

**NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY**  
**BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2020**  
**IN THE SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

**MINUTES**

*The meeting began at 1.03pm. (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 C McGrath**  
**Mr A Muir**  
**Mr J O'Dowd**

**In attendance:**

<b>Dr A McGarel</b>	<b>Clerk of Business</b>
<b>Mr P Gill</b>	<b>Clerk Assistant</b>
<b>Ms L Hogg</b>	<b>Clerk/Chief Executive</b>
<b>Mr J McMillen</b>	<b>Head of Legal Services</b>
<b>Mr R Ramsey</b>	<b>Adviser to the Speaker</b>
<b>Ms F Leneghan</b>	<b>PS to the Speaker</b>
<b>Ms P Devlin</b>	<b>Assistant Assembly Clerk</b>
<b>Mr M O'Hare</b>	<b>Clerical Supervisor</b>

**Observers:**

<b>Mr D Kearney</b>	<b>Junior Minister</b>
<b>Ms K Loveland-Morrison</b>	<b>Executive Office</b>

**1 Apologies**

1.1 Apologies were received from Gary Middleton and John Stewart.

**2 Minutes of previous meetings**

2.1 The minutes of the meeting on 13 October were **agreed**.

### 3 **Matters Arising**

- 3.1 Members **noted** that the Committee on Procedures had written seeking views on the temporary provisions provided for by SOs 110-116, so that it can consider any potential amendments.
- 3.2 Members **agreed** to express their views on the temporary provisions through other avenues rather than the Business Committee.
- 3.3 Members were sympathetic towards a proposal for the Committee not to schedule Private Members' motions and adjournment debates for the period during which additional COVID restrictions are in place, but **agreed** to assess the impact this might have on a week-to-week basis.
- 3.4 Members discussed a proposal to revisit Members' questions over the next couple of weeks, and **agreed** that whips should ask their party colleagues to check if answers to their questions are available online before submitting questions to a Minister.
- 3.5 In order to inform their decisions on the scheduling of business, Members **agreed** to write to the Executive Office to request a legislative timetable for the next two months, in particular information on any Brexit-related business.
- 3.6 There were no other matters arising.

### 4 **Finalisation of the Order Papers for the Plenary Meetings in Week Commencing 2 November 2020**

#### **Monday 2 November**

- 4.1 Members **noted** that business remained as agreed at last week's meeting with the addition of the following:

#### **Assembly Business**

- 4.2 Members **noted** that the DUP was seeking to schedule a Committee membership motion on this date.
- 4.3 Members **agreed** to schedule the motion as a business motion with no debate or amendment.

#### **Committee Business**

- 4.4 Members **noted** that the Education Committee had scheduled a motion on Post-Primary Transfer Testing.

- 4.5 Members **agreed** to allocate 2 hours for the debate with ten minutes to move and wind, and 20 minutes for the Minister to respond and five for all other speakers.
- 4.6 Members **noted** that a Ministerial Statement on an NSMC Transport meeting by the Minister for Infrastructure was now confirmed.

#### Private Members' Business

- 4.7 Members **noted** that they had agreed to defer scheduling Private Members' Business until this meeting.
- 4.8 Members **agreed** not to schedule Private Members' motions.
- 4.9 Members **agreed** the Order Paper for Monday 2 November.

#### Tuesday 3 November

- 4.10 Members **noted** that business remained as agreed at last week's meeting with the addition of the following:

#### Executive Committee Business

- 4.11 A motion to approve the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme Order scheduled by the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.
- 4.12 Members **agreed** to schedule an untimed debate.
- 4.13 Members **noted** that an oral statement on Housing policy had been confirmed by the Minister for Communities.

#### Private Members' Business

- 4.14 Members **noted** that they had agreed to defer scheduling Private Members' Business until this meeting.
- 4.15 Members **agreed** not to schedule Private Members' motions.
- 4.16 Members **agreed** not to schedule an adjournment debate.
- 4.17 Members **agreed** the Order Paper for Tuesday 3 November.

## 5 Provisional Arrangements for the Plenary Meetings in Week Commencing 9 November 2020

### Monday 9 November

#### Executive Committee Business

- 5.1 Members **noted** that Question Time was scheduled for the Economy and Education Ministers.
- 5.2 Members **noted** that the Executive had scheduled two items of Executive Business, as follows:
- Further Consideration Stage of the Budget (No. 3) Bill
  - The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2) (Amendment No. 8) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020
- 5.3 Members **agreed** to schedule untimed debates for both items of Executive Business.
- 5.4 A Member asked if amendments 9 and 10 to the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2) Regulations could also be scheduled for debate alongside Amendment 8.
- 5.5 The junior Minister acknowledged that there had been issues with delay and agreed to discuss the request with his Executive colleagues.
- 5.6 The junior Minister advised that no other Executive business was expected at that time.

#### Private Members' Business

- 5.7 Members **agreed** to defer scheduling Private Members' Business until the next meeting.
- 5.8 Members **agreed** the Provisional Order Paper for Monday 9 November.

### Tuesday 10 November

#### Executive Committee Business

- 5.9 Members **noted** that Question Time would be for the Finance and Health Ministers.

5.10 Members **noted** that the Executive had scheduled two items of business for this date, as follows:

- Consideration Stage of the Domestic Abuse and Family Proceedings Bill
- Final Stage of the Budget (No. 3) Bill

5.11 Members **agreed** to schedule untimed motions for both items.

5.12 The junior Minister advised that no other business was expected at that time.

#### Private Members' Business

5.13 Members agreed not to schedule Private Members' motions.

5.14 Members **agreed** to defer consideration of an adjournment debate until the next meeting.

5.15 Members **agreed** the Provisional Order Paper for Tuesday 10 November.

#### 6 Any Other Business

6.1 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 3 November in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*The Speaker brought the meeting to a close at 1.22pm*

**The Speaker  
Chairperson**