

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

**FRIDAY 7 JANUARY 2022**  
**VIA MS TEAMS**

**MINUTES**

*The meeting began at 1.14pm.*

**Present:**

**The Speaker (Chairperson)**  
**Mrs R Barton**  
**Ms P Bradshaw**  
**Ms J Bunting**  
**Mr R Butler**  
**Mrs D Kelly**  
**Mr C McGrath**  
**Mr A Muir**  
**Mr J O'Dowd**  
**Ms R Woods**

**In attendance:**

<b>Ms C McKay</b> <b>Mr P Gill</b> <b>Ms T Caul</b>	<b>Mr J McMillen</b> <b>Mr R Ramsey</b> <b>Ms P Devlin</b> <b>Mr M O'Hare</b>	<b>Clerk of Business</b> <b>Clerk Assistant</b> <b>Director of Legal, Governance &amp; Research</b> <b>Head of Legal Services</b> <b>Adviser to the Speaker</b> <b>Assistant Assembly Clerk</b> <b>Clerical Supervisor</b>
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**1 Apologies**

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Clare Bailey and Sinéad Ennis.
- 1.2 The Speaker welcomed Rachel Woods to the meeting, noting that she had been nominated to attend in place of Clare Bailey.

**2 Finalisation of the Order Paper for the Plenary Meeting on 10 January 2022**

- 2.1 The Speaker informed Members that a valid request had been received from more than 30 Members under Standing Order 11 to call an earlier meeting of the Assembly to debate a motion on Keeping Schools Open and Safe.

- 2.2 The Speaker advised that a draft Order Paper and Indicative Timings had been circulated to Members in advance of the meeting.
- 2.3 The Speaker proposed that the sitting should commence at noon on Monday 10 January, to allow for preparations to be made and for any amendments to be tabled and considered.
- 2.4 Members **agreed** to the Speaker's proposed start time.
- 2.5 The Speaker advised that as the additional sitting was to take place on a Monday, a motion should be scheduled to suspend Standing Order 20(1) so that time did not have to be allocated for oral questions, and advised that this would be a business motion with no opportunity for amendment or debate.
- 2.6 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion to suspend Standing Order 20(1) at the start of the sitting.
- 2.7 Following discussion, Members **agreed** to allocate one and a half hours for the debate with the usual timings.
- 2.8 Members **agreed** that the provisions previously agreed by the Committee to increase timings if amendments were accepted, and the grace period of up to 15 minutes to be used at the Speaker's discretion, would apply.
- 2.9 Members **agreed** the Order Paper for the additional sitting on Monday 10 January.

### 3 **Date and time of next meeting**

- 3.1 Members **agreed** that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 11 January via MS Teams.

*The Speaker brought the meeting to a close at 1.19pm*

**The Speaker  
Chairperson**