

COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURES

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2016
ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Gordon Lyons MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Edwin Poots MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Steven Agnew MLA
Mrs Rosemary Barton MLA
Mr Tom Buchanan MLA
Mr Chris Lyttle MLA
Mr Fra McCann MLA
Mr Barry McElduff MLA
Mr Colin McGrath MLA
Mr Conor Murphy MLA
Mr Mervyn Storey MLA

In attendance: Ciara McKay (Clerk)
Neil Currie (Assistant Clerk)
Alex Carter (Clerical Officer)
Ray McCaffrey (Research Officer) - Agenda Item 4

1.15pm The meeting opened in public session.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Draft minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 2016

Agreed: Members agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 2016.

3. Matters arising

The Committee noted a response from the Speaker, as Chair of the Assembly Commission, advising of the arrangements that are being put in place to

facilitate e-Petitions.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Clerk should liaise with officials in the Information Systems office to arrange a time for a demonstration of the prototype of the e-Petitions system.

1.16pm Mr Buchanan MLA joined the meeting.

4. Private Members' Bills

1.17pm Ray McCaffrey from the Research and Information Service joined the meeting and briefed the Committee on his research paper on Private Members' Bills in other legislatures, and answered Members' questions.

1.18pm Mr Lyttle MLA joined the meeting.

1.19pm Mr Agnew MLA joined the meeting.

1.20pm Mrs Barton MLA joined the meeting.

1.22pm Mr McGrath MLA joined the meeting.

1.35pm Mr McElduff MLA joined the meeting.

Agreed: Mr McCaffrey agreed to provide the Committee with additional information on: the number of Private Members' Bills proposals that have become law in other legislatures; and whether any legislature has made, or is making, changes to their internal administrative practices in respect of Private Members' Bills.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request from the Assembly Bill Office: figures over the last two mandates including the number of proposals received for Private Members' Bills, how many of those proposals had a First Stage reading and how many received Royal Assent; and the budget for drafting Private Members' Bills.

1.46pm Mr McCaffrey left the meeting.

The Committee considered a list of academics that it may wish to write to directly as part of its review.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to add the academics and the Law Centre (NI) to its list of stakeholders.

The Committee considered a paper outlining the current procedures for Private Members' Bills support in the Assembly.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the paper and agreed to publish it, alongside the research paper and agreed Terms of Reference, on the Assembly website.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the review should be publicised via the Assembly Twitter page.

The Committee considered a draft letter to its key stakeholders inviting written evidence.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft letter and that it should be circulated following today's meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to move into closed session for the next item of business.

1.50pm The meeting moved into closed session.

5. Review of provisions for Standing Orders as set out in the Assembly and Executive Reform (Assembly Opposition) Act (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Committee noted the written responses from its stakeholders on its discussion paper.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek legal advice to inform its consideration of the Assembly and Executive Reform (Assembly Opposition) Act (Northern Ireland) 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider the submissions at its next meeting.

1.55pm The meeting moved into public session.

6. Correspondence

The Committee noted correspondence from the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, inviting Members to the launch of the Commission's Annual Statement on 8th December 2016.

7. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee agreed its Forward Work Programme.

1.57pm Mr Murphy MLA left the meeting.

8. Any other Business

There was no other business.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Tuesday, 6th December 2016 at 1.15pm in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

1.58pm The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Gordon Lyons

Chairperson, Committee on Procedures
6 December 2016