



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

## **CHAIRPERSONS' LIAISON GROUP**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

TUESDAY 5 MAY 2020

The Senate, Parliament Buildings

Present: Dr Caoimhe Archibald MLA  
Ms Paula Bradley MLA  
Ms Sinéad Ennis MLA (present by videoconference)  
Mr Colm Gildernew MLA  
Mr William Humphrey MLA  
Mr Chris Lyttle MLA  
Mr Declan McAleer MLA  
Mr Colin McGrath MLA  
Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA  
Ms Emma Sheerin MLA (present by videoconference)  
Mr Mervyn Storey MLA

Apologies: No apologies

In Attendance: Mr Keith McBride (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Trevor Allen (Senior Assistant Clerk)

*The meeting commenced at 1.31 pm.*

#### **1. Apologies**

No apologies were received.

#### **2. Chairperson's Business**

Chairpersons noted that guidance has been reissued to Committees in relation to the current public health situation that re-emphasises the importance, of the principles, to the Assembly's approach to conducting business during this crisis.

#### **3. Matters Arising**

None.

#### **4. Chairperson and Committee Professional Development**

Chairpersons' considered a paper outlining proposals in relation to Chairperson and Committee professional development.

*Agreed:* The Group agreed that the Clerking and Members Support (CAMS) Office take forward this workstream and provides periodic updates to the Group as it progresses.

#### **5. RHI Inquiry Report recommendation on strengthening the scrutiny role of Assembly Committees**

Chairpersons considered a paper on the implementation of the recommendations of the RHI Inquiry Report in relation to increasing and strengthening the scrutiny function of Assembly Committees.

*Agreed:* The Group agreed the paper's Terms of Reference and that CAMS Office prepares a timetable for consideration at the next meeting.

#### **6. Innovative Practices in Committees**

Chairpersons considered a paper on innovation in Committees that, at the previous meeting, had been identified as a key priority area for the remainder of the current mandate.

1.42 pm Mr Storey joined the meeting

*Agreed:* The Group agreed the paper's Terms of Reference and that CAMS Office prepares a timetable for consideration at the next meeting.

#### **7. Correspondence**

- (i) Chairpersons considered correspondence from the Committee for the Executive Office relating to committee scrutiny of matters related to exiting the EU.

*Agreed:* The Group agreed that an options paper be developed on this issue for consideration at the next meeting.

- (ii) Chairpersons noted correspondence from the Committee for Justice relating to Members attendance at Committee meetings.

*Agreed:* The Group agreed to reconsider this correspondence further at a later meeting.

#### **8. Video-Conferencing facility for Committee meetings**

Chairpersons received a presentation from the Clerk on the new video-conferencing system that has been procured and will be operational from next week.

*Agreed:* The Group agreed to schedule an informal meeting on Monday 11 May to test the system before going live.

## **9. Any Other Business**

Mr Lyttle asked that the establishment of a Committee to monitor Programme for Government outcomes, as provided for in New Decade New Approach, be added as an item of business at a future meeting of the group.

## **10. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting**

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

*The meeting was adjourned at 1.57 pm.*

**William Humphrey MLA**  
**Chairperson, Chairpersons' Liaison Group**