

DRAFT
NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2013
IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 12.34pm.

Present:

The Speaker (Chairperson)
Mr S Dickson
Mr R McCartney
Mrs K McKeivitt
Lord Morrow
Mrs S Overend
Mr P Ramsey
Ms C Ruane
Mr P Weir

In attendance:

Ms L Gordon	Clerk of Business
Dr G McGrath	Director of Clerking and Reporting
Mr H Widdis	Director of Legal Services
Ms N Dunwoody	Clerk Assistant
Mr R Ramsey	Adviser to the Speaker
Ms F Leneghan	PS/Speaker
Mr C McNickle	Assistant Assembly Clerk

Observers:

Principal Deputy Speaker McLaughlin
Deputy Speaker Beggs
Deputy Speaker Dallat
Junior Minister Bell
Junior Minister McCann
Mr A Rogers **OFMDFM**

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies were noted from Mr Kelly and Mr Swann

2. Minutes of previous meeting

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 17 September were **agreed** and signed by the Speaker:

3. **Matters arising**

- 3.1 Members **agreed** to schedule the remainder of the Second Stage of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Further Provisions and Support for Victims) Bill (NIA 26/11-15) following the conclusion of the debate on 'Access to Public Procurement Opportunities' on Tuesday 24 September. A revised Order Paper and Indicative Timings were agreed for immediate circulation.

4. **Finalisation of the Order Papers for the plenary meetings in week commencing 30 September**

Assembly Business

- 4.1 Members **agreed** to schedule an SDLP motion on Committee Membership on Monday 30 September.

Executive Business

- 4.2 Members **noted** that the Minister of Education proposed to make a statement on the Fundamental Review of GCSEs and A levels on Monday 30 September.
- 4.3 Members considered the Indicative Timings for Tuesday 1 October in relation to the likely time required for the Second Stage of the Local Government Bill.
- 4.4 Lord Morrow referred to the necessity to adjourn the previous evening, before business had been concluded. He considered that it would have been helpful to have had some flexibility to sit longer, rather than having to reschedule the conclusion of the item. Following a suggestion that a review of sitting times should be undertaken by the Committee on Procedures, members noted that the committee already intended to examine the broad area of scheduling of plenary business.
- 4.5 Members were in broad agreement that a degree of flexibility would be helpful on Mondays. However, it was also considered that account should be taken of family friendly sitting times.
- 4.6 Members **agreed** that the Clerk would prepare a paper on possible approaches the committee itself might adopt to scheduling business, particularly on Mondays.

Committee Business

- 4.7 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Committee for Finance and Personnel to extend the Committee Stage of the Financial Provisions Bill on Monday 30 September.

Private Members' Business

- 4.8 Members **noted** that Sinn Féin had submitted a revised Adjournment Debate topic for Monday 30 September.
- 4.9 Junior Minister McCann advised that all relevant Ministers were available to respond to the selected plenary business.
- 4.10 The draft Order Papers were **agreed**.

5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 7 October 2013**

Executive Business

- 5.1 Members **noted** that Question Time to the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure and to the Minister of Education was scheduled for Monday 7 October.
- 5.2 Members **noted** that Question Time to the Minister for Employment and Learning and to the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety was scheduled for Tuesday 8 October.

Committee Business

- 5.3 Members noted that there were no requests for Committee business.

Private Members' Business

- 5.4 Members **agreed** to schedule two Private Members' Motions on Monday 7 October and two Private Members' Motions on Tuesday 8 October.
- 5.5 Under the system of allocation, the selections lay with Alliance, DUP, Sinn Féin and the SDLP. Mr Dickson undertook to inform the Business Office of his party's selection for Monday 7 October as soon as possible. The following motion was selected by the DUP for Monday 7 October:

- "Bowel Cancer".

- 5.6 The following motion was selected by Sinn Féin for Tuesday 8 October:

- “The ‘Undocumented’ and Immigration Reform in the United States”.

- 5.7 Mr Ramsey undertook to inform the Business Office of his party’s selection for Tuesday 8 October as soon as possible.
- 5.8 Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour 30 minutes should be allocated for each motion, with the usual speaking times.
- 5.9 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 8 October. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with the SDLP. Mr Ramsey undertook to inform the Business Office of his party’s selection as soon as possible.
- 5.10 Junior Minister Bell advised that the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment was not available on Monday 7 October, but that all other Ministers were available.
- 5.11 The provisional Order Papers were **agreed**.

6. **Response from the Committee on Procedures on issues relating to the emergence of new political parties or groupings during a mandate.**

- 6.1 The Speaker referred Members to a draft letter to the Committee on Procedures regarding the decision taken at the previous meeting.
- 6.2 Members **agreed** the terms of the letter and that it should issue to the Committee on Procedures.
- 6.3 It was also **agreed** that issues regarding speaking arrangements and the role of the Speaker under Standing Order 17(5) would be taken forward by parties via the Committee on Procedures.

7. **Any other business**

- 7.1 The Speaker referred Members to a letter from the Minister for Regional Development requesting a change of Question Time slot from 21 October to 4 November.
- 7.2 Members **noted** that the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure was content with the proposed change.
- 7.3 Members **agreed** to the request.

7.4 Members **noted** that the Speaker would not be in the Chair for the next meeting of the Business Committee and that Ms Ruane would Chair the meeting.

8. **Date and Time of next meeting**

8.1 Members **agreed** to meet at approximately 12.30pm on Tuesday 1 October 2013 in Room 106.

The Speaker brought the meeting to a close at 12.50pm

Ms C Ruane
Acting Chairperson