

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 31 MARCH 2021
MS TEAMS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 2.33pm.

Present:

The Speaker (Chairperson)
Ms K Armstrong
Ms C Bailey
Mr R Butler
Mr K Buchanan
Ms 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 A Hicks	Legal Advisor
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

1 Apologies

1.1 Apologies were received from John Stewart, Sinéad Ennis and Andrew Muir.

2 Finalisation of the Order Paper for the Plenary Meeting on 1 April 2021

Private Members' Business

2.1 The Speaker advised Members that he had received a valid request from more than 30 Members under Standing Order 11 to recall the Assembly on Thursday 1 April.

- 2.2 The Speaker suggested that the sitting should commence at 12pm to allow time for Parliament Buildings to be prepared and for amendments tabled under Standing Order 15(3) to be considered.
- 2.3 Members **agreed** that the sitting would commence at 12pm.
- 2.4 Members **noted** that the motion did not call on any Executive Minister so no Ministerial response was expected, but that the motion called for the Assembly to condemn two Ministers and it would be appropriate for them to be given an opportunity to reply as private members.
- 2.5 Members **agreed** that the two named Members would be allowed 5 minutes each to respond, should they wish to do so.
- 2.6 Following discussion, Members **agreed** to allow two hours for the debate, including 10 minutes for move and wind, and five minutes each for the two named Members to respond in their capacity as private Members.
- 2.7 Members **noted** that the motion was amendable and that amendments might be tabled until 9.30am on the morning of the sitting.
- 2.8 Members **agreed** the Order Paper for Thursday 1 April.

3 **Date and time of next meeting**

- 3.1 Members **agreed** that, unless otherwise notified, the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 13 April in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Speaker brought the meeting to a close at 2.38pm

**The Speaker
Chairperson**