



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

# Ad Hoc Committee on a Bill of Rights

## Minutes of Proceedings

Thursday 23 September 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  
Paul Frew MLA  
Carál Ní Chuilín MLA  
Christopher Stalford MLA

**Apologies:** No apologies were received.

**In Attendance:** Caroline Perry (Assembly Clerk)  
Jessica Jacques (EU Affairs Officer)  
Jonathon Lamont (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Shirleen Cornelissen (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced at 2:36 pm in open session.



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### 1. Apologies

As above.

### 2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson welcomed Paul Frew to the Committee and thanked Stephen Dunne for his contribution to the Committee's work.

The Chairperson reminded Members that they must declare all relevant interests at their first meeting, in accordance with Standing Order 69(5).

No Member declared an interest.

The Chairperson referred Members to a note of the informal session of the Committee's reporting stage deliberations on 9 September 2021.

*Christopher Stalford joined the meeting at 2.38 pm.*

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed the note of the informal session of the Committee's reporting stage deliberations on 9 September 2021.

The Chairperson pointed Members to the draft data sharing memorandum of understanding between the Ad Hoc Committee and the University of Texas at Austin, and a draft letter for stakeholders who took part in the Committee's stakeholder events. The Clerk outlined the background to this paper: the Committee had agreed to share its consultation data with the Comparative Constitutions Project.

**Agreed:** Members were content with the draft data sharing agreement and letter.

### 3. Draft Minutes

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9 September 2021.



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### **4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **5. Correspondence**

The Chairperson referred Members to the correspondence from the Democratic Unionist Party in relation to a membership change for the Committee.

**Agreed:** Members agreed to note the correspondence.

### **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 2:43pm.



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The Committee continued its reporting stage deliberations with Dr David Russell, Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, who gave an oral briefing.

*Paula Bradshaw left the meeting at 3.06 pm*

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed Thursday 7 October 2021 at 2:30pm as the date of the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:28pm.

**Emma Sheerin MLA**

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