



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2014, ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,
BALLYMISCAW, STORMONT**

Present: Mr Pat Sheehan (Deputy Chairperson)
Ms Paula Bradley
Mr Gregory Campbell
Mr Paul Givan
Mr Trevor Lunn
Mr Raymond McCartney
Ms Caitríona Ruane
Mr Sean Rogers

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

The meeting opened at 10.39am in public session.

1. Apologies

Mr Stephen Moutray and Mr Roy Beggs

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 16 September 2014.

3. Matters Arising

Members noted matters arising formed substantive agenda items.

Witness joined the meeting at 10.43am

4. Women in Politics and the Northern Ireland Assembly: Briefing from Ms Jane Morrice, Former MLA and Deputy Chairperson of the Northern Ireland Assembly

Caitriona Ruane joined the meeting at 10.50am

Gregory Campbell joined the meeting at 11.03am

Paul Givan joined the meeting at 11.37am

Members considered the key issues discussed which included the culture of politics, the role of the media and recommendations to encourage more women into politics

Witness left the meeting at 11.43am

Raymond McCartney left the meeting at 11.44am

5 & 6 Women in Politics and the Northern Ireland Assembly – Research and Information Services Papers

Members considered the following research papers prepared by the Research and Information Services of the Northern Ireland Assembly:

- The Swedish General Elections 2014 and the Representation of Women
- Act for Real Equality between Women and Men – France

Agreed: To commission further research into job sharing and politics

Agreed: Research to provide information on the sitting days and timings of the Swedish Parliament.

7. Feedback from the Committee's Visit to Iceland

Members considered the draft report from the visit to Iceland.

Agreed: To make a minor change to the draft report.

Members considered the draft blog for the website.

Agreed: When available to upload the blog to the website.

Gregory Campbell left the meeting at 12.05pm

8. Responses received to date from the 'Call for Evidence' on the Committee's Current Review

Members noted the responses received to date.

Agreed: Members would encourage parties to respond as soon as possible to the current Review.

9. Consideration of a Review Event

Members considered the draft Review Event proposal paper.

Agreed: To hold a Review Event on 23 October 2014 in the Long Gallery, Parliament Building.

Members considered the list of key stakeholder participants.

Agreed: Members to provide the Secretariat Office with any additional participants.

Members considered a draft programme including Speakers for the Review Event.

Agreed: To adopt the programme for the Review Event on 23 October 2014.

10. Correspondence

Members considered a request from John McCallister MLA to speak to the Committee in relation to the Private Members Bill.

Agreed: To ask what would be the latest the Committee could meet with Mr. McCallister and to include it in the Forward Work Programme.

Members noted the invitation from the Assembly Community Connect to participate in the NI Rural Women's Network Annual Conference.

Members considered the request from the Assembly Community Connect for the Chairperson to speak at the NI Rural Women's Network Annual Conference on the Inquiry into *Women in Politics and the Northern Ireland Assembly*.

Agreed: Members agreed the Chairperson to speak at the Annual Conference of NIRWN.

Members noted the following correspondence:

- The Commissioner for Public Appointments Northern Ireland – Under-representation and lack of Diversity in Public Appointments in Northern Ireland
- Gender Toolbox – What is gender budgeting?
- Information on Iceland's Men Only UN Meeting on Women

11. Forward Work Programme

Members noted the draft Forward Work Programme.

12. Any Other Business

There were no other items of business.

13. Date, Time and Place of next Meeting

The next meeting of the Assembly and Executive Review Committee will be held on Tuesday 4 November September at 10.30am in room 21.

The Deputy Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.17pm.

**Mr Pat Sheehan, Deputy Chairperson
Assembly and Executive Review Committee**