



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 12 JANUARY 2016, ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,
BALLYMISCAW, STORMONT**

Present: Mr Pat Sheehan (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Danny Kennedy
Ms Caitríona Ruane
Ms Paula Bradley
Mr Raymond McCartney
Mr Trevor Lunn
Mr Gregory Campbell

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

The Deputy Chairperson opened the meeting at 10.03am.

1. Apologies

Mr Stephen Moutray
Mr Sean Rogers
Mr Alastair Ross

2. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the Committee meeting held on Tuesday 8 December 2015.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Assembly Members (Reduction in Numbers) Bill – Evidence Session

The following representatives joined the meeting at 10.04am

- *Ms Emma Pengelly MLA, Junior Minister, OFMDFM*
- *Ms Jennifer McCann MLA, Junior Minister, OFMDFM*
- *Mr Neill Jackson, OFMDFM*
- *Mr Alan Rogers, OFMDFM*

The Junior Ministers provided a pre-introductory briefing to the Committee on the Assembly Members (Reduction of Numbers) Bill and the requirement for accelerated passage.

The Committee discussed with the Ministers the potential criticism of accelerated passage; the impact on the smaller parties and independent Members of the Assembly. The Committee also explored with the Ministers the timing of this Bill and the implications of an early extraordinary election. Finally, Members reminded the Ministers of the need to look at measures to ensure that all communities in Northern Ireland are represented and to be more proactive on gender representation.

Ms Ruane joined the meeting at 10.06am.

Ms Ruane left the meeting at 10.12am.

Ms Ruane rejoined the meeting at 10.17am.

Mr Campbell joined the meeting at 10.28am.

5. Assembly and Executive Reform (Assembly Opposition) Bill – Clause-by-Clause Scrutiny

John McCallister and Peter Hutchinson joined the meeting at 10.32am

Mr McCartney stated that Sinn Fein would not be supporting this Bill as it was the Party's view that an opposition can be formed; through Standing orders, without legislation and that 'A Fresh Start' was the way forward.

Mr Campbell stated the view of the DUP is that many of the provisions from a Fresh Start regarding an official opposition can be incorporated into a revised format of this Bill.

The Committee discussed the way forward for the Bill and agreed to commence its formal clause-by-clause scrutiny of the Bill.

Clause 1 - Purpose

Question put and agreed: that the Committee was content with Clause 1, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 4; Noes 3.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
D Kennedy	P Sheehan	
G Campbell	C Ruane	
P Bradley	R McCartney	
T Lunn		

Agreed: The Committee was content with Clause 1, as drafted.

Clause 2 – Formation of the Opposition

Question put: that the Committee was content with the Sponsor's proposed amendment to Clause 2.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 5; Abstentions 1.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan	D Kennedy
	C Ruane	
	R McCartney	
	P Bradley	
	G Campbell	

Agreed: The Committee did not agree with the Sponsor's proposed amendment to Clause 2.

Question put: that the Committee was content with Clause 2, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 5; Abstentions 1.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan	D Kennedy
	C Ruane	
	R McCartney	
	P Bradley	
	G Campbell	

Agreed: The Committee did not agree with Clause 2, as drafted.

Clause 3 – Timing

Question put: that the Committee was content with the Sponsor's proposed amendments to Clause 3.

The Committee divided: Ayes 2; Noes 5.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
D Kennedy	P Sheehan	
T Lunn	G Campbell	
	P Bradley	
	C Ruane	
	R McCartney	

Agreed: The Committee did not agree with the Sponsor's proposed amendments to Clause 3.

Question put: that the Committee was content with Clause 3, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 2; Noes 5.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
D Kennedy T Lunn	P Sheehan G Campbell P Bradley C Ruane R McCartney	

Agreed: The Committee did not agree with Clause 3, as drafted.

Clause 4 – Membership of the Opposition

Question put: that the Committee was content with the Sponsor's proposed amendments to Clause 4.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 5; Abstentions 1.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan G Campbell P Bradley C Ruane R McCartney	D Kennedy

Agreed: The Committee did not agree with the Sponsor's proposed amendments to Clause 4.

Question put: that the Committee was content with Clause 4, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 5; Abstentions 1.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan G Campbell P Bradley C Ruane R McCartney	D Kennedy

Agreed: The Committee did not agree with Clause 4, as drafted.

Clause 5 – Dissolution of Opposition

Question put: that the Committee was content with the Sponsor's proposed amendment to Clause 5.

The Committee divided: Ayes 2; Noes 3; Abstentions 2.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan	P Bradley
D Kennedy	R McCartney	G Campbell
	C Ruane	

Agreed: The Committee did not agree with the Sponsor's proposed amendment to Clause 5.

Question put: that the Committee was content with Clause 5, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 2; Noes 5.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan	
D Kennedy	R McCartney	
	C Ruane	
	P Bradley	
	G Campbell	

Agreed: The Committee did not agree with Clause 5, as drafted.

Clause 6 – Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition

Question put: that the Committee was content with the Sponsor's proposed amendments to Clause 6.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 5; Abstentions 1.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan	D Kennedy
	R McCartney	
	C Ruane	
	P Bradley	
	G Campbell	

Agreed: The Committee did not agree with the Sponsor's proposed amendments to Clause 6.

Question put: that the Committee was content with Clause 6, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 0; Noes 7; Abstentions 0.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
	P Sheehan	
	P Bradley	
	G Campbell	
	T Lunn	
	D Kennedy	
	C Ruane	

R McCartney

Agreed: The Committee did not agree with Clause 6, as drafted.

Clause 7 – Topical Questions

Question put: that the Committee was content with the Sponsor's proposed amendments to Clause 7.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 5; Abstentions 1.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan C Ruane R McCartney P Bradley G Campbell	D Kennedy

Agreed: The Committee did not agree with the Sponsor's proposed amendments to Clause 7.

Question put: that the Committee was content with Clause 7, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 0; Noes 5; Abstentions 2.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
	P Sheehan C Ruane R McCartney P Bradley G Campbell	T Lunn D Kennedy

Agreed: The Committee did not agree with Clause 7, as drafted.

New Clause - Clause 7a – Speaking Rights in the Assembly

Question put: that the Committee was content with the Sponsor's proposed new Clause 7a, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 3; Abstentions 3.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan C Ruane R McCartney	P Bradley G Campbell D Kennedy

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Clause 7a, as drafted.

Clause 8 – Enhanced Speaking Rights

Question put: that the Committee was content with the Sponsor's proposed amendment to Clause 8.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 3; Abstentions 3.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan	P Bradley
	C Ruane	G Campbell
	R McCartney	D Kennedy

Agreed: The Committee did not agree the Sponsor's proposed amendment to Clause 8.

Question put: that the Committee was content with Clause 8, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 0; Noes 3; Abstentions 4.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
	P Sheehan	P Bradley
	R McCartney	G Campbell
	C Ruane	D Kennedy
		T Lunn

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Clause 8, as drafted.

Clause 9 – Opposition Rights to Chair the Public Accounts Committee

Question put: that the Committee was content with the Sponsor's proposed amendments to Clause 9.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 3; Abstentions 3.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan	P Bradley
	R McCartney	G Campbell
	C Ruane	D Kennedy

Agreed: The Committee did not agree the Sponsor's proposed amendments to Clause 9.

Question put: that the Committee was content with Clause 9, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 3; Abstention 3.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan	P Bradley
	R McCartney	G Campbell
	C Ruane	D Kennedy

Trevor Lunn alerted the Committee to the fact that this is convention in other legislatures. Raymond McCartney advised that this is done by convention and he felt this should be done through convention or Standing Orders rather than through legislation.

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Clause 9, as drafted.

Clause 10 – Membership of the Business Committee

Question put: that the Committee was content with Clause 10, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 2; Noes 3; Abstentions 2.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan	P Bradley
D Kennedy	R McCartney	G Campbell
	C Ruane	

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Clause 10, as drafted.

Clause 11 & 12 – Financial Assistance and Salary for Office Holders

Question put: that the Committee was content with Clause 11 and 12, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 3; Abstentions 3.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan	P Bradley
	R McCartney	G Campbell
	C Ruane	D Kennedy

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Clauses 11 and 12, as drafted.

Clause 13 – Salary for Office Holders

Question put: that the Committee was content with Clause 13, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 3; Abstentions 3.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan	P Bradley
	R McCartney	G Campbell
	C Ruane	D Kennedy

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Clause 13, as drafted.

Clause 14 – Tabling of Assembly & Executive Reform Motion

Question put: that the Committee was content with Clause 14, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 3; Abstentions 3.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan	P Bradley
	R McCartney	G Campbell
	C Ruane	D Kennedy

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Clause 14, as drafted.

Clause 15 – Report by the Assembly & Executive Review Committee

Question put: that the Committee was content with Clause 15, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 0; Noes 3; Abstentions 4.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
	P Sheehan	P Bradley
	C Ruane	G Campbell
	R McCartney	D Kennedy
		T Lunn

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Clause 15, as drafted.

Clause 16 – Formation of Technical Groups

Question put: that the Committee was content with the Sponsor’s proposed amendments to Clause 16.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Against 4; Abstentions 2.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan	P Bradley
	C Ruane	G Campbell
	R McCartney	
	D Kennedy	

Agreed: The Committee did not agree with the Sponsor’s proposed amendments to Clause 16.

Question put: that the Committee was content with Clause 16, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 3; Abstentions 3.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan	P Bradley
	R McCartney	G Campbell
	C Ruane	D Kennedy

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Clause 16, as drafted.

Clause 17 – Membership of Business Committee

Question put: that the Committee was content with Clause 17, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 3; Abstentions 3.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan	P Bradley
	R McCartney	G Campbell
	C Ruane	D Kennedy

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Clause 17, as drafted.

Clause 18 – First Topical Question to Minister from Chairperson of Statutory Committee

Question put: that the Committee was content with the Sponsor’s proposed amendment to Clause 18.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 3; Abstentions 3.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan	P Bradley
	R McCartney	G Campbell
	C Ruane	D Kennedy

Agreed: The Committee did not agree with the Sponsor’s amendment to Clause 18.

Question put: that the Committee was content with Clause 18, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 3; Abstentions 3.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan	P Bradley
	R McCartney	G Campbell
	C Ruane	D Kennedy

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Clause 18, as drafted.

Clause 19 – Establishment of a Budget Committee

Question put: that the Committee was content with the Sponsor’s proposed amendments to Clause 19.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 4; Abstentions 2.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan	P Bradley
	C Ruane	G Campbell
	R McCartney	
	D Kennedy	

Agreed: The Committee did not agree did not agree with the Sponsor’s proposed amendments to Clause 19.

Question put: that the Committee was content with Clause 19, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 0; Noes 4; Abstentions 3.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
	P Sheehan	P Bradley
	R McCartney	G Campbell
	C Ruane	D Kennedy
	T Lunn	

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Clause 19, as drafted.

Clause 20 – Renaming of the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

Question put: that the Committee was content with Clause 20, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 3; Abstentions 3.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan	P Bradley
	R McCartney	G Campbell
	C Ruane	D Kennedy

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Clause 20, as drafted.

Clause 21 – Departments to the Single Legal Entity

Question put: that the Committee was content with Clause 21, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 0; Noes 5; Abstentions 2.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
	P Sheehan	D Kennedy
	C Ruane	T Lunn
	R McCartney	
	P Bradley	
	G Campbell	

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Clause 21, as drafted.

Clause 22 – Interpretation

Question put: that the Committee was content with Clause 22, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 3; Abstentions 3.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan	D Kennedy
	C Ruane	P Bradley
	R McCartney	G Campbell

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Clause 22, as drafted.

Clause 23 – Commencement

Question put: that the Committee was content with Clause 23, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 3; Abstentions 3.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan	D Kennedy
	C Ruane	P Bradley
	R McCartney	G Campbell

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Clause 23, as drafted.

Clause 24 – Short Title

Question put: that the Committee was content with Clause 24, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 3; Abstentions 3.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan	D Kennedy
	C Ruane	P Bradley
	R McCartney	G Campbell

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Clause 24, as drafted.

Schedule

Paragraph 1

Question put: that the Committee was content with Paragraph 1 of the Schedule, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 0; Noes 3; Abstentions 4.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
	P Sheehan	D Kennedy
	R McCartney	P Bradley
	C Ruane	G Campbell
		T Lunn

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Paragraph 1 of the Schedule, as drafted.

Paragraph 2

Question put: that the Committee was content with Paragraph 2 of the Schedule, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 0; Noes 3; Abstentions 4.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
	P Sheehan	D Kennedy
	R McCartney	P Bradley
	C Ruane	G Campbell
		T Lunn

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Paragraph 2 of the Schedule, as drafted.

Paragraph 3

Question put: that the Committee was content with Paragraph 3 of the Schedule, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 3; Noes 3; Abstentions 1.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan	D Kennedy
P Bradley	C Ruane	

G Campbell

R McCartney

Agreed: No majority, motion falls.

Paragraph 4

Question put: that the Committee was content with Paragraph 4 of the Schedule, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 3; Abstentions 3.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan	D Kennedy
	C Ruane	P Bradley
	R McCartney	G Campbell

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Paragraph 4 of the Schedule, as drafted.

Paragraph 5

Question put: that the Committee was content with Paragraph 5 of the Schedule, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 3; Abstentions 3.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan	D Kennedy
	C Ruane	P Bradley
	R McCartney	G Campbell

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Paragraph 5 of the Schedule, as drafted.

Paragraph 6

Question put: that the Committee was content with Paragraph 6 of the Schedule, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 3; Abstentions 3.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan	D Kennedy
	C Ruane	P Bradley
	R McCartney	G Campbell

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Paragraph 6 of the Schedule, as drafted.

Paragraph 7

Question put: that the Committee was content with the Sponsor's proposed amendments to Paragraph 7 of the Schedule.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 3; Abstentions 3.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan C Ruane R McCartney	D Kennedy P Bradley G Campbell

Agreed: The Committee did not agree with the Sponsor's proposed amendments to Paragraph 7 of the Schedule.

Question put: that the Committee was content with Paragraph 7 of the Schedule, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 3; Abstentions 3.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan C Ruane R McCartney	D Kennedy P Bradley G Campbell

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Paragraph 7 of the Schedule, as drafted.

Paragraph 8

Question put: that the Committee was content with Paragraph 8 of the Schedule, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 3; Abstentions 3.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan C Ruane R McCartney	D Kennedy P Bradley G Campbell

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Paragraph 8 of the Schedule, as drafted.

Paragraph 9

Question put: that the Committee was content with Paragraph 9 of the Schedule, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 3; Abstention 3.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan C Ruane R McCartney	D Kennedy P Bradley G Campbell

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Paragraph 9 of the Schedule, as drafted.

Paragraph 10

Question put: that the Committee was content with Paragraph 10 of the Schedule, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 0; Noes 4; Abstention 3.

Ayes

Noes

Abstentions

P Sheehan
C Ruane
R McCartney
T Lunn

P Bradley
G Campbell
D Kennedy

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Paragraph 10 of the Schedule, as drafted.

Paragraph 11

Question put: that the Committee was content with Paragraph 11 of the Schedule, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 3; Abstention 3.

Ayes

T Lunn

Noes

P Sheehan
C Ruane
R McCartney

Abstentions

D Kennedy
P Bradley
G Campbell

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Paragraph 11 of the Schedule, as drafted.

Paragraph 12

Question put: that the Committee was content that Paragraph 12 of the Schedule be withdrawn by the Sponsor at Consideration Stage.

Agreed: The Committee unanimously agreed that Paragraph 12 of the Schedule was to be withdrawn by the Sponsor.

Paragraph 13

Question put: that the Committee was content with the Sponsor's proposed amendment to Paragraph 13 of the Schedule.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 3; Abstention 3.

Ayes

T Lunn

Noes

P Sheehan
C Ruane
R McCartney

Abstentions

D Kennedy
P Bradley
G Campbell

Agreed: The Committee did not agree with the Sponsor's amendment to Paragraph 13 of the Schedule.

Question put: that the Committee was content with Paragraph 13 of the Schedule, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 3; Abstention 3.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan C Ruane R McCartney	D Kennedy P Bradley G Campbell

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Paragraph 13 of the Schedule, as drafted.

Paragraph 14

Question put: that the Committee was content with the Sponsor's proposed amendment of Paragraph 14 of the Schedule.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 3; Abstention 3.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan C Ruane R McCartney	G Campbell P Bradley D Kennedy

Agreed: The Committee did not agree with the Sponsor's proposed amendment to Paragraph 14 of the Schedule.

Question put: that the Committee was content with Paragraph 14 of the Schedule, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 1; Noes 3; Abstention 3.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	R McCartney C Ruane P Sheehan	G Campbell P Bradley D Kennedy

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Paragraph 14 of the Schedule, as drafted.

Paragraph 15

Question put: that the Committee was content with Paragraph 15 of the Schedule, as drafted.

The Committee divided: Ayes 0; Noes 4; Abstention 3.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
	T Lunn P Sheehan R McCartney C Ruane	D Kennedy G Campbell P Bradley

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Paragraph 15 of the Schedule, as drafted.

Long Title

Question put: that the Committee was content with the Long Title of the Bill.

The Committee divided: Ayes 2; Noes 3; Abstention 2.

Ayes	Noes	Abstentions
T Lunn	P Sheehan	P Bradley
D Kennedy	R McCartney	G Campbell
	C Ruane	

Agreed: The Committee did not agree Long Title of the Bill.

Ms Bradley left the meeting at 11.31am.

6. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Forward Work Programme and agreed to consider the draft report and, if possible, agree the final report on the Assembly and Executive Reform Bill on 19 January 2016

Ms Bradley rejoined the meeting at 11.33am.

7. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 19 January 2016 at 10.00am in Room 21.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.34am.

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