

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 29 JUNE 2021
SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 1.01pm.

Present:

Mr J O'Dowd (Acting Chairperson)
Ms C Bailey
Mr R Butler
Mr T Clarke
Ms S Ennis
Mrs D Kelly
Mr A Muir

In attendance:

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

Observers:

Mr D Kearney Mr D McCreedy	Junior Minister The Executive Office
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1 Apologies

1.1 Apologies were received from the Speaker, Andy Allen, Kellie Armstrong, Joanne Bunting and Colin McGrath.

2 Minutes of previous meeting

2.1 The minutes of the meeting on 22 June were **agreed**.

3 **Matters Arising**

3.1 There were no matters arising.

4 **Finalisation of the Order Papers for the Plenary Meetings in Week Commencing 5 July 2021**

Monday 5 July

Assembly Business

- 4.1 Members **agreed** to schedule a Business Committee motion to extend Mr Stewart Dickson's mandate on the Regional Chamber of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.
- 4.2 Members **agreed** to schedule a Committee Membership motion for the DUP and that this would be treated as a Business Motion with no debate.

Executive Committee Business

- 4.3 Members **noted** that Executive business remained as agreed at the last meeting.

Committee Business

- 4.4 Members **noted** that the Committee for the Executive Office motion on Victims of Historical Institutional Abuse Redress remained scheduled and that the wording had been finalised.
- 4.5 Members **agreed** to schedule a single debate to consider two motions from the Committee on Procedures, to amend Standing Order 10 and add a new Standing Order to make provision for Members' statements in the Assembly.

Private Members' Business

- 4.6 Members **noted** that Mrs Cameron had requested to introduce her Autism (Amendment) Private Members Bill, which would last no more than a few minutes.
- 4.7 Members **noted** that insufficient time was available to schedule any other Private Members' business.

4.8 Members **agreed** the Order Paper for Monday 5 July.

Tuesday 6 July

Executive Committee Business

- 4.9 Members **noted** that, in addition to the business agreed at last week's meeting, the Executive Office had listed a further five items of business.
- 4.10 Members **agreed** that the Oral Statement from the First Minister and deputy First Minister on the BIC Summit meeting would be added to the Indicative Timings once confirmed with the Speaker's Office.
- 4.11 Members **noted** that the First Stage of the Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Bill would be added to Indicative Timings when legislative competence had been confirmed.
- 4.12 Members **noted** that the First Stage of the Climate Change Bill would be added to Indicative Timings when legislative competence had been confirmed.
- 4.13 Members **noted** that the First Stage of the Organ and Tissue (Deemed Consent) Bill would be added to Indicative Timings when legislative competence had been confirmed.
- 4.14 Members **noted** that First Stage of the Private Tenancies Bill, would be added to Indicative Timings when legislative competence had been confirmed.

Committee Business

- 4.15 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Committee for Infrastructure on support for the taxi sector, with the usual timings.

Private Members' Business

- 4.16 Members **noted** that the First Stage of Mr O'Dowd's Small Scale Green Energy Bill was included.
- 4.17 Members **agreed** that Second Stage of Ms. Armstrong's Integrated Education Private Members' Bill would remain scheduled.
- 4.18 Members **agreed** the Order Paper for Tuesday 6 July.

5 Seating Arrangements in the Chamber

- 5.1 Members **noted** that at the meeting of 25 May, they had agreed to consider seating arrangements in the Chamber at the last meeting before summer recess.
- 5.2 Members **noted** the difficulty in taking decisions on the agreed seating arrangements without knowing what the circumstances relating to the pandemic might be in September.
- 5.3 Members **agreed** to request that a paper is prepared by Building Services, taking account of the public health guidance at that time, for consideration by the Committee at its meeting on 7 September.
- 5.4 Members **agreed** that if the Assembly was recalled over the summer recess, or if the Ad Hoc Committee on Covid-19 response was convened in the Chamber, the current seating arrangements would continue to apply.
- 5.5 Members **agreed** that a paper providing advice on the courtesies and rulings that have been temporarily set aside in the Chamber during the pandemic would also be brought to the meeting on 7 September.

6 Any Other Business

- 6.1 Members **agreed** that from September, they would return to scheduling Private Members' Business on the Provisional Order Papers, two weeks before being debated.
- 6.2 The junior Minister **agreed** to advise Ministers and Departments that from September, it will be necessary for them to provide notice of all their business two weeks in advance.
- 6.3 Members **noted** that another Executive Bill was not likely to be cleared in time for the last sittings before recess, but that the Speaker was considering possible options for its introduction.
- 6.4 Members **noted** the Speaker's recent correspondence to all MLAs about recess and recalls and **agreed** to remind their party colleagues and those they represent of the key messages.

7 **Date and time of next meeting**

- 7.1 Members **agreed** that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 7 September in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Acting Chairperson brought the meeting to a close at 1.19pm

**The Speaker
Chairperson**