



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

CHAIRPERSONS' LIAISON GROUP

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2020

The Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings

- Present:** Mr William Humphrey MLA, Chairperson
Ms Sinéad Ennis MLA, Deputy Chairperson
Dr Caoimhe Archibald MLA
Ms Paula Bradley MLA
Mr Chris Lyttle MLA
Mr Colin McGrath MLA
Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA
Ms Emma Sheerin MLA
- Apologies:** Dr Steve Aiken OBE MLA
Ms Linda Dillon MLA
Mr Paul Givan MLA
Mr Mervyn Storey MLA
- In Attendance:** Mrs Lesley Hogg (Clerk to the Assembly/Chief Executive)
Mr Keith McBride (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Trevor Allen (Senior Assistant Clerk)
Mrs Bronagh Irwin (Assistant Clerk)

The meeting commenced at 1.32 pm in closed session.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairperson's Business

Agreed: Chairpersons agreed that committees should suspend their meetings for a short period on Remembrance Day, Wednesday 11 November 2020, to allow Members and staff to pay their respects.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of 6 October 2020, as circulated and agreed by correspondence, were noted.

4. Matters Arising

Use of the Assembly Chamber for Committee Meetings

The Clerk briefed Chairpersons on proposals for the use of the chamber and changes resulting from a formal risk assessment in relation to the delivery of broadcasting services to the Assembly. The Clerk will get further information in relation to the use of Starleaf in the Chamber.

The group noted the new committee schedule which will be in place until such times as guidance is revised.

The Clerk also briefed Chairpersons on the content of legal advice in relation to external committee meetings and visits and advised this would be considered at the next meeting of the Group.

Committee to Monitor Programme for Government Outcomes

Chairpersons noted that, as the Executive has not yet published a Programme for Government, it has not been possible for the Assembly Secretariat to finalise a paper on the draft Terms of Reference for a Programme for Government Committee.

5. Any Other Business

Strategic Planning Meeting

The Group agreed to hold a strategic planning meeting on Tuesday 12 January 2021, from 12:30pm to 2:30pm in the Members Dining Room.

EU Common Frameworks

The Clerk will identify a suitable date for interested Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons to be briefed by the EU Affairs Manager on the Common Framework Agreements.

Interim Member Development Programme

The group noted that an Interim Member Development Programme for this session has been drafted and is being considered by the Commission in the coming weeks. The Plan will be considered at the next meeting of Chairpersons' Liaison Group, specifically in relation to Committee development and Chairperson development.

1.48pm Mr McGrath left the meeting

6. RHI Inquiry Report recommendation on strengthening the scrutiny role of Assembly Committees

Chairpersons agreed to defer the research briefing on this agenda item to the next meeting.

7. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 1 December 2020 at 1:30 pm in The Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 1.51 pm.

William Humphrey MLA
Chairperson, Chairpersons' Liaison Group