



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2020

Room 30, Parliament Buildings, Belfast

Present: Mr Paul Givan MLA (Chairperson)
Ms Linda Dillon MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Doug Beattie MLA
Ms Sinéad Bradley MLA
Ms Jemma Dolan MLA
Mr Gordon Dunne MLA
Mr Paul Frew MLA
Ms Emma Rogan MLA
Ms Rachel Woods MLA

In Attendance: Mrs Christine Darrah (Assembly Clerk)
Miss Leanne Johnston (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mrs Allison Mealey (Clerical Supervisor)

The meeting commenced at 12.32 p.m. in public session.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the oral evidence session should be reported by Hansard.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Justice Key Issues – Oral Evidence Session with the Minister of Justice

Mr Frew joined the meeting at 12.34 p.m.

The Minister of Justice, Naomi Long MLA, and Peter May, Permanent Secretary, Department of Justice joined the meeting at 12.36 p.m.

Mr Dunne joined the meeting at 12.38 p.m.

The Minister provided an update on a number of justice related issues including the challenges of Covid-19.

The Minister's opening remarks were followed by a structured question and answer session on the legislative error resulting in invalid convictions for sexual offences, the Troubles Permanent Disablement Payment Scheme and the Department of Justice legislative programme.

The Minister agreed to provide clarification regarding whether there is an appeals process included in the Troubles Permanent Disablement Payment Scheme applications process.

The Chairperson thanked the Minister and Permanent Secretary for their attendance.

3. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 5 November 2020 at 2.00 p.m. in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 2.00 p.m.

Mr Paul Givan MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Justice