



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

Committee for Communities

# OFFICIAL REPORT (Hansard)

Charities Bill: Committee Report

2 December 2021

# NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

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### Charities Bill: Committee Report

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**Members present for all or part of the proceedings:**

Ms Paula Bradley (Chairperson)  
Ms Kellie Armstrong (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Andy Allen  
Mr Stephen Dunne  
Mr Mark Durkan  
Ms Ciara Ferguson  
Mr Paul Frew  
Ms Aine Murphy  
Miss Aisling Reilly

**The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley):** Members, we will now consider our draft report on the Charities Bill. We are focusing on the text of the report only. The team will address any formatting issues once the text is agreed. I will ask for comments and then agreement on each section of the report.

We will start with "Powers and Membership". Do members have any comments on that, or are they content with that section as drafted?

*Members indicated assent.*

**The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley):** I move on to "Executive Summary". Do members have any comments, or are they content with that section as drafted?

*Members indicated assent.*

**The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley):** I move on to "Introduction". Do members have any comments, or are they content with that section as drafted?

*Members indicated assent.*

**The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley):** I move on to the Committee's consideration of wider issues and "Recommendations". Do members have any comments, or are they content with that section as drafted?

*Members indicated assent.*

**The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley):** We will move on to the Committee's "Consideration of the Bill". Do members have any comments, or are they content with that section as drafted?

*Members indicated assent.*

**The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley):** We will move on to "Committee Deliberations on the Clauses of the Bill". Do members have any comments, or are they content with that section as drafted?

*Members indicated assent.*

**The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley):** Members, if I do not hear you say "content", I am taking it that you are content. I am only hearing two voices.

I will move on to "Clause by Clause Scrutiny of the Bill". Do members have any comments, or are they content with that section as drafted?

**Ms Armstrong:** Chair, there is one mistake. Sorry.

**The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley):** You are all right, Kellie; better to do it now.

**Ms Armstrong:** It is just the title. The correct term is used in paragraph 78, but the title should be "Section 167 Charities", not "Section 137 Charities".

**The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley):** We would not want to get that wrong. Thank you for that.

**The Committee Clerk:** That is great, thanks.

**The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley):** OK. Are members content with that section, as amended?

*Members indicated assent.*

**The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley):** Good stuff. Where was I? "Appendices", yes. Do members have any comments, or are they content with that section as drafted?

*Members indicated assent.*

**The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley):** Are members content that the minutes of today's meeting are included in the report?

*Members indicated assent.*

**The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley):** OK. There are no changes to be made other than that small one. Are members content to agree that the report is final, pending the tidying up of formatting issues and that small change, and that, once that is done, it will be printed?

*Members indicated assent.*

**The Chairperson (Ms P Bradley):** Thank you. Members, that concludes the Committee Stage. I thank all of you for the in-depth scrutiny of the Bill. I put on record our thanks to all who made submissions and gave oral evidence. I thank again the departmental officials and the Assembly Bill Office officials for their hard work in helping us to work our way through the Bill. I look forward to the debate at Consideration Stage. Thank you, members.