



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

# Assembly and Executive Review Committee (AERC)

## **Minutes of Proceedings**

Tuesday 10 June 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

**Meeting Location:** Room 21, Parliament Buildings

### **Present:**

Jonathan Buckley MLA (Chairperson)  
Pat Sheehan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Sinead Ennis MLA  
Michelle Guy MLA  
Michelle McIlveen MLA  
Carál Ní Chuilín MLA  
John Stewart MLA

### **Apologies:**

Gary Middleton MLA  
Matthew O'Toole MLA



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### **In Attendance:**

Shane McAteer, Committee Clerk

Ashleigh Mitford, Senior Assistant Clerk

Elaine Farrell, Assistant Clerk

Alison Ferguson, Clerical Supervisor

Ray McCaffrey, Assembly Research Officer (items 5 and 6)

### **Present by video:**

Laura Gourley, Clerical Officer

*The meeting commenced at 9.30 a.m. in open session*

### **1. Apologies**

As above.

### **2. Declaration of Interests**

The Chairperson advised Members of the ongoing requirement to declare relevant financial or other interests as and when they arise and before taking part in any Assembly proceedings, including Committee proceedings, relating to that matter.

No interests were declared at this point in the meeting.



### **3. Draft minutes**

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2025.

### **4. Matters arising**

None.

### **5. Review of Assembly Committee engagement on cross-cutting Executive strategies – RalSe briefing and update**

The Senior Assistant Clerk introduced this agenda item and provided an update on the Committee's Call for Evidence for the review.

Michelle McIlveen joined the meeting at 9.32 a.m.

The Assembly Research Officer, Ray McCaffrey, joined the meeting at 9.34 a.m.

The Research Officer briefed the Committee on his research paper, and this was followed by questions from Members.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to The Executive Office to request that it coordinates the compilation of a list of Executive and other cross-cutting strategies, to include: an overview of which department leads on the strategy; which other departments contribute to it; and brief information on which sectors contribute to its delivery.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed that the secretariat will liaise with the Assembly Communications Office to maximise the number of stakeholder responses to the Call for Evidence.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed that the secretariat will analyse and summarise responses as they are received for presentation at a future meeting.



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### **6. Review into the development of a formal process and guidance on the handling of Westminster Statutory Instruments (SIs) which include a role for the Assembly – RalSe briefing and update**

The Senior Assistant Clerk introduced this agenda item and provided an update on the Committee's Call for Evidence for the review.

The Research Officer briefed the Committee on his research paper, and this was followed by questions from Members.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed that the secretariat will liaise with the Assembly Communications Office to maximise the number of stakeholder responses to the Call for Evidence.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed that the secretariat will analyse and summarise responses as they are received for presentation at a future meeting.

### **7. Review into Assembly and Executive Reform – update on Call for Evidence**

The Committee Clerk introduced this agenda item and provided an update on the Committee's Call for Evidence for the review.

**Noted:** The Committee noted the progress to date on the Call for Evidence for the review.

### **8. Correspondence**

**Agreed:** The Committee noted the correspondence from the Committee on Standards and Privileges, dated 4 June 2025, regarding the adjudication of complaints against Ministers of alleged breaches of the Ministerial Code of Conduct. The Committee agreed that this area of work should reside with that Committee.



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## **9. AOB**

None.

## **10. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the AERC will take place after summer recess and members will be advised of the date and time in due course.

*The meeting was adjourned at 10.01 a.m.*

**Pat Sheehan MLA**

**Deputy Chairperson, Assembly and Executive Review Committee**

**16 September 2025**