

AD HOC JOINT COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE MENTAL CAPACITY BILL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Monday, 1 June 2015
Room 30, Parliament Buildings

- Present:** Mr Alastair Ross MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Patsy McGlone MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA
Mr Alex Easton MLA
Mr Tom Elliott MLA
Mr Seán Lynch MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Mr Raymond McCartney MLA
Ms Rosie McCorley MLA
Mr Edwin Poots MLA
- Apologies:** None
- In Attendance:** Dr Kathryn Aiken (Clerk)
Ms Sohui Yim (Assistant Clerk)
Mr Innis Mennie (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Tim Moore (Senior Reseacher, agenda item 5 only)

The meeting commenced at 12.06pm in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson advised Members that the Introduction of the Bill is on the Order of Business for 8 June 2015.

3. Draft minutes

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Tuesday, 26 May 2015 were agreed.

Rosie McCorley joined the meeting at 12.07pm.

4. Background Papers

The Committee noted papers including a Clerk's memo, the draft Bill, the draft Explanatory and Financial Memorandum, and the consultation summary report.

Tom Elliott joined the meeting at 12.08pm.

5. RaISe briefing – Draft Mental Capacity Bill: Principles Framework

Members received a research briefing from Assembly Research.

Pam Cameron joined the meeting at 12.11pm.

A question and answer session ensued.

The Chairperson thanked Assembly Research for attending.

Tom Elliott left the meeting at 12.28pm.

6. Draft Mental Capacity Bill – Briefing by Departmental Officials

Members noted the letters from the Ministers of Health and Justice in relation to late papers for last week's meeting.

The Committee heard evidence from:

Chris Matthews	Director of Mental Health, Disability and Older People's Directorate, DHSSPS
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Karen Pearson	Head of Criminal Justice Division, DOJ
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Lisa Trueman	Mental Capacity Bill Team, DHSSPS
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Clare Irvine	Mental Capacity Bill Team, DOJ
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A question and answer session ensued.

Edwin Poots joined the meeting at 12.49pm.

Raymond McCartney left the meeting at 1.11pm.

The Chairperson thanked the officials for attending.

7. Forward Work Programme

Members noted the forward work programme.

Agreed: To add Professor Roy McClelland to the list of stakeholders which the Committee will write to seeking written evidence on the Bill.

8. Correspondence

Members noted the following items of correspondence:

- I. Correspondence from the Law Society of Northern Ireland regarding the draft Mental Capacity Bill.

Agreed: To invite the expert witness (mentioned in the Law Society's letter) who has knowledge of how capacity legislation is working in England to the "roundtable" discussion with the Committee on 29 June 2015.

The Chairperson advised Members that the Law Society of Northern Ireland is on the list of stakeholders which the Committee will write to seeking written evidence on the Bill.

Agreed: For the Committee to consider all the written submissions on the Bill before taking decisions on which organisations to invite to present oral evidence.

- II. Correspondence from the Human Rights Commission regarding the draft Mental Capacity Bill.

The Chairperson advised Members the Human Rights Commission is on the list of stakeholders which the Committee will write to seeking written evidence on the Bill.

Agreed: For the Committee to consider all the written submissions on the Bill before taking decisions on which organisations to invite to present oral evidence.

9. Any Other Business

None.

10. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on Monday, 8 June 2015 at 12pm in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1.16pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____