



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Ad Hoc Committee on a Bill of Rights

Minutes of Proceedings

Thursday 3 June 2021

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

Present: Emma Sheerin MLA (Chairperson)
Paula Bradshaw MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Michelle McIlveen MLA
Christopher Stalford MLA

Present via video conference:

Doug Beattie MLA
Mark Durkan MLA
Carál Ní Chuilín MLA

Apologies: None

In Attendance: Caroline Perry (Assembly Clerk)
Gavin Ervine (Senior Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Gareth Cross (Clerical Officer)



Northern Ireland Assembly

The meeting commenced at 2:05pm in open session.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chairperson informed Members that, as the Committee had received correspondence informing it that Doug Beattie was replacing Mike Nesbitt as a Member of the Committee, Members were required to elect a new Deputy Chairperson.

The Chairperson placed on record the Committee's appreciation of Mike Nesbitt's work on the Committee and thanked him for his dedication throughout his tenure on the Committee.

The Chairperson asked for nominations for the position of Deputy Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Bill of Rights. Mr Stalford proposed that Ms Bradshaw be elected as Deputy Chairperson of the Committee. Miss McIlveen seconded this nomination.

Ms Bradshaw accepted the nomination.

Ms Ní Chuilín proposed that Mr Beattie be elected as Deputy Chairperson of the Committee. Mr Durkan seconded this nomination.

Mr Beattie thanked Members but informed Members that he was not in a position to accept the nomination.

There being no further nominations, the Chairperson put the question without debate.

Agreed: The Committee unanimously elected Ms Bradshaw as Deputy Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Bill of Rights.



Northern Ireland Assembly

3. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson referred Members to a note of the Committee's strategy afternoon on Thursday 27 May 2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the note of the Committee's strategy afternoon on Thursday 27 May 2021.

The Chairperson referred Members to a note of an informal meeting that the Committee held with representatives of the Supreme Court of Ireland on Thursday 6 May 2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the note of the informal meeting held with the Supreme Court of Ireland on Thursday 6 May 2021.

The Chairperson referred Members to a note of an informal meeting that the Committee held with the Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement on Friday 30 April 2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the note of the informal meeting held with the Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement on Friday 30 April 2021.

4. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3 June 2021.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.



Northern Ireland Assembly

6. Correspondence

Members noted correspondence from Ashley Moran, University of Texas, requesting details of the Committee's consultation process; Global Challenges Research Fund with a submission on its perspective on a bill of rights; the Human Rights Consortium inviting the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson to a joint event with Ulster University and Queens University; UUP Whips' Office in relation to a change of membership on the Committee; and CAMS Office in relation to social media training in June 2021.

7. Forward Work Programme

The Chairperson referred Members to the draft Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: Members agreed 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 an informal session on Thursday 10 June 2021 at 2:00pm when the Committee will continue its reporting phase.

The Committee moved to closed session at 2.14pm.

The Committee continued its reporting stage deliberations. A number of issues were discussed including the background to the creation of a bill of rights, the particular circumstances, a preamble and the Committee's overall approach.



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Agreed: Members agreed to request Further advice on examples of different models of preambles and bill of rights from around the world.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20pm.

Emma Sheerin MLA

Chairperson, Ad Hoc Committee on a Bill of Rights