



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

CHAIRPERSONS' LIAISON GROUP

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY 31 MARCH 2020

The Senate, Parliament Buildings

Present: Ms Paula Bradley MLA
Ms Sinéad Ennis MLA
Mr Paul Givan MLA
Mr William Humphrey MLA
Mr Chris Lyttle MLA (present by video-conference)
Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA
Ms Emma Sheerin MLA

Apologies: Dr Caoimhe Archibald MLA
Mr Colm Gildernew MLA
Mr Declan McAleer MLA
Mr Colin McGrath MLA
Ms Caral NiChuilin MLA

In Attendance: Mr Keith McBride (Assembly Clerk)

The meeting commenced at 12.04 pm.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Amendment to Standing Orders

Chairpersons noted a paper from the Clerk Assistant outlining guidance on the application of 'the temporary provisions' detailed in Standing Orders 115-116.

3. Appointment of a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

Chairpersons considered the charring arrangements for Chairpersons' Liaison Group (CLG).

Sinead Ennis proposed that the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson be rotated on a 6-monthly basis with the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson appointed according to party seats in the Assembly.

The question was put that the Group is content with the proposal above.

The Group divided: Ayes 3; Noes 4; Abstain 0

AYES

Ms Sinead Ennis
Mr Chris Lyttle
Ms Emma Sheerin

NOES

Ms Paula Bradley
Mr Paul Givan
Mr William Humphrey
Ms Michelle McIlveen

The proposal fell

Michelle McIlveen proposed that the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson be rotated on an annual basis with the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson appointed according to party seats in the Assembly.

The question was put that the Group is content with the proposal above.

The Group divided: Ayes 4; Noes 3; Abstain 0

AYES

Ms Paula Bradley
Mr Paul Givan
Mr William Humphrey
Ms Michelle McIlveen

NOES

Ms Sinead Ennis
Mr Chris Lyttle
Ms Emma Sheerin

Agreed: That the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson be rotated on an annual basis with the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson appointed according to party seats in the Assembly.

Ms Michelle McIlveen proposed that Mr William Humphrey be appointed Chairperson of the Chairpersons' Liaison Group for the next 12 months.

Agreed: Mr William Humphrey is appointed as Chairperson of CLG for the next 12 months.

Ms Emma Sheerin proposed that Ms Sinead Ennis be appointed Deputy Chairperson of the Chairpersons' Liaison Group for the next 12 months.

Agreed: Ms Sinead Ennis is appointed as Deputy Chairperson of CLG for the next 12 months.

Mr Humphrey took the Chair

4. Procedures

Chairpersons considered the memo provided by the Clerk relating to the proceedings of the Chairpersons' Liaison Group.

Agreed: The Group will meet on a monthly basis. With meetings taking place at 1pm on the first Tuesday of the month.

Agreed: Minutes will be circulated to Members for comment, signed off by the Chairperson, and published on the website.

Agreed: There shall be a quorum of five for all formal CLG meetings and a quorum would not be required for informal meetings, events and professional development.

Agreed: All decisions shall be taken by simple majority and voting shall be by a show of hands unless otherwise requested.

Agreed: Meetings will be held in private session, unless the Group deem it necessary for an item of business to be considered in public session.

5. Priorities and Work Programme

Agreed: The Group agreed that the Clerk should prepare some initial scoping papers on the following issues:

Chairperson and Committee professional development

RHI Inquiry report recommendation on strengthening the scrutiny role of Assembly Committees

Innovative practices in Committees

6. Any Other Business

None.

7. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting

The Clerk will advise Chairpersons of the next date of the Chairpersons' Liaison Group.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.30 pm.

William Humphrey MLA
Chairperson, Chairpersons' Liaison Group