

## COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURES

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2014  
ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Gerry Kelly MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Jim Allister MLA  
Ms Paula Bradley MLA  
Mr Samuel Gardiner MLA  
Mr Oliver McMullan MLA  
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA  
Mr Alban Maginness MLA  
Lord Morrow MLA  
Mr George Robinson MLA

In attendance: Alison Ross (Clerk)  
Neil Currie (Assistant Clerk)  
Jennifer Breslin (Clerical Officer)

**1.00pm** The meeting opened in closed session.

**1. Apologies**

None.

**2. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2014**

*Agreed:* Members agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2014.

**3. Inquiry into the extent to which Standing Orders should permit the Attorney General to participate in proceedings of the Assembly**

The Committee considered a revised draft report on its inquiry.

*Agreed:* In relation to the section of the draft report on Guidance issued by the AGNI, it was agreed that the Clerk could consult with the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister and

bring options to the next meeting, plus a redrafted section of the draft report.

#### **4. Review of Standing Order 56 – Public Accounts Committee**

The Committee considered advice from the Legal Services Office in relation to proposed amendments to Standing Order 56 so that it more accurately reflects the functions and work of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

*Agreed:* The Committee was content with the suggested amendment to Standing Order 56(1) and agreed to write to the Chairperson of the PAC requesting confirmation that the proposed amendment meets the requirements of the PAC.

**1.09pm** The meeting moved into public session.

#### **5. Technical Groups (Emergence of new political parties/groupings during a mandate)**

In view of the proposals which were put forward at the last meeting in relation to the establishment of Technical Groups (which the Committee had divided on without a decision being reached) the Chairperson suggested that the Committee revisit the proposals.

*Agreed:* In the absence of Mr Clarke, who had put forward one of the proposals at the last meeting, it was agreed to defer consideration of this matter.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed Mr Allister's request to record his view that the re-affirmation of the old stances makes the recommendation of the Assembly and Executive Review Committee a totally disingenuous recommendation.

#### **6. Review of Topical Questions**

The Committee considered the written submissions that had been received and noted a briefing paper on the emerging findings from the analysis of the data collected on the Topical Questions process since its introduction.

The Chairperson informed Members that a response from the Executive Committee was expected, but had not yet been received.

*Agreed:* It was, therefore, agreed to consider the matter further at the next meeting.

#### **7. Review of the current organisation of the business week**

The Committee considered the written submissions that had been received, plus a briefing paper summarising the main findings in the responses.

*Agreed:* It was agreed that no further evidence is required for the review and that the Clerk could prepare a draft report for consideration at the next meeting.

**8. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee was content with the Forward Work Programme.

**9. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

**10. Any other Business**

None.

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

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on 25 March 2014 at 1.00pm in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

**1.28pm** The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Gerry Kelly  
Chairperson, Committee on Procedures

25 March 2014