



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

## **CHAIRPERSONS' LIAISON GROUP**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2020

The Senate, Parliament Buildings

Present: Dr Steve Aiken OBE MLA  
Dr Caoimhe Archibald MLA  
Ms Paula Bradley MLA  
Mr Colm Gildernew MLA  
Mr Paul Givan MLA  
Mr William Humphrey MLA, Chairperson  
Mr Chris Lyttle MLA  
Mr Colin McGrath MLA  
Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA  
Ms Emma Sheerin MLA  
Mr Mervyn Storey MLA

Apologies: Ms Sinéad Ennis MLA, Deputy Chairperson  
Mr Declan McAleer MLA

In Attendance: Mrs Lesley Hogg (Clerk to the Assembly/Chief Executive)  
Dr Kevin Pelan (Clerk Assistant)  
Mr Keith McBride (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Trevor Allen (Senior Assistant Clerk)  
Mrs Bronagh Irwin (Assistant Clerk)  
Mr Ray McCaffrey (Research Officer)

*The meeting commenced at 1.30 pm in closed session.*

#### **1. Apologies**

As above.

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

No items of Chairperson's business were raised.

#### **3. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting of 15 September 2020, as circulated and agreed by correspondence, were noted.

1.32 pm      *Ms Sheerin joined the meeting*

#### **4. Matters Arising**

1.34 pm      *Dr Aiken joined the meeting*

The group discussed operational considerations arising from committee meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic, including (i) the need for additional space for committee meetings; and (ii) external committee meetings and events.

*Agreed:* Chairpersons agreed to write to the Speaker to highlight the pressing need for an additional meeting space for committees that is large enough to accommodate full attendance of Members and to seek views on the use of the Chamber for committee meetings as a short-term solution to this issue.

*Agreed:* Chairpersons agreed that legal advice, when received, relating to external meetings and visits should be provided to all committees.

#### **5. 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.

Chairpersons noted that the Assembly Commission is taking forward a peer-review exercise in relation to scrutiny and the Chairpersons' Liaison Group will be kept informed of progress on this workstream.

#### **6. Any Other Business**

Chairpersons discussed strategic planning and the role and function of the Chairpersons' Liaison Group.

*Agreed:* Chairpersons agreed that the Clerk should provide options for a half day meetings focused on strategic planning.

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

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 3 November 2020 at 1:30 pm in The Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*The meeting was adjourned at 1.58 pm.*

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