



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**TUESDAY 3 MARCH 2015, ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,  
BALLYMISCAW, STORMONT**

Present: Mr Stephen Moutray (Chairperson)  
Mr Pat Sheehan (Deputy Chairperson)  
Ms Paula Bradley  
Mr Trevor Lunn  
Mr Raymond McCartney  
Mr Séan Rogers  
Mr Alastair Ross  
Ms Caitríona Ruane  
Ms Robin Swann

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

*The meeting opened at 10.04am in public session.*

**1. Apologies**

No apologies were received.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 24 February 2015.

**3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **4. Report on the Operation of the Provisions of Parts III and IV of the NI Act 1998 – Committee Consideration**

Members considered the clarification on section 30(5) of sections 30 to 30B of Part III of the NI Act 1998. In doing so the Committee noted the Clerk's briefing paper.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed it had reviewed sections 30 to 30B as part of its statutory obligation to report on the operation of the provisions of Parts III and IV of the 1998 Act.

*Raymond McCartney joined the meeting at 10.07am*

*Caitríona Ruane joined the meeting at 10.08am*

Members considered section 21 of Part III of the NI 1998 Act. In doing so the Committee noted the Clerk's briefing paper and the deliberations and conclusions arising from the Committee's Report on the Number of Northern Ireland Departments published in November 2012.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it had reviewed section 21 as part of its statutory obligation to report on the operation of the provisions of Parts III and IV of the NI Act 1998.

Members considered sections 21A to 21C and 29C of Part III of the NI Act 1998. In doing so the Committee noted the Clerk's briefing paper and the Committee's previous reports on matters relating to policing and justice published in February 2008, January 2009, February 2010 and November 2011. The Committee also noted the conclusions from the Committee for Justice's report on the Review of Judicial Appointments published in April 2012.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it had reviewed sections 21A to 21C and 29C as part of its statutory obligation to review the operation of the provisions of Parts III and IV of the NI Act 1998.

*Paula Bradley left the meeting at 10.11am*

Members considered sections 22 to 28 of Part III of the NI Act 1998. In doing so the Committee noted the Clerk's briefing paper and the findings from the Assembly Research Paper.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it had reviewed sections 22 to 28 as part of its statutory obligation to report on the operations of the provisions of Parts III and IV of the NI Act 1998.

Members considered section 29A of Part III the NI Act 1998. In doing so the Committee noted the Clerk's briefing paper and the reports produced by the AERC 2007-2015.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it had reviewed sections 29A as part of its statutory obligation to review the operation of the provisions of Part III and IV of NI Act 1998.

Members considered sections 31 to 35 of Part IV the NI Act 1998. In doing so the Committee noted the Clerk's briefing paper and the deliberations and conclusions arising from the Committee's Report on the Number of Members of the Northern Ireland Assembly published in June 2012.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it had reviewed sections 31 and 35 as part of its statutory obligation to review the operation of the provisions of Part III and IV of the NI Act 1998.

Members considered sections 36 to 38 of Part IV the NI Act 1998. In doing so the Committee noted the Clerk's briefing paper on these sections.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it had reviewed sections 36 to 38 as part of its statutory obligation to report on the operations of the provisions of Parts III and IV of the NI Act 1998.

Members considered sections 39 and 40 of Part IV the NI Act 1998. In doing so the Committee noted the Clerk's briefing paper, the findings from the Assembly Research paper and the Committee on Procedures' Report on Inquiry into Standing Orders for Principal Deputy Speaker.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it had reviewed sections 39 and 40 as part of its statutory obligation to review the operation of the provisions of Part III and IV of the NI Act 1998.

*Caitríona Ruane left the meeting at 10.22am*

Members considered sections 41 to 46 and section 50 of Part IV of the NI Act 1998. In doing so the Committee noted the Clerk's briefing paper, the deliberations and conclusions arising from the Committee's Report on Petitions of Concern and the conclusions from the Stormont House Agreement on Petitions of Concern. The Committee also noted the work being taken forward by the Chairpersons' Liaison Group in respect of the administration of oaths.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it had reviewed sections 41 to 46 and section 50 as part of its statutory obligation to report on the operations of the provisions of Parts 3 and 4 of the NI Act 1998.

*Caitríona Ruane joined the meeting at 10.24am*

## **5. Forward Work Programme**

Members noted the draft forward work programme.

## **6. Any Other Business**

*Caitríona Ruane left the meeting at 10.28am*

Members noted the brief on the PR regarding the launch of the Report *Women in Politics and the Northern Ireland Assembly*.

*Caitríona Ruane joined the meeting at 10.29am*

*Robin Swann joined the meeting at 10.30am*

*Seán Rogers left the meeting at 10.31am*

Members considered a draft press release regarding the launch of the Report *Women in Politics and the Northern Ireland Assembly*.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to slightly amend the press release and circulate for final approval by the Committee.

Members considered responding to media interest regarding the launch of the Report *Women in Politics and the Northern Ireland Assembly*.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the members who would act as media spokespersons on behalf of the Committee for the launch of the *Women in Politics and the Northern Ireland Assembly*.

*Stephen Moutray joined the meeting at 10.40am*

## **7. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 10 March 2015 at 10.00am in Room 21.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 10.41am*

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