

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

**TUESDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2021**  
**SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

**MINUTES**

*The meeting began at 1.01pm.*

**Present:**

**The Speaker (Chairperson)**  
**Ms C Bailey**  
**Mrs R Barton**  
**Ms J Bunting**  
**Mr T Clarke**  
**Ms S Ennis**  
**Mrs D Kelly**  
**Mr A Muir**  
**Mr J O'Dowd**

**In attendance:**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Dr A McGarel</b>   | <b>Clerk of Business</b>                  |
| <b>Mr P Gill</b>      | <b>Clerk Assistant</b>                    |
| <b>Ms L Hogg</b>      | <b>Clerk/Chief Executive</b>              |
| <b>Dr G McGrath</b>   | <b>Director of Parliamentary Services</b> |
| <b>Mr S Kelly</b>     | <b>Legal Services</b>                     |
| <b>Mr R Ramsey</b>    | <b>Adviser to the Speaker</b>             |
| <b>Ms F Leneghan</b>  | <b>PS to the Speaker</b>                  |
| <b>Ms S Rowbotham</b> | <b>Speaker's Office</b>                   |
| <b>Ms P Devlin</b>    | <b>Assistant Assembly Clerk</b>           |
| <b>Mr M O'Hare</b>    | <b>Clerical Supervisor</b>                |

**Observers:**

|                      |                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Mr D Kearney</b>  | <b>Junior Minister</b>      |
| <b>Mr D McCreedy</b> | <b>The Executive Office</b> |

**1 Apologies**

1.1 Apologies were received from Robbie Butler, Colin McGrath and Paula Bradshaw. On behalf of the Committee, the Speaker expressed condolences to Mr Butler on his recent bereavement.

**2 Minutes of previous meeting**

2.1 The minutes of the meeting on 19 October were **agreed**.

### 3 **Matters Arising**

- 3.1 The Speaker reminded Members that the additional Committee meeting to discuss legislation scheduling between now and the end of the mandate would take place at 1pm on Wednesday 10 November in the Assembly Chamber.
- 3.2 On the request of a Member, the Speaker agreed to advise the Committee in advance of any decisions that Members may be asked to take during the meeting, to allow them to be prepared.
- 3.3 There were no other matters arising.

### 4 **Finalisation of the Order Papers for the Plenary Meetings in Week Commencing 8 November**

#### **Monday 8 November**

#### Members' Statements

- 4.1 Members **noted** that Members' Statements remained scheduled.

#### Assembly Business

- 4.2 Members **noted** that a debate on the draft Flags (Northern Ireland) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 remained scheduled.
- 4.3 Ms Bunting agreed to move the motion on behalf of Business Committee.
- 4.4 Members **noted** that Mr Butler had agreed to wind on the motion.

#### Executive Committee Business

- 4.5 Members **noted** that Executive Business remained as scheduled at the last meeting with the addition of:
- A statement on the BIC Transport Ministerial meeting from the Minister for Infrastructure; and
  - The introduction of the Support for Mortgage Interest etc. (Security for Loans) Bill from the Minister for Communities.

- 4.6 Members **agreed** that the statement would be added to Indicative Timings once the request was confirmed with Speaker's Office and the introduction of the bill added when legislative competence had been established.

#### Committee Business

- 4.7 Members **noted** that a motion to extend committee stage of the Adoption and Children Bill remained scheduled.

#### Private Members' Business

- 4.8 Members **noted** that Second Stage of Mr McGrath's Education (Curriculum) (CPR and AED) Bill remained scheduled.
- 4.9 Members **agreed** not to schedule any further Private Members' Business.
- 4.10 Members **agreed** the Order Paper for Monday 8 November.

### **Tuesday 9 November**

#### Executive Committee Business

- 4.11 Members **noted** that no Executive Business had been scheduled.

#### Committee Business

- 4.12 Members **noted** that the Assembly and Executive Review Committee motion on its Report on the outcome of the independent Review of the adequacy and effectiveness of the Statement of Entitlements for an Official Opposition remained scheduled.

#### Private Members' Business

- 4.13 Members **noted** that Private Members' business remained as scheduled the previous week, and **agreed** not to add any further business.
- 4.14 Members **agreed** the Order Paper for Tuesday 9 November.

5 **Provisional Arrangements for the Plenary Meetings in Week Commencing 15 November**

**Monday 15 November**

Members' Statements

- 5.1 Members **noted** that Members' Statements were scheduled but could be removed when finalising the Order Paper if it became apparent that there would not be enough time.

Public Petition

- 5.2 Members **agreed** to schedule a Public Petition for Órlaithí Flynn entitled 'Improved Addiction, Rehab and Crisis Services – Jack's Promise'.

Executive Committee Business

- 5.3 Members **noted** that Question Time was scheduled for the Executive Office and the Minister of Education.
- 5.4 Members **noted** that the Executive had listed six items of business:
- First Stage of the Non-Domestic Rates (Valuations) Coronavirus) Bill;
  - First Stage of the Animal Welfare (Service Animals) Bill;
  - Consideration Stage: Damages (Return on Investment) Bill
  - Three Legislative Consent Motions related to the Westminster Health and Care Bill
- 5.5 Members **agreed** that First Stage of the Non-Domestic Rates (Valuations) (Coronavirus) Bill and First Stage of the Animal Welfare (Service Animals) Bill would be shown on Indicative Timings once legislative competence had been confirmed.
- 5.6 Members **agreed** to schedule an untimed debate for Consideration Stage of the Damages (Return on Investment) Bill.
- 5.7 Members **agreed** to schedule a single untimed debate to consider three Legislative Consent Motions all of which related to the Westminster Health and Care Bill.
- 5.8 The junior Minister indicated that no other business was expected at that time.

### Private Members' Business

- 5.9 Members **agreed** that insufficient time was available for Private Members' business.
- 5.10 Members **agreed** the Provisional Order Paper for Monday 15 November.

### Tuesday 16 November

#### Public Petition

- 5.11 Members **agreed** to schedule a Public Petition for Pádraig Delargy, the detail of which was yet to be confirmed.

#### Executive Committee Business

- 5.12 Members **noted** that Question Time was scheduled for the Minister of Finance.
- 5.13 Members **noted** that the Executive had listed four items of business:
- Consideration Stage of the Health and Social Care Bill;
  - Consideration Stage of the Horse Racing (Amendment) Bill;
  - A motion from the Minister for Communities on the Local Government Auditor's Draft Code of Audit Practice;
  - Second Stage of the Support for Mortgage Interest etc (Security for Loans) Bill
- 5.14 Members **agreed** to schedule untimed debates for the Consideration Stages of the Health and Social Care Bill and the Horse Racing (Amendment) Bill.
- 5.15 Members **agreed** to schedule 30 minutes to debate the motion from the Minister for Communities with an upper limit of 5 minutes on individual contributions.
- 5.16 Members **agreed** to schedule an untimed debate for second stage of the Support for Mortgage Interest etc. (Security for Loans) Bill.
- 5.17 The junior Minister indicated that no other business was expected at that time.

### Committee Business

- 5.18 Members **agreed** to schedule an untimed debate for the Committee for Health to extend the Committee Stage of the Abortion Services (Safe Access Zones) Bill.

### Private Members' Business

- 5.19 Members **noted** that Aisling Reilly had requested that the second stage of her Hospital Parking Charges Bill be considered for debate as the conventional 4-week period after introduction would have elapsed by this date.
- 5.20 Members **noted** that the business already scheduled brought the estimated adjournment time to almost 6pm with several items of business untimed, and on that basis **agreed** to defer second stage of Ms. Reilly's bill until the following week.
- 5.21 Members **agreed** to defer taking a decision on scheduling an adjournment debate until the next meeting.
- 5.22 Members **agreed** the Provisional Order Paper for Tuesday 16 November.

### 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 on Tuesday 9 November in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

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

**The Speaker  
Chairperson**