



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY 9 APRIL 2020

Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, Belfast

Present: Mr Paul Givan MLA (Chairperson)
Ms Linda Dillon MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Doug Beattie MLA
Mr Gordon Dunne MLA
Mr Paul Frew MLA
Mr Patsy McGlone MLA*
Ms Rachel Woods MLA

* This Member attended the meeting via telephone conferencing

Apologies: Ms Jemma Dolan MLA
Ms Emma Rogan MLA

In Attendance: Mrs Christine Darrah (Assembly Clerk)
Mrs Kathy O'Hanlon (Senior Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Peter Madine (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Miss Leanne Johnston (Clerical Supervisor)

The meeting commenced at 1.02 p.m. in open session.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the oral evidence session should be reported by Hansard.

1. Apologies

As above.

The Clerk informed the Committee that, under Standing Order 115(6), Ms Rogan and Ms Dolan had delegated authority to the Deputy Chairperson, Ms Dillon, to vote on their behalf.

2. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 2 April 2020 subject to one amendment.

3. Matters Arising

Department of Justice Covid-19 Response

The Committee discussed issues in relation to the advice and guidance currently being provided regarding supervised access arrangements and the need to ensure that the safety of the child is paramount.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister of Justice and request that she provides clear guidance around supervised access arrangements including, where there is any concern about the safety of the child, alternative arrangements such as FaceTime, Skype etc. should be used as a temporary solution.

Letter from the Chairperson of the Northern Ireland Policing Board

The Chairperson informed Members that he and the Deputy Chairperson had received a request from the Chairperson of the Northern Ireland Policing Board for a meeting to discuss the justice-related provisions in the Coronavirus legislation and policing issues of mutual interest and appropriate arrangements would be made for this to take place.

4. **SL1: Police Trainee (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020**

The following officials joined the meeting at 1.08 p.m.:

Ms Maura Campbell, Deputy Director, Policing Policy and Strategy Division,
Department of Justice

William Dukelow, Head of Police Powers and HR Policy Branch, Policing Policy and
Strategy Division, Department of Justice

Temporary Assistant Chief Constable Tim Mairs, Police Service of Northern Ireland

The officials provided an overview of the proposed Statutory Rule.

The oral evidence was followed by a question and answer session.

The officials agreed to provide further information on several issues.

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

The Chairperson thanked the officials for their attendance.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the proposal for the Statutory Rule.

5. Any Other Business

None.

6. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be scheduled when required to consider urgent items of business.

The meeting was adjourned at 2.06 p.m.

Paul Givan MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Justice