



The Speaker

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To: All Members

1 March 2024

Dear Member,

Speaker's Events – March

This weekend marks one month since the Assembly met to elect a Speaker and appoint Ministers. I am pleased that in that time we have managed to get the Assembly and its committees down to business quickly.

I am also mindful of the Speaker's representational role and in March, I will hold my first Speaker's events.

Those first events will therefore be:

7 March 2024 **International Women's Day** – a reception for women leaders across different sectors in our society, including all female MLAs.

7 March 2024 **Seachtain Na Gaeilge** (Irish Language Week) – a lunchtime seminar for Members and staff in Parliament Buildings reflecting on the influence of the Irish language on the names of our townlands and their meaning.

12 March 2024 **Commonwealth Day** – a roundtable session for new Commonwealth Parliamentary Association officers and all Members to engage with the Consuls and Honorary Consuls of Commonwealth countries.

While these events have been organised at shorter notice given the political circumstances, I hope they give a signal of my intention as Speaker, to seek to create opportunities for the Assembly to engage with our community.

Invitations will shortly be issuing to Members and I would encourage your attendance at each of these events.

Yours sincerely

**EDWIN POOTS MLA
SPEAKER**