



## **COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURES**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**WEDNESDAY 25 March 2020  
SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

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

In attendance: Paul Gill (Clerk Assistant)  
Stewart Kennedy (Assistant Assembly Clerk)

Apologies Ms Carál Ní Chuilín MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Maurice Bradley MLA

The meeting commenced in closed session at 2.00pm.

#### **1. Apologies**

As above.

Mr Jonathan McMillen, Head of Legal Services, joined the meeting at 14.00pm.

#### **2. Draft Minutes**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11 March 2020.

### **3. Standing Orders: Temporary Provisions**

Ms Catherine Kelly joined the meeting at 2.02pm

Due to the ongoing health crisis, the Committee considered emergency temporary Standing Orders relating to proxy voting and committee operations.

The Committee noted a cover note from the Clerk, a draft committee motion and legal commentary on the proposed Standing Orders.

The Clerk briefed the Committee on the temporary provisions which was followed by a question and answer session.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to proceed with the temporary provisions.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft motion to amend Standing Orders.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed for any changes to the draft motion to be agreed through correspondence.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to assist the Speaker and other relevant decision makers in the Assembly in bringing forward an enhanced package of changes to enable Assembly Business to be carried out more efficiently.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Assembly Commission to ask whether it would consider exploring the facilitation of video-conferencing in all committee rooms and also to allow more than one Member to remotely access meetings by video-conferencing.

Mr Jonathan McMillen left the meeting at 2.41pm

### **4. New Decade, New Approach – Official Opposition**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to defer this item of business to a later date.

The Deputy Chairperson commenced the meeting in open session at 2.41pm

The Deputy Chairperson informed Members that from 9pm on Wednesday 18 March 2020, the Speaker/Assembly Commission had restricted access to Parliament Buildings to essential business users only.

The Deputy Chairperson also informed Members that public sessions of the Committee would continue to be broadcasted live for the public to view.

## **5. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

## **6. Review of Legislative Consent Motions**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed its draft Terms of Reference.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to put back the date for stakeholders' responses to June 2020.

## **7. Members' Statements**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed its draft Terms of Reference.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to put back the date for stakeholders' responses to June 2020.

## **8. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

## **9. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted the draft Forward Work Programme.

## **10. Chairperson's Business**

The Committee noted a letter from the Speaker to the Chairperson regarding Covid-19 and Assembly business.

The Committee noted a memo from the Clerk to the Committee in relation to future meetings.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that no further meetings should be scheduled at this stage, until the current circumstances have abated.

**11. Any other Business**

There was no other business.

**12. Date, time and place of next meeting**

*Agreed:* In light of the current health crisis, the Committee agreed not to schedule any further formal meetings at this stage.

The Deputy Chairperson advised Members that the Clerk will continue to communicate with Members moving forward.

2.45pm The Deputy Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

**Linda Dillon MLA**  
Chairperson, Committee on Procedures  
17 September 2020