**DRAFT**

**NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY**

**BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

# TUESDAY 12 MAY 2015

**IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

**MINUTES**

##### The meeting began at 12.32pm.

**Present: The Speaker (Chairperson)**

**Mr S Dickson**

**Mr G Kelly**

**Mrs K McKevitt**

**Lord Morrow**

**Ms C Ruane**

**Mr R Swann**

**Mr P Weir**

In attendance: Dr A McGarel Clerk of Business

**Mr T Reaney Clerk/Chief Executive**

**Ms N Dunwoody Clerk Assistant**

**Mr R Ramsey Adviser to the Speaker**

**Ms F Leneghan PS/Speaker**

**Mr H Widdis Director of Legal and Governance Services**

**Mr C McNickle Assistant Assembly Clerk**

**Observers: Deputy Speaker Beggs**

**Junior Minister McCann**

**Junior Minister McIlveen**

**Mr A Rogers OFMDFM**

1. **Apologies**

* 1. Apologies were received from Mr Pat Ramsey.

1.2 The Chairperson welcomed Junior Minister McIlveen to the meeting.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting**

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28 April 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 18 May 2015**

Assembly Business

4.1 Members **agreed** to schedule two DUP motions for Monday 18 May to change committee membership and membership of the Assembly Commission.

Executive Business

4.2 Members **noted** that there was no change to Executive Business previously scheduled for Monday 18 May.

4.3 Members **noted** that the Minister of Justice had notified his intention to make an oral statement on ‘Children in the Justice System’, for Tuesday 19 May.

Committee Business

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

Private Members’ Business

4.5 Members **noted** that the motion selected by the DUP on ‘Psychoactive Substances’ was now in the names of Alex Easton, Pam Cameron, George Robinson and Paul Givan.

4.6 Members **noted** that, following the meeting of Tuesday 28 April, the SDLP had requested to schedule a motion on ‘Tourism VAT’ and Members **agreed** to the request.

4.7 Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour 30 minutes should be allocated for the motion, with the usual speaking times.

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

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

5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meeting on Tuesday 26 May 2015**

5.1 Members **noted** that there was no sitting on Monday 25 May due to the late May bank holiday.

Executive Business

5.2 Members **noted** that Question Time to the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister and to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development was scheduled for Tuesday 26 May.

Committee Business

5.3 Members **noted** that there were no requests for Committee business for Tuesday 26 May.

Private Members’ Business

5.4 Members **agreed** to schedule two Private Members’ Motions on Tuesday 26 May.

5.5 Under the system of allocation, the selections lay with the Alliance Party and the DUP and the following motion was selected by the DUP:

* ‘Funding for Musical Instruments’ (Mr N McCausland, Mr G Dunne, Mr D Hilditch and Mr W Humphrey).

5.6 The Alliance Party agreed to notify the Clerk of its selection for Tuesday 26 May after the meeting.

5.7 Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour 30 minutes should be allocated for each motion, with the usual speaking times.

5.8 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 26 May. Under the system of allocation the selection lay with the Alliance Party and the following topic was selected:

* ‘Nursery and Primary School Provision in East and South Belfast’

(Mrs J Cochrane, Mr C Lyttle and Ms A Lo).

5.9 Mr Weir sought guidance on the tabling of Adjournment Debates and in particular in relation to the number of names listed on the Order Paper and the potential for the scope of debate to extend beyond more than one constituency.

5.10 The Speaker outlined the provisions contained within Standing Order 21 and advised that the Adjournment Debate could be scheduled on the provisional Order Paper as proposed but further information would be provided next week following an analysis of Standing Orders, Speaker’s Rulings and Conventions.

5.11 Junior Minister McIlveen advised that all Ministers were available to respond.

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

6. **Any other business**

6.1 There was no other business

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

7.1 Members **agreed** to meet at approximately 12.30pm on Tuesday 19 May 2015 in Room 106.

*The Chairperson brought the meeting to a close at 12.41pm*

**The Speaker**

**Chairperson**