

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 17 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 J O'Dowd

In attendance:

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

Observers:

Mr G Lyons	Junior Minister
Ms K Loveland-Morrison	Executive Office

1 Apologies

1.1 Apologies were received from John Stewart and Andrew Muir.

2 Minutes of previous meetings

2.1 The minutes of the meeting on 10 November were **agreed**.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 Members **noted** that a legislative timetable had yet to be received from the Executive.

3.2 Members **noted** that they had previously agreed to discuss the Christmas recess dates at this meeting, but **agreed** to postpone this discussion until they could consider what business the Executive was proposing to bring forward.

3.3 There were no other matters arising.

4 Finalisation of the Order Papers for the Plenary Meetings in Week Commencing 23 November 2020

Monday 23 November

4.1 Members **noted** that Committee business remained as agreed at last week's meeting.

4.2 Members **noted** that the Executive had since notified of motions to affirm three sets of Health Protection Regulations but they had not been tabled in the Business Office in time for the meeting.

4.3 Members **noted** that it was possible that there would be a late request for these to be added to the Order Paper before next week because the deadlines were approaching.

Private Members' Business

4.4 As the Committee Business was scheduled to last until 5pm, Members **agreed** not to schedule Private Members' Business and deferred the DUP motion provisionally scheduled the week prior.

4.5 A Member **noted** that since the Order Paper for today has been agreed last week, four Ministerial Statements had been scheduled with little advance notification making it difficult for the Committee to schedule business efficiently.

- 4.6 Members **noted** the importance of Ministers making statements to the Assembly, and recognised the need for a provision to bring them at short notice when urgent, but also encouraged the Executive to provide as much advance notice of oral statements whenever possible to enable the Committee to plan better use of plenary time.
- 4.7 Members **agreed** the Order Paper for Monday 23 November.

Tuesday 24 November

Executive Committee Business

- 4.8 Members **noted** that there had been no Executive Business scheduled since the last meeting.

Private Members' Business

- 4.9 Members **noted** that the Committee had agreed to schedule Consideration Stage of the Functioning of Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill for Mr Allister, subject to the Committee for Finance agreeing its report on the Bill.
- 4.10 Members noted that the Committee had now agreed its report, and **agreed** to schedule an untimed debate for Consideration Stage of the Bill.
- 4.11 As consideration stages of bills take a significant amount of plenary time, Members **agreed** not to schedule Private Members' motions.
- 4.12 Members **agreed** to schedule an adjournment debate, as follows:
- Road Safety at Schools in Mid Ulster (DUP)
- 4.13 Members **agreed** the Order Paper for Tuesday 24 November.

5 **Provisional Arrangements for the Plenary Meetings in Week Commencing 30 November 2020**

Monday 30 November

Executive Committee Business

- 5.1 Members **noted** that Question Time was scheduled for the Executive Office and Minister of Health.

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

- The Plant Health and Diseases of Animals (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations (NI) 2020, for the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
- A Legislative Consent Motion on the Medicines and Medical Devices Bill for the Minister of Health.

5.3 Members **agreed** to schedule untimed debates for both items.

5.4 The junior Minister advised that there was no further Executive Business expected at that time.

Committee Business

5.5 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion to extend Committee Stage of the Licensing and Registration of Clubs Bill for the Committee for Communities, which would be untimed.

Private Members' Business

5.6 Members **agreed** to defer taking a decision on scheduling Private Members' business until the following week.

5.7 Members **agreed** the Provisional Order Paper for Monday 30 November.

Tuesday 1 December

Executive Committee Business

5.8 Members **noted** that Question Time would be for the Infrastructure and Justice Ministers.

5.9 Members **noted** that the Executive had scheduled two items of Executive Business, as follows:

- A motion seeking Accelerated Passage for The Harbours (Grants and Loans Limit) Bill
- Second Stage of The Harbours (Grants and Loans Limit) Bill

Private Members' Business

- 5.10 Members **agreed** to defer taking a decision on scheduling Private Members' business until the following week.
- 5.11 Members **agreed** the Provisional Order Paper for Tuesday 1 December.

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 24 November in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Speaker brought the meeting to a close at 1.13pm

**The Speaker
Chairperson**