

**NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY**  
**BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2015**  
**IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

**MINUTES**

*The meeting began at 12.35pm.*

**Present:**

**The Speaker (Chairperson)**

**Mr S Dickson**

**Mr G Kelly**

**Mrs K McKevitt**

**Mrs S Overend**

**Mr P Ramsey**

**Ms C Ruane**

**Mr R Swann**

**Mr P Weir**

**In attendance:**

**Dr A McGarel**

**Ms N Dunwoody**

**Mr R Ramsey**

**Ms F Leneghan**

**Mr C McNickle**

**Clerk of Business**

**Clerk Assistant**

**Adviser to the Speaker**

**PS/Speaker**

**Assistant Assembly Clerk**

**Observers:**

**Mr A Rogers**

**OFMDFM**

**1. Apologies**

1.1 There were no apologies.

**2. Minutes of previous meeting**

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 17 February were **agreed**.

**3. Matters arising**

3.1 There were no matters arising.

4. **Finalisation of the Order Papers for the plenary meetings in week commencing 02 March 2015**

Executive Business

4.1 Members **noted** that the following additional Executive Business was scheduled for Monday 02 March:

- Motion to affirm the Rates (Temporary Rebate) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015;
- Motion to affirm the Rates (Exemption for Automatic Telling Machines in Rural Areas) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015;
- Motion to affirm the Rates (Owner Allowances) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015.

4.2 Members **noted** that there was no change to Executive Committee Business previously scheduled for Tuesday 03 March.

Committee Business

4.3 Members **noted** that there was no change to Committee Business previously scheduled for both days.

Private Members' Business

4.4 Members **noted** that there was no Private Members' Business scheduled for Monday 02 March.

4.5 Members **noted** that there was no change to Private Members' Business previously scheduled for Tuesday 03 March.

4.6 Mr Alan Rogers advised that no further business was expected at this stage.

4.7 The draft Order Papers were **agreed**.

5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 09 March 2015**

Executive Business

5.1 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Monday 09 March:

- Question Time to the Minister of the Environment and to the Minister of Finance and Personnel;
- Final Stage of the Welfare Reform Bill (NIA Bill 13/11-15).

5.2 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Tuesday 10 March:

- Question Time to the Minister for Social Development and to the Minister of Justice;
- Second Stage of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Bill;
- Motion to approve the Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015;
- Motion to approve the Draft Civil Legal Services (Appeal) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015;
- Motion to approve the Draft Criminal Legal Aid (Disclosure of Information) Rules (Northern Ireland) 2015;
- Motion to approve the Draft Civil Legal Services (Disclosure of Information) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015;
- Motion to approve the Draft Civil Legal Services (Cost Protection) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

#### Committee Business

- 5.3 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Assembly and Executive Review Committee on its 'Review of Women in Politics and the Northern Ireland Assembly' for Monday 09 March.
- 5.4 Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour 30 minutes should be allocated for the motion, with the usual speaking times.
- 5.5 Members **agreed** that Committee Business should be scheduled before Executive Committee Business on the Order Paper dated Monday 09 March.

#### Private Members' Business

- 5.6 Members **agreed** to schedule no Private Members' Motions on either day.
- 5.7 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 10 March and the following topic was selected:
- 'The 10th Anniversary of the Disappearance of Lisa Dorrian' (Mr P Weir).

5.8 The Chairperson informed Members that he would consider the competence of the Adjournment topic and that, if necessary, Members may consider an alternative Adjournment topic at the next meeting of the Committee.

5.9 Mr Alan Rogers advised that all Ministers were available to respond.

5.10 The provisional Order Papers were **agreed**.

## 6. **Recess dates 2015/2016**

6.1 The Committee **agreed** the 2015/2016 recess dates.

## 7. **Any other business**

7.1 The Chairperson reminded Members that the Assembly would not sit on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March due to the St Patrick's Day holiday.

7.2 Members **agreed** that the Business Committee meeting for that week should take place at 4pm on Monday 16 March. Members **further agreed** a deadline of 3.30pm on Monday 16 March for the tabling of motions for consideration at Business Committee.

7.3 Members **noted** a request from the Minister for Regional Development, to change the date of his Question Time slot from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March to Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Members **further noted** that the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development was content with the proposal.

7.4 Members **agreed** to the request.

7.5 The Chairperson expressed concern at the increasing number of loud conversations taking place from the backbenches of the Assembly and reminded party whips that the Speaker and Deputy Speakers should be able to hear clearly all contributions from the floor of the Assembly.

## 8. **Date and time of next meeting**

8.1 Members **agreed** to meet at approximately 12.30pm on Tuesday 03 March 2015 in Room 106.

*The Chairperson brought the meeting to a close at 12.46pm*

**The Speaker  
Chairperson**