



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 25TH MARCH 2014, ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,
BALLYMISCAW, STORMONT**

Present: Mr Stephen Moutray (Chairperson)
Mr Roy Beggs
Ms Paula Bradley
Mr Gregory Campbell
Mr Paul Givan
Mr Trevor Lunn
Mr Raymond McCartney
Ms Caitríona Ruane
Mr Pat Sheehan

Apologies: Mr. Alex Attwood

In Attendance: Mr John Simmons (Assembly Clerk)
Ms Kate McCullough (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Jim Nulty (Clerical Supervisor)

The meeting opened at 10.31am in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr. Alex Attwood.

Mr. Gregory Campbell joined the meeting at 10.32am

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 11th March 2014.

3. Matters Arising

The Committee was reminded that a Member attended and represented the Committee at a recent Knowledge and Exchange Series Seminar. Another Member raised a point regarding the introductory narrative to one of the topics of the seminar.

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

4. Review of Petitions of Concern: Committee Final Consideration of the Report on Petitions of Concern

The Chairperson advised Members that the purpose of this agenda item was to continue the Committee's discussion on finalising its Review of Petitions of Concern and there was the option of moving into closed session for this.

Agreed: To move into closed session.

The Committee moved into closed session at 10.34am.

The Committee considered its final draft Report on the Review of Petitions of Concern.

5. Review of Petitions of Concern: Committee Agreement of Report on Petitions of Concern

The Committee moved into open session at 10.49am.

The Chairperson advised the Committee that the purpose of this session was to allow the Committee to agree the final draft of the Review of Petitions of Concern and the draft motion for Assembly Plenary debate on the Report.

Agreed: That the covering pages and the 'Executive Summary' section stand part of the Report.

Agreed: That the 'Introduction and Committee's Approach to the Review' section stands part of the Report.

Agreed: That the 'Committee Consideration' section stands part of the Report.

Agreed: That the 'Committee Analysis and Conclusions' section stands part of the Report.

Agreed: The Appendix 1 of the Report, the Extracts of the Minutes of Proceedings relating to the Review, stands part of the Report.

Agreed: The Appendix 2 of the Report, the Minutes of Evidence (Hansards) relating to the Review, stands part of the Report.

Agreed: The Appendix 3 of the Report, the Options Paper on Petitions of Concern Ad Hoc Committee on Conformity with Equality Requirements stands part of the Report.

Agreed: The Appendix 4 of the Report, Options Paper: Party Responses stands part of the Report.

Agreed: The Appendix 5 of the Report, Correspondence and other papers relating to the Review stands part of the Report.

Agreed: The *Appendix 6* of the Report, Assembly Research Papers stands part of the Report.

Agreed: That the Committee Secretariat make any changes to typographical errors and the format of the Report as and where necessary, as these have no effect on the substance of the Report and are purely for formatting and accuracy of text purposes.

Agreed: That the first edition of today's Hansard record of the Review be included in the Report.

Agreed: That the Committee Secretariat forwards an embargoed, electronic version of the Report as soon as it becomes available – with an appropriate covering letter from the Chairperson – to the Secretary of State, First Minister and deputy First Minister and Leaders of the Parties of the Assembly.

Agreed: The wording of the motion for debate for the Report in Assembly Plenary with a request for 7th April 2014 (subject to agreement by the Business Committee).

Agreed: To order the Report of the Review of Petitions of Concern to be printed and that the Report be embargoed until the debate commences in Assembly Plenary.

Agreed: That the number of printed copies of the Report be kept to a minimum in the interest of efficiency.

Agreed: That two embargoed manuscript copies of the Report be laid with the Business Office by close Wednesday 26th March 2014.

6. Initial consideration of Topic of Committee's next Review

The Chairperson informed Members this agenda item was to consider the topic for the Committee's next review.

Agreed: To move into closed session.

The Committee moved into closed session at 10.56pm.

Agreed: To seek an update from Party Leaders of the Assembly on their preference(s) on topics for the Committee's future work programme.

Agreed: To consider a topic for Review at the next meeting.

Ms. Catriona Ruane left the meeting at 11.13am.

The Committee moved into open session at 11.14am.

7. Forward Work Programme

The Chairperson advised Members that the purpose of this agenda item was for Members to consider the meetings scheduled for the Committee's next Review topic.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the Forward Work Programme as drafted.

8. Any Other Business

There were no other items of business.

9. Date, Time and Place of next Meeting

The next meeting of the Assembly and Executive Review Committee will be held on Tuesday 8 April at 10.30am in room 21.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.15am.

**Mr Stephen Moutray, Chairperson
Assembly and Executive Review Committee**