

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

**TUESDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2021**  
**SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

**MINUTES**

*The meeting began at 1.07pm.*

**Present:**

**The Speaker (Chairperson)**  
**Ms C Bailey**  
**Mrs R Barton**  
**Ms J Bunting**  
**Mr R Butler**  
**Mr T Clarke**  
**Ms S Ennis**  
**Mrs D Kelly**  
**Mr C McGrath**  
**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>Mr J McMillen</b>	<b>Head of 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 P Devlin</b>	<b>Assistant Assembly Clerk</b>
<b>Mr M O'Hare</b>	<b>Clerical Supervisor</b>

**Observers:** **Mr D McCreedy** **The Executive Office**

**1** **Apologies**

1.1 Apologies were received from Paula Bradshaw.

**2** **Minutes of previous meeting**

2.1 The minutes of the meeting on 2 November 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 the following day and that a paper had been circulated earlier that week to inform those discussions.
- 3.2 The Speaker indicated that, while his preference was for the necessary decisions to be taken at the meeting, if there were matters on which Members preferred to consult with their parties, he would be content to return to them at the next scheduled Business Committee meeting.
- 3.3 There were no other matters arising.

### 4 **Finalisation of the Order Papers for the Plenary Meetings in Week Commencing 15 November**

#### **Monday 15 November**

##### Members' Statements

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

##### Public Petition

- 4.2 Members **noted** that a petition for Órlaithí Flynn remained scheduled.

##### Executive Committee Business

- 4.3 Members **noted** that Executive Business remained as scheduled at the last meeting with two adjustments.
- 4.4 Members **noted** that the Minister for Infrastructure's statement on the BIC Transport Ministerial meeting, which had been scheduled on 8 November but had fallen, had been rescheduled, and would appear on the Indicative Timings when it had been confirmed with the Speaker's Office.
- 4.5 Members **agreed** to the request from the Minister of Health to have three separate debates for each of the three Health and Care Bill LCMs, instead of the single debate for all three motions which had previously been requested.
- 4.6 Members **agreed** the Order Paper for Monday 15 November.

## **Tuesday 16 November**

### Public Petition

- 4.7 Members **noted** that a petition for Pádraig Delargy remained scheduled, and was entitled 'Extend the High Street Voucher Scheme to 16 and 17-year-olds.'

### Executive Committee Business

- 4.8 Members **noted** that Executive Business remained as scheduled at the last meeting.

### Committee Business

- 4.9 Members **noted** that Committee Business remained as scheduled at the last meeting.

### Private Members' Business

- 4.10 Members **noted** that no Private Members' Business was scheduled last week and **agreed** that there was insufficient time for an adjournment debate.
- 4.11 Members **agreed** the Order Paper for Tuesday 16 November.

## 5 **Provisional Arrangements for the Plenary Meetings in Week Commencing 22 November**

### **Monday 22 November**

#### Members' Statements

- 5.1 Members **noted** that Members' Statements were scheduled as usual.

#### Executive Committee Business

- 5.2 Members **noted** that Question Time was scheduled for the Minister of Health and Minister for Infrastructure.
- 5.3 Members **noted** that the Executive had listed six items of business:

- A statement from the Minister for the Economy on the Energy Strategy Launch
- A statement from the Minister of Finance on the draft Budget 2022 - 25
- Health Protection (Coronavirus, Wearing of Face Coverings) (Amendment) (No.7) Regulations;
- Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (NI) 2021 (Amendment No.18) Regulations

- 5.4 Members **agreed** that the statements would be shown on Indicative Timings once confirmed with Speaker's Office.
- 5.5 Members **agreed** to schedule a single untimed debate for both Health Protection Regulations as requested.
- 5.6 The Executive Office official indicated that no other business was expected at that time.

#### Private Members' Business

- 5.7 Members **agreed** to schedule an untimed debate for the Second Stage of the Hospital Parking Charges Bill for Aisling Reilly.
- 5.8 Members **agreed** the Provisional Order Paper for Monday 22 November.

#### Tuesday 23 November

##### Executive Committee Business

- 5.9 Members **noted** that Question Time was scheduled for the Minister of Justice.
- 5.10 Members **noted** that the Executive had listed four items of business:
- A motion seeking Accelerated Passage for the Non-Domestic Rates Valuations (Coronavirus) Bill
  - Second Stage of the Non-Domestic Rates Valuations (Coronavirus) Bill
  - Consideration Stage of the Criminal Justice (Committal Reform) Bill
  - A Legislative Consent Motion on the Police, Crime Sentencing and Courts Bill
- 5.11 Members **agreed** to schedule untimed debates for all of these items.
- 5.12 The Executive Office official indicated that no other business was expected at that time.

## Private Members' Business

- 5.13 Members **noted** that the business already scheduled brought the estimated adjournment time to 5.15pm with several items of business untimed, and on that basis **agreed** not to schedule Private Members' motions.
- 5.14 Mr. Muir asked if Second Stage of Mr. Blair's Private Members' Bill could be considered for scheduling but was advised that it had not yet met the four-week convention for PMBs between first and second stages.
- 5.15 Members **agreed** to schedule an adjournment debate on the understanding that it would be deferred to the following week should additional business be scheduled or the sitting run late.
- 5.16 Members **agreed** to schedule the following adjournment debate:
- Belfast Rapid Transit in South Belfast (DUP)
- 5.17 Members **agreed** the Provisional Order Paper for Tuesday 23 November.

## 6 Correspondence

- 6.1 Members **noted** a response from the Clerk to the Committee on Procedures to the Business Committee's request for an update on the Procedures Committee's consideration of a review of petitions.

## 7 Any Other Business

- 7.1 There was no other business.

## 8 Date and time of next meeting

- 8.1 Members were reminded of the additional meeting on Wednesday 10 November.
- 8.2 Members **agreed** that the next regular Committee meeting would take place on Tuesday 16 November in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*The Speaker brought the meeting to a close at 1.17pm*

**The Speaker**  
**Chairperson**