



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2020

Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, Belfast

- Present: Mr Paul Givan MLA (Chairperson)
Ms Sinéad Bradley MLA
Ms Jemma Dolan MLA
Mr Gordon Dunne MLA
Mr Paul Frew MLA
Ms Emma Rogan MLA
Ms Rachel Woods MLA
- Apologies: Ms Linda Dillon MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Doug Beattie MLA
- In Attendance: Mrs Christine Darragh (Assembly Clerk)
Mrs Kathy O'Hanlon (Senior Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Peter Madine (Assistant Assembly Clerk)

The meeting commenced at 10.05 a.m. in closed session in accordance with normal protocol to receive advice from the Assembly Bill Clerk on potential committee amendments.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Domestic Abuse and Family Proceedings Bill - Advice on possible amendments by the Assembly Bill Clerk, Stephanie Mallon

Ms Stephanie Mallon, Assembly Bill Clerk, attended the meeting to provide advice on a range of potential committee amendments to the Domestic Abuse and Family Proceedings Bill covering a number of issues not currently included in the Bill.

Mr Dunne left the meeting at 11.02 a.m.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Bill Clerk should provide draft amendments covering a number of issues including a statutory requirement to review and report on the legislation, data collection, the 'rough sex' defence, parental alienation, DAPN's/O's, Operation Encompass, secure tenancies, special leave, a hardship fund and training for its consideration at the meeting on 24 September 2020.

The Chairperson thanked Ms Mallon for her advice.

The Chairperson raised the issue of a possible gap in provision in Northern Ireland for compensation payments for victims of sexual abuse by a parent in the home.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request clarification from the Department of Justice of the current position in Northern Ireland regarding compensation for victims of domestic abuse in the home and what proposals there are to address this issue either in the Domestic Abuse and Family Proceedings Bill or in some other way given the situation was recently remedied in England with a change to the law.

3. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 24 September 2020 at 10.00 a.m. in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 11.37 a.m.

Mr Paul Givan MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Justice