

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2015
IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 1.03pm.

Present:

The Speaker (Chairperson)
Mr S Dickson
Mrs K McKevitt
Ms C Ruane
Mr R Swann
Mr P Weir

In attendance:	Dr A McGarel	Clerk of Business
	Mr G McGrath	Director of Clerking and Reporting
	Ms N Dunwoody	Clerk Assistant
	Mr D Martin	Clerk Assistant
	Mrs T Caul	Acting Director of Legal Services and Governance
	Mr R Ramsey	Adviser to the Speaker
	Ms F Leneghan	PS/Speaker
	Mr G Ervine	Assistant Assembly Clerk

Observers:

Junior Minister McCann
Mr A Rogers **OFMDFM**

1. Apologies

1.1 There were apologies from Mr Gerry Kelly, Lord Morrow and Mrs Sandra Overend.

2. Minutes of previous meetings

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 03 November were **agreed**.

3. Matters arising

3.1 The Speaker **referred** Members to a draft submission to the Assembly and Executive Review Committee regarding the Assembly and Executive Reform (Assembly Opposition) Bill.

3.2 Members **agreed** to forward this submission to the Assembly and Executive Review Committee.

3.3 The Speaker **referred** Members to an advice paper regarding managing pressure on plenary time towards the end of the mandate.

3.4 Members **noted** this advice paper.

4. **Finalisation of the Order Papers for the plenary meetings in week commencing 16 November 2015**

Assembly Business

4.1 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the DUP to change Committee Membership for Monday 16 November – Mr Weir undertook to inform the Business Office of details of the motion following the meeting.

Executive Business

4.2 Members **noted** that there was no change to Executive Committee Business previously scheduled for Monday 16 November.

4.3 Members **noted** a request to schedule a Ministerial Statement from the Minister of Education for Tuesday 17 November.

4.4 Members **noted** a request to schedule a motion on Renewable Heat Incentive Schemes (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 from the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for Tuesday 17 November.

4.5 Members **noted** that there was no further change to Executive Committee Business previously scheduled for Tuesday 17 November.

Committee Business

4.6 Members **noted** that there were still no requests for Committee Business for either day.

Private Members' Business

4.7 Members **noted** that there was no change to Private Members' Business for either day.

4.8 Junior Minister McCann advised that no further business was expected at this stage.

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

5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 23 November 2015**

Executive Business

5.1 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Monday 23 November:

- Further Consideration Stage of the Pension Schemes Bill.
- Question Time to the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister and the Minister for Social Development.

5.2 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Tuesday 24 November:

- Final Stage of the Pension Schemes Bill.
- Motion on Snares Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 from the Minister of the Environment.
- Question Time to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure and the Assembly Commission.

Committee Business

5.3 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment to extend the Committee Stage of the Credit Unions and Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies for Monday 23 November.

5.4 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Committee for Employment and Learning on 'The European Social Fund' for Monday 23 November.

5.5 Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour 30 minutes should be allocated for the motion, with 10 minutes to move, 10 minutes to wind and 5 minutes for all other speakers.

5.6 Members **noted** that there was no Committee Business requested for Tuesday 24 November.

Private Members' Business

- 5.7 Members **agreed** to schedule the Alliance motion on 'Reduction of the Number of MLAs' for Monday 23 November – this motion was deferred from Tuesday 10 November.
- 5.8 Members **agreed** to schedule one Private Members' Motion for Tuesday 24 November.
- 5.9 Under the system of allocation, the selection for Tuesday 24 November lay with Sinn Féin. The following motion was selected:
- 'Replacement of the Trident Nuclear Weapons Programme' (Mr C Murphy, Mr M Ó Muilleoir and Ms M Fearon).
- 5.10 Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour 30 minutes should be allocated for the motion, with the usual speaking times.
- 5.11 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 24 November. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with Sinn Féin.
- 5.12 Ms Ruane agreed that the UUP Adjournment Debate, originally scheduled to take place on 10 November and removed at Mrs Overend's request, would take this slot. Therefore, the selection of the next available Adjournment Debate will lie with Sinn Féin.
- 5.13 Junior Minister McCann indicated that Ministers were available to respond to the motions.
- 5.14 The provisional Order Papers were **agreed**.

6. **Any other business**

7. **Date and time of next meeting**

- 7.1 Members **agreed** to meet at 1.00pm on Tuesday 17 November 2015 in Room 106.

The Chairperson brought the meeting to a close at 1.15pm

The Speaker
Chairperson