

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2020
IN THE SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 1.02pm. (C) denotes attendance via conference call

Present:

The Speaker (Chairperson)
Ms K Armstrong
Ms C Bailey
Mr K Buchanan
Mr R Butler
Ms S Ennis
Mrs D Kelly
Mr G Middleton
Mr A Muir

In attendance:

Dr A McGarel	Clerk of Business
Mr P Gill	Clerk Assistant
Ms L Hogg	Clerk/Chief Executive
Mr A Hicks	Legal Services
Ms F Leneghan	PS to the Speaker
Ms P Devlin	Assistant Assembly Clerk
Mr M O'Hare	Clerical Supervisor

Observers:

Mr D Kearney	Junior Minister
Ms K Loveland-Morrison	Executive Office

1 Apologies

1.1 Apologies were received from Colin McGrath, John O'Dowd and John Stewart.

2 Minutes of previous meetings

2.1 The minutes of the meeting on 29 September were **agreed**.

3 **Matters Arising**

3.1 There were no matters arising.

4 **Finalisation of the Order Papers for the Plenary Meetings in Week Commencing 12 October 2020**

Monday 12 October

Executive Committee Business

4.1 Members **noted** that Question Time was scheduled for the Executive Office and Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

4.2 Members **noted** that they had previously agreed an untimed debate for the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020 (Amendment of Certain Relevant Periods) (NI) 2020 from the Minister for the Economy.

Private Members' Business

4.3 Members **noted** that they had previously agreed to schedule the following motions with the usual timings:

- Increasing the Number of Police Officers in Northern Ireland (DUP)
- The European Union-United Kingdom Withdrawal Agreement (SF)

4.4 Members **agreed** the Order Paper for Monday 12 October.

Tuesday 13 October

4.5 Members **noted** that they had previously agreed to schedule a 30-minute debate for the Assembly Commission with 5 minutes for the move and 5 minutes for the wind, to enable AERC to take forward a review of opposition entitlements, agreed as part of NDNA.

4.6 Kellie Armstrong **declared an interest** as a member of AERC.

4.7 Robbie Butler **declared an interest** as a member of AERC and of the Assembly Commission.

4.8 Members **noted** that they had previously agreed to schedule a 45-minute debate for the Committee on Procedures, with 5 minutes for the move and 5 minutes for the wind, to amend Standing Order 45A.

4.9 Members **agreed** that they remained content with the previously agreed timings for both debates.

Executive Committee Business

4.10 Members **noted** that Question Time was scheduled for the Communities and Economy Ministers.

4.11 Members **noted** that no other Executive Business had been scheduled.

4.12 Members **noted** a request on behalf of another Member to submit a Public Petition to the Speaker after 11 am, and **agreed** that the petition could be presented on Tuesday 13 October after Question Time.

Private Members' Business

4.13 Members **noted** that they had previously agreed to schedule the following motions:

- Support for the Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill (DUP)
- Onshore Petroleum Licencing and Drilling (SF)

4.14 Members **noted** that they had previously scheduled an Adjournment debate on an Acute Mental Health facility at Omagh Hospital and Primary Care Complex for DUP.

4.15 Members **agreed** the Order Paper for Tuesday 13 October.

5 Provisional Arrangements for the Plenary Meetings in Week Commencing 19 October 2020

Monday 19 October

Executive Committee Business

5.1 Members **noted** that Question Time was scheduled for the Education and Finance Ministers.

5.2 Members **noted** that the Minister of Finance had scheduled three items of Executive Business, as follows:

- Supply Resolution for the Main Estimates 2020-21
- Supply Resolution 2016-2017 Statement of Excesses

- First Stage – Budget (No. 3) Bill

- 5.3 Members **agreed** to schedule a 4 and a half-hour debate to consider both supply resolution motions, with 30 minutes for the Minister to use at his discretion to move and wind, ten minutes for the Finance Committee Chair and seven minutes for all other speakers.
- 5.4 Members **noted** that introductory stages of bills generally take no more than a few minutes.
- 5.5 The junior Minister advised that no other Executive business was expected, and advised that the Minister for the Economy would not be available on 19 and 20 October due to an engagement in London.

Private Members' Business

- 5.6 Members **agreed** not to schedule Private Members' Business.
- 5.7 Members **agreed** the Provisional Order Paper for Monday 19 October.

Tuesday 20 October

Executive Committee Business

- 5.8 Members **noted** that the Health and Infrastructure Ministers would respond to oral questions.
- 5.9 Members **noted** that the Finance Minister had scheduled two items of business for this date, as follows:
- A statement on October Monitoring which has still to be confirmed
 - Second Stage of the Budget (No. 3) Bill
- 5.10 Members **agreed** to schedule an untimed debate for the second stage of the Budget (No. 3) Bill.
- 5.11 The junior Minister advised that no other Executive business was expected.

Private Members' Business

- 5.12 Members **agreed** not to schedule any Private Members' motions.
- 5.13 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment debate, and **noted** that the topic selection was for Sinn Féin.

5.14 The following Adjournment debate topic was selected with the usual timings:

- Lack of Rail Connectivity in Foyle (SF)

5.15 Members **agreed** the Provisional Order Paper for Tuesday 20 October.

6 **Any Other Business**

6.1 The Speaker noted that in recent months, he had corresponded with the Executive to encourage Ministers to bring important matters to the Assembly before making them public.

6.2 The Speaker reminded Members that copies of oral statements are provided to Members in advance for information, and that Members should not be making the contents of statements public in advance of the statement being made in the Chamber.

6.3 The Speaker asked Members to remind their party members of this courtesy.

6.4 There was no other business.

7 **Date and time of next meeting**

7.1 Members **agreed** that the next meeting would take place at 1pm on Tuesday 13 October in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Speaker brought the meeting to a close at 1.10pm

The Speaker
Chairperson