

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

**TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER 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 G Middleton**

**Mr A Muir**

**Mr J O'Dowd**

**Mr J Stewart**

**In attendance:**

**Dr A McGarel**

**Mr P Gill**

**Ms L Hogg**

**Dr G McGrath**

**Mr J McMillen**

**Ms A McKelvey**

**Mr R Ramsey**

**Ms F Leneghan**

**Ms P Devlin**

**Mr M O'Hare**

**Clerk of Business**

**Clerk Assistant**

**Clerk/Chief Executive**

**Director of Parliamentary  
Services**

**Head of Legal Services**

**Legal Advisor**

**Adviser to the Speaker**

**PS to the Speaker**

**Assistant Assembly Clerk**

**Clerical Supervisor**

**Observers:**

**Mr G Lyons**

**Ms K Loveland-  
Morrison**

**Junior Minister**

**Executive Office**

**1 Apologies**

1.1 There were no apologies.

## 2 **Minutes of previous meetings**

2.1 The minutes of the meeting on 20 October were **agreed**.

## 3 **Matters Arising**

3.1 Members **agreed** to consider the Christmas recess period at the meeting on 17 November, when more may be known about the Executive's plans for the period following the end of the restrictions currently in place.

3.2 A Member sought an update on the Committee's request to the Executive for a legislative timetable, and noted that a response from the Executive was still pending.

3.3 There were no other matters arising.

## 4 **Finalisation of the Order Papers for the Plenary Meetings in Week Commencing 9 November 2020**

### **Monday 9 November**

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

#### **Executive Business**

- i. The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2) (Amendment No. 9) Regulations (NI) 2020.
- ii. The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2) (Amendment No. 10) Regulations (NI) 2020.
- iii. The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Wearing of Face Coverings) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations (NI) 2020.

4.2 Members **agreed** to schedule a single untimed debate for all four motions.

#### **Private Members' Business**

4.3 Members **noted** that they had agreed to defer scheduling Private Members' Business until this meeting.

- 4.4 The following Private Members' motion was selected with the usual timings:
- Manufacturing Sector during the COVID-19 Pandemic (UUP)
- 4.5 The junior Minister indicated that a Minister would be available to respond.
- 4.6 Members **agreed** the Order Paper for Monday 9 November.

### **Tuesday 10 November**

#### **Executive Committee Business**

- 4.7 Members **noted** that there had been no changes to the Executive Business agreed at the last meeting.

#### **Private Members' Business**

- 4.8 Members **noted** that the Committee had agreed at the last meeting not to schedule Private Members' motions.
- 4.9 Members **agreed** not to schedule an adjournment debate.
- 4.10 Members **agreed** the Order Paper for Tuesday 10 November.

## **5 Provisional Arrangements for the Plenary Meetings in Week Commencing 16 November 2020**

### **Monday 16 November**

#### **Executive Committee Business**

- 5.1 Members **noted** that Question Time was scheduled for the Executive Office and Minister for Infrastructure.
- 5.2 Members **noted** that the Executive had scheduled one item of Executive Business, as follows:
- Second Stage of the Criminal Justice (Committal Reform) Bill
- 5.3 Members **agreed** to schedule an untimed debate for second stage of the Bill.
- 5.4 The junior Minister advised that there was no further Executive Business expected at that time.

### Private Members' Business

- 5.5 Members **agreed** to schedule a Private Members' motion.
- 5.6 The following Private Members' motion was selected with the usual timings:
- Ammonia Levels in Northern Ireland (Green Party)
- 5.7 The junior Minister indicated that a Minister would be available to respond.
- 5.8 Members **agreed** the Provisional Order Paper for Monday 16 November.

### Tuesday 17 November

#### Executive Committee Business

- 5.9 Members **noted** that Question Time would be for the Justice and Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Ministers.
- 5.10 Members **noted** that the Executive had not scheduled any business for this date.
- 5.11 The junior Minister advised that no other Executive business was expected at that time.

#### Private Members' Business

- 5.12 Members **agreed** to schedule two Private Members' motions.
- 5.13 The following Private Members' motions were selected with the usual timings:
- Increasing Health Service Capacity (DUP)
  - TBC (SDLP)
- 5.14 Members **agreed** that the SDLP could provide the wording of their motion over the next few days.
- 5.15 Members **agreed** to schedule the following adjournment debate:
- Post-Primary Education Provision in South Belfast (Paula Bradshaw)
- 5.16 Members **agreed** the Provisional Order Paper for Tuesday 17 November.

6 **Any Other Business**

6.1 Members discussed the ongoing hygiene and social distancing requirements in the Assembly Chamber.

6.2 Whips were asked to remind their Members that mobile phones can cause interference with the audio and recording equipment in the Chamber and to bear this in mind when using phones in the Chamber.

7 **Date and time of next meeting**

7.1 Members **agreed** that the next meeting would take place at 1pm on Tuesday 10 November in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*The Speaker brought the meeting to a close at 1.12pm*

**The Speaker  
Chairperson**