

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 1 JUNE 2021
SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 1.02pm.

Present:

The Speaker (Chairperson)
Mr A Allen
Ms K Armstrong
Ms C Bailey
Mr R Butler
Mr K Buchanan
Ms J Bunting
Ms S Ennis
Mrs D Kelly
Mr C McGrath
Mr A Muir
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
Ms A McKelvey	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 D Kearney	junior Minister
Mr D McCreedy	The Executive Office

1 Apologies

1.1 Apologies were received from Gary Middleton.

1.2 The Speaker welcomed Andy Allen as a Member of the Committee.

1.3 The Speaker welcomed Joanne Bunting who was attending in place of Gary Middleton.

2 **Minutes of previous meeting**

2.1 The minutes of the meeting on 25 May were **agreed**.

3 **Matters Arising**

3.1 The Speaker advised that officials had now identified the cause of the technical issue which prevented some Members asking an oral question via Starleaf during the previous week's plenary. The Speaker advised Members that a memo from the Head of Communications explaining the issue had been included in their papers.

3.2 Members **noted** the memo from the Head of Communications.

3.3 There were no other matters arising.

4 **Finalisation of the Order Papers for the Plenary Meetings in Week Commencing 7 June 2021**

Monday 7 June

Public Petition

4.1 Members **noted** that Ms. Armstrong would present a petition calling for support for unpaid carers in Northern Ireland.

Assembly Business

4.2 Members **agreed** to schedule a committee membership motion for the DUP subject to the wording being provided shortly after the meeting.

Executive Committee Business

4.3 Members **noted** that Executive business remained as agreed at last week's meeting.

- 4.4 Members **noted** that at the last meeting they had agreed to allocate four and a half hours for the Supply Resolution debate, with 30 minutes for the Minister to use at his discretion between the move and the wind, 10 minutes for the Chair of Finance Committee and 7 minutes for all other speakers.
- 4.5 Members were advised that the Minister had since requested 40 minutes for the move and wind, and **agreed** to the request.
- 4.6 Members **noted** that the previous week's debate on the Budget motion had been allocated similar timings, but had only lasted three hours.
- 4.7 Members **agreed** to reduce the timing for the Supply Resolution debate to three and a half hours.
- 4.8 Members **agreed** to reduce the time for individual contributions from Members not speaking on behalf of committees to 5 minutes, that the Finance Committee Chair would continue to have 10 minutes and other Committee Chairs 7 minutes.
- 4.9 The junior Minister indicated that no other business was expected at that time.

Committee Business

- 4.10 Members **noted** that a one-hour debate for the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs remained scheduled.

Private Members' Business

- 4.11 Members **agreed** that insufficient time was available to schedule Private Members' motions.
- 4.12 Members **agreed** the Order Paper for Monday 7 June.

Tuesday 8 June

Executive Committee Business

- 4.13 Members **noted** that, in addition to the business agreed at last week's meeting, the Executive Office had listed a further six items of business for the Minister of Justice.

- 4.14 Members **agreed** that a statement from the Minister of Justice on the Intergovernmental Agreement on Criminal Justice Cooperation would be added to the Indicative Timings once confirmed with the Speaker's Office.
- 4.15 Members **agreed** to schedule an untimed debate to consider the draft Police Act 1997 (Criminal Record Certificates: Relevant Matters) (Amendment) Order (NI) 2021.
- 4.16 Members **agreed** to schedule a single untimed debate to consider four draft statutory rules relating to the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.
- 4.17 The junior Minister indicated that no other business was expected at that time.

Private Members' Business

- 4.18 Members **agreed** that insufficient time was available to schedule Private Members' business.
- 4.19 Members **agreed** the Order Paper for Tuesday 8 June.

5 Provisional Arrangements for the Plenary Meetings in Week Commencing 14 June 2021

Monday 14 June

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 Minister of Finance had listed Consideration Stage of the Budget (no. 2) Bill.
- 5.3 Members **agreed** to schedule an untimed debate for the Bill Stage.
- 5.4 Members **noted** that the Minister of Finance had listed Second Stage of the Financial Reporting (Departments and Public Bodies Bill).
- 5.5 Members **agreed** to schedule an untimed debate for the Bill Stage.
- 5.6 Members **noted** that the Minister for the Economy had listed Second Stage of the Parental Bereavement (Leave and Pay) Bill.

- 5.7 Members **agreed** to schedule an untimed debate for the Bill Stage.
- 5.8 The junior Minister indicated that no other business was expected at that time.

Private Members' Business

- 5.9 Members **noted** that there was unlikely to be sufficient time for Private Members' business, but **agreed** to confirm this at the next meeting.
- 5.10 Members **agreed** the Provisional Order Paper for Monday 14 June.

Tuesday 15 June

Executive Committee Business

- 5.11 Members **noted** that Question Time was scheduled for the Minister for Infrastructure and the Assembly Commission.
- 5.12 Members **noted** that no other Executive business was listed.
- 5.13 The junior Minister indicated that no other business was expected at that time.

Committee Business

- 5.14 Members **agreed** to schedule one and a half hours for a Health Committee debate related to Carer's Week.

Private Members' Business

- 5.15 Members **noted** that there was currently sufficient time for Private Members' business, but **agreed** to defer any decisions until the next meeting.
- 5.16 Members **agreed** the Provisional Order Paper for Tuesday 15 June.

6 Question Time Rota for the Next Term

- 6.1 Members **noted** that Standing Order 20(4) requires the Business Committee to determine which Minister should answer oral questions in the Chamber on a particular day.
- 6.2 Members **noted** that a draft rota for the period September – December 2021 had been provided, and that it was based on the current pattern of 3 Ministers per week responding to oral questions.
- 6.3 Members **agreed** the draft rota.
- 6.4 Members **noted** that names for the ballot for the first question time in September should be submitted to the Business Office by Tuesday 6 July.

7 Correspondence

- 7.1 Members **noted** receipt of a memo from the Clerk to the Committee on Procedures seeking the views of the Business Committee on provision for handling consent decisions.
- 7.2 Members **agreed** to consider the issue and return to it next week.

8 Any Other Business

- 8.1 There was no other business.

9 Date and time of next meeting

- 9.1 Members **agreed** that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 8 June in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Speaker brought the meeting to a close at 1.12pm

The Speaker
Chairperson