

**1. Apologies**

Christopher Stalford MLA

**2. Chairperson's Business**

The Committee placed on record condolences to the family and party colleagues of Austin Currie.

**3. Draft Minutes**

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 04 November 2021.

**4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**5. Correspondence**

- i. The Committee noted correspondence from Amnesty International UK to the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding a panel of experts on a Bill of Rights.
- ii. The Committee considered the tabled correspondence from Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission regarding the launch of its 2021 Annual Human Rights statement.



## Northern Ireland Assembly

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission to explain that a number of Members also sit on the Health Committee, and that this event will clash with the regular Health Committee meeting.

- iii. The Committee noted the tabled correspondence from the Clerk of the Youth Assembly regarding the establishment of youth committees.
- iv. The Committee noted the tabled correspondence from the Committee for the Executive Office regarding a panel of experts on a Bill of Rights.

### **6. Forward Work Programme**

The Chairperson referred Members to the draft Forward Work Programme.

**Agreed:** Members agreed the Forward Work Programme, subject to discussions during the Committee's informal session following this meeting.

### **7. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

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

Members agreed to confirm the date and time of the next meeting during its informal session following this meeting.

The Committee moved to closed session at 2.42pm.



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

## 9. Rights for Inclusion – Consideration of potential rights

The Committee continued its reporting stage deliberations.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to circulate the party position papers that have been received to date.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to the First Minister and deputy First Minister and all Executive Ministers on a number of issues.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to the DUP Party Whip to request a copy of the DUP party paper.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed Thursday 25 November 2021 at 2:30pm as the date of the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3.16pm.

**Emma Sheerin MLA**

**Chairperson, Ad Hoc Committee on a Bill of Rights**