



COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURES

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**WEDNESDAY 12 February 2020
ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mrs Rosemary Barton MLA
Ms Sinéad Bradley MLA
Ms Linda Dillon MLA
Mr Harry Harvey MLA
Ms Catherine Kelly MLA

In attendance: Nick Mitford (Assembly Clerk)
Stewart Kennedy (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Joanne Keenan (Clerical Officer)

Apologies Ms Carál Ní Chulín MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Maurice Bradley MLA
Mr Gerry Carroll MLA

The Deputy Chairperson commenced the meeting at 2.02pm in open session.

1. Apologies

As above.

Mr Harry Harvey informed the Committee that he was transferring to another Committee. The Deputy Chairperson thanked Mr Harvey for his contribution on the Committee on Procedures.

2. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 29 January 2020.

3. Matters Arising

The Chairperson reminded Members that at its last meeting on 29 January 2020, the Committee agreed to commission research on a number of outstanding issues from the previous Committee on Procedures.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to defer commissioning research for all issues until the Committee has completed its strategic planning session (due on 26 February 2020) and a timetable for research can be established.

4. Research and Information Service (RaISe) – Introductory Briefing by RaISe

Mr Ray McCaffrey from RaISe joined the meeting at 2.05pm

Mr McCaffrey provided the Committee with an overview briefing of the research services provided by RaISe.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

The Deputy Chairperson thanked Mr McCaffrey for his briefing and asked him to remain at the table for the next agenda item.

5. Reduction of Members on Committees

The Committee noted a paper from RaISe on the reduction of members on committees.

Mr McCaffrey briefed the Committee on the reduction of members on committees.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

The Deputy Chairperson thanked Mr McCaffrey for his briefing.

Mr McCaffrey left meeting at 2.31pm

Agreed: The Committee agreed to amend Standing Orders to reflect the change from 11 members to 9 members.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request legal advice on the relevant draft amendments to Standing Orders.

6. Correspondence

The Committee noted a letter from the Speaker asking the Committee to consider undertaking review of the Private Members' Bills system.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to include a review of the Private Members' Bills system as one of the issues to consider at its strategic planning session.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to respond to the Speaker informing him of the Committee's intention to incorporate a review of the Private Members' Bill system at its strategic planning session.

7. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee agreed to hold its strategic planning session following its meeting on 26 February 2020.

8. Chairperson's Business

There was no Chairperson's business.

9. Any other Business

There was no other business.

10. Date, time and place of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Wednesday 26 February 2020 at 2pm in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

2.39pm The Deputy Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Carál Ní Chuilín MLA
Chairperson, Committee on Procedures
26 February 2020