



COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURES

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**WEDNESDAY 11 March 2020
ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Ms Carál Ní Chuilín MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mrs Rosemary Barton MLA
Ms Sinéad Bradley MLA
Mr Gerry Carroll MLA
Ms Linda Dillon MLA
Ms Catherine Kelly MLA
Mr Gary Middleton MLA

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

Apologies Mr Maurice Bradley MLA

The meeting commenced in closed session at 2.04pm.

1. New Decade, New Approach – Official Opposition

The Committee considered legal advice on entering opposition.

Mr Gerry Carroll MLA joined the meeting at 2.10pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to amend Standing Order 45A to give effect that a party can enter the Official Opposition under the Act

up to two years following the formation of the Executive, as set out in the 'New Decade, New Approach' agreement.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek legal advice and for the amendment to Standing orders to be drafted.

Agreed : The Committee agreed to write to the Executive Office to ask if it has any plans to amend the Assembly and Executive Reform (Assembly Opposition) Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 to reflect the Committee's decision to amend Standing Order 45A.

The Chairperson commenced the meeting in open session at 2.20pm

2. Apologies

As above.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26 February 2020.

4. Matters Arising

The Committee noted a paper from the Clerk which summarised a meeting held on 24 February 2020 between the Chairperson and the Speaker.

5. Review of Legislative Consent Motion

Agreed: The Committee formally agreed to make a review of Legislative Consent Motions (LCMs) as an immediate priority and irrespective of the work-streams already agreed by the Committee to prioritise.

The Committee noted the Clerk's introductory briefing note on LCMs.

Agreed: The Committee agreed a list of stakeholders.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to commission research on LCMs.

6. Correspondence

The Committee noted a letter from the Executive Office in response to the Committee's letter regarding potential amendments to Standing orders contained in the 'New Decade, New Approach' agreement.

7. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee agreed the report on its strategic planning of work-streams and for LCMs and Members' Statements to be the top two priorities for the Committee to take forward.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to all parties and independent Members for their views on Members' Statements.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to commission research on Members' Statements.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft Forward Work Programme as amended.

8. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson advised Members that the Committee's motion to amend Standing Orders to reduce the numbers of members on committees has been provisionally scheduled for Monday 23 March 2020.

9. Any other Business

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider options for connecting remotely for committee meetings.

10. Date, time and place of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Wednesday 25 March 2020 at 2pm in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

2.37pm The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Tom Buchanan MLA
Deputy Chairperson, Committee on Procedures
25 March 2020