



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY 10 MARCH 2015
Room 21, Parliament Buildings

Present: Mr Alastair Ross MLA (Chairman)
Mr Raymond McCartney MLA (Deputy Chairman)
Mr Sammy Douglas MLA
Mr Tom Elliott MLA
Mr Paul Frew MLA
Mr Seán Lynch MLA
Mr Alban Maginness MLA
Mr Edwin Poots MLA

In Attendance: Mrs Christine Darrah (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Keith McBride (Senior Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mrs Sinead Kelly (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Ms Leanne Johnston (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Marianne Doherty (Clerical Officer)
Ms Anna McDaid (Bursary Student)

Apologies: None.

The meeting commenced at 12.40 p.m. in public session.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. The Justice Bill – Informal Clause-by-Clause Consideration

The Committee noted additional information provided by the Department of Justice in relation to Parts 3, 4 and 5 of the Justice Bill.

12.44 p.m. Mr Sammy Douglas joined the meeting.

The Committee considered the clauses, schedules and related proposed amendments to the Justice Bill apart from Part 9 – Supplementary Provisions.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request further information from the Department of Justice in relation to clauses 72 – 76 and the categories of people who are currently exempt from jury service.

The discussion was recorded by Hansard.

3. The Justice Bill – Informal Consideration of Proposed Amendments by the Department of Justice, the Attorney General for Northern Ireland and Jim Wells MLA

The Committee considered new policy amendments by the Department of Justice relating to PACE – fingerprint and DNA retention.

The Committee noted further information provided by the Department of Justice in relation to the proposal by the Attorney General for legislative provision to provide for rights of audience for lawyers in his office.

The Committee considered the proposal by the Attorney General for Northern Ireland for legislative provision to provide for rights of audience for lawyers in his office.

1.00 p.m. Mr Raymond McCartney joined the meeting.

The Committee noted further correspondence from the Attorney General for Northern Ireland in relation to his proposed amendment to the Coroners' Act (NI) 1959.

The Committee agreed to move into closed session to receive advice from the Assembly Bill Clerk.

The Committee moved into closed session at 1.04 p.m.

1.05 p.m. Mr Alban Maginness left the meeting.

1.13 p.m. Mr Alban Maginness joined the meeting.

The Committee received advice from the Bill Clerk in relation to the Attorney General's proposed amendment to the Coroners' Act (Northern Ireland) 1959 and on Clause 86 of the Justice Bill.

The Committee meeting moved into public session at 1.24 p.m.

The Committee considered Part 9 of the Justice Bill.

The Committee considered the proposed amendment by the Attorney General to the Coroners' Act (Northern Ireland) 1959.

The Committee considered the proposed amendment by Mr Jim Wells MLA.

The Committee noted the revised text provided by the Department of the proposed amendment to enhance the existing offence of meeting a child following sexual grooming to correct a typographical error in the original draft amendment.

The Chairman advised the Committee that formal clause by clause consideration of the Justice Bill and proposed amendments would take place at the meeting on Wednesday 11 March 2015.

The discussion in public session was recorded by Hansard.

4. Date and Time of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 11 March 2015 at 2.00 p.m. in Room 21 Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 1.31 p.m.

Mr Alastair Ross MLA
Chairman, Committee for Justice