



COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY 28 APRIL 2015
Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings

Present: Mr Alastair Ross MLA (Chairman)
Mr Raymond McCartney MLA (Deputy Chairman)
Mr Sammy Douglas MLA
Mr Tom Elliott
Mr Chris Hazzard MLA
Mr Paul Frew MLA
Mr Sean Lynch MLA
Mr Alban Maginness MLA

In Attendance: Mrs Christine Darrah (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Keith McBride (Senior Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mrs Sinead Kelly (Assistant Assembly Clerk)

Apologies: Mr Patsy McGlone MLA
Mr Edwin Poots MLA

The meeting commenced at 1.00 p.m. in public session.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Matters Arising

The Committee noted a letter from the Department of Justice outlining its intention to postpone a proposed public consultation on three draft Codes of Practice for Northern Ireland relating to the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 scheduled for consideration at the meeting on 12 May 2015 to a later date.

3. SR 2015/215: The Legal Aid for Crown Court Proceedings (Costs) (Amendment) Rules (Northern Ireland) 2015

The Committee noted a written briefing paper from the Department of Justice on the issues discussed at the meeting on 23 April 2015 in relation to SR 2015/215: The Legal

Aid for Crown Court Proceedings (Costs) (Amendment) Rules (Northern Ireland) 2015 which will prescribe the remuneration for solicitors and counsel representing defendants granted criminal legal aid for cases in the Crown Court.

The Committee discussed the issue of exceptionality and views were expressed that this needed to be addressed quickly.

Agreed: The Committee for Justice considered Statutory Rule 2015/215 The Legal Aid for Crown Court Proceedings (Costs) (Amendment) Rules (Northern Ireland) 2015 and agreed that it was content with the Rule.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek clarification from the Department of Justice regarding the nature of the proposed consultation on addressing the issue of exceptionality and the timescale for its completion.

4. Any Other Business

The recent explosion outside the North West Probation Board Office at Crawford Square was raised.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Probation Board indicating its concern regarding the incident and its support for the important work the Probation Board undertakes in the North West.

5. Date and Time of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 12 May 2015 in Room 21, Parliament Buildings at 12.30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 1.11 p.m.

Mr Alastair Ross MLA
Chairman, Committee for Justice