

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

**MONDAY 6 JULY 2020**  
**IN THE SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

**MINUTES**

*The meeting began at 10.36am. (C) denotes attendance via conference call*

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Mr J O'Dowd (Acting Chairperson)</b> <b>The Speaker (C)</b> <b>Ms K Armstrong</b> <b>Ms C Bailey</b> <b>Mr K Buchanan</b> <b>Mr R Butler</b> <b>Mrs D Kelly</b> <b>Mr C McGrath</b>	
<b>In attendance:</b>	<b>Dr A McGarel</b> <b>Mr P Gill</b> <b>Ms L Hogg</b> <b>Dr G McGrath</b>  <b>Mr R Ramsey</b> <b>Mr P Stitt</b> <b>Ms P Devlin</b> <b>Mr M O'Hare</b>	<b>Clerk of Business</b> <b>Clerk Assistant</b> <b>Clerk/Chief Executive</b> <b>Director of Parliamentary Services</b>  <b>Adviser to the Speaker</b> <b>PS to the Speaker</b> <b>Assistant Assembly Clerk</b> <b>Clerical Supervisor</b>

**1     Apologies**

- 1.1   Apologies were received from Gary Middleton, Sinead Ennis, Andrew Muir and John Stewart.

**2     Finalisation of Order Papers for 6 & 7 July 2020**

- 2.1   Members **noted** that the Speaker had received notice from more than 30 Members requesting that a Private Members' motion be debated at the earliest opportunity, either at a sitting already arranged or at an earlier sitting arranged under Standing order 11.
- 2.2   Members **noted** that a copy of the motion had been provided in their packs.
- 2.3   Members **noted** that the motion does not fall into the category of motion that must be debated if supported by 30 Members but when the Assembly adjourns at the end of Tuesday's sitting, any 30 Members could require the Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order 11, to summon the Assembly to discuss an item of business as soon as possible.

- 2.4 Members **noted** that the Speaker had convened the meeting so that the Business Committee could consider how this request is handled.
- 2.5 The Speaker briefed Members on the three options available to them, which were:
1. Add the motion to the Order Paper for 6 July;
  2. Add the motion to the Order Paper for 7 July; or
  3. Schedule an additional plenary to debate the motion.
- 2.6 Members **noted** that for options 1 & 2, the deadline for amendments has already passed but that the Committee had the option of tabling a business motion for the sitting on 6 July to suspend Standing Order 15(1) to allow amendments to be submitted.
- 2.7 Members **agreed** to schedule the motion on Tuesday 7 July, and to schedule a motion to suspend Standing Order 15(1) on Monday 6 July, so that amendments to the motion could be tabled up to 9.30am on 7 July.
- 2.8 Members **agreed** that one and a half hours would be allocated to the debate, with 10 minutes to move, 10 to wind and 5 for all other speakers.
- 2.9 Members **agreed** the Revised Order Papers for Monday 6 and Tuesday 7 July.
- 3 **Date and time of next meeting**
- 3.1 Members **agreed** that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 7 July in the Senate Chamber.

*The Acting Chairperson brought the meeting to a close at 10.41am*

**Mr Keith Buchanan**  
**Acting Chairperson**