

COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURES

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2016
ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Gerry Kelly MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Jim Allister MLA
Mr Samuel Gardiner MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Mr Barry McElduff MLA
Mr Oliver McMullan MLA
Mr Adrian McQuillan MLA
Mr Alban Maginness MLA
Mr George Robinson MLA

In attendance: Alison Ross (Clerk)
Neil Currie (Assistant Clerk)
Christopher Jeffrey (Clerical Officer)

1.16pm The meeting began in closed session.

1. Apologies

None.

2. Draft minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2016

Agreed: Members agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2016.

3. Matters arising

The Chairperson advised Members that he had written to the Committee on Standards and Privileges in relation to the proposed amendments to Standing Orders relating to the new Code of Conduct and Guide to the Rules Relating to the Conduct of Members, and that a response is expected for the meeting on 23 February 2016.

1.17pm Mr Allister joined the meeting.

4. Review of Public Petitions Procedures

The Committee read the draft report on the Review of Public Petitions Procedures paragraph by paragraph.

Report:

Paragraphs 1 – 74, agreed

Summary of Recommendations – agreed

Executive Summary – read and agreed

Agreed: The inclusion of the following links to appendices was agreed:
Minutes of Proceedings
Written Submissions
Correspondence
Other documents relating to the report

Agreed: Members ordered the report to be published.

Agreed: It was agreed that the report should be embargoed until commencement of the debate of the report in plenary.

Agreed: The motion to accompany the report's introduction to Assembly was agreed.

1.29pm The meeting moved into public session.

1.29pm Mr McCarthy left the meeting.

5. Standing Orders for Hybrid Bills

1.30pm Damien Martin, Clerk Assistant, joined the meeting and briefed the Committee and answered Members' questions on his options paper for the development of new Standing Orders for the consideration of hybrid bills.

Agreed: It was agreed to proceed in line with the approach outlined at option (c) in the options paper.

Agreed: The definition of a hybrid bill and other proposals outlined in the options paper were also agreed.

Agreed: It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange for draft amendments to Standing Orders to be prepared for the Committee's consideration.

1.46pm The Chairperson thanked Mr Martin for his briefing and he left the meeting.

6. Public Services Ombudsman Bill

The Committee considered a letter from the Chairperson of the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister requesting an amendment to Standing Orders to reflect the provisions of the Public Services Ombudsman Bill.

The Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Standing Order 58(1) as outlined in the letter.

Agreed: As the proposed amendment to Standing Order 58(1) relates to the functions of the Audit Committee, it was agreed to write to the Audit Committee to seek confirmation that it is content with the draft amendment to Standing Orders.

7. Time allowed for answers to supplementary Oral Questions

Agreed: As some Members had not obtained their party's views on reducing the time allowed for answers to supplementary Oral Questions from two minutes to one minute, it was agreed to consider this matter further at the next meeting.

8. Forward Work Programme

The Chairperson advised Members that a letter was expected shortly from the Speaker requesting that the Committee bring forward amendments to Standing Orders to facilitate the implementation of the Official Opposition provisions outlined in the Fresh Start Agreement.

The Chairperson advised Members that the next meeting was scheduled for 23 February, however, a room had been booked for 16 February should it be necessary.

The Committee was content with the Forward Work Programme.

9. Correspondence

The Committee noted the invitation the Chairperson had received to an event to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

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 23 February 2016 at 1.15pm in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

1.53pm The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Gerry Kelly
Chairperson, Committee on Procedures

23 February 2016