

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2020
IN THE SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 1.11pm. (C) denotes attendance via conference call

Present:

The Speaker (Chairperson)

Ms K Armstrong
Ms C Bailey
Mr K Buchanan
Mr R Butler
Ms S Ennis
Mrs D Kelly
Mr C McGrath
Mr G Middleton
Mr A Muir
Mr J O'Dowd

In attendance:

Dr A McGarel	Clerk of Business
Mr P Gill	Clerk Assistant
Ms L Hogg	Clerk/Chief Executive
Dr G McGrath	Director of Parliamentary Services
Mr J McMillen	Head of Legal Services
Mr L McKeag	Legal Advisor
Mr R Ramsey	Adviser to the Speaker
Ms F Leneghan	PS to the Speaker
Ms P Devlin	Assistant Assembly Clerk
Mr M O'Hare	Clerical Supervisor

Observers:

Mr G Lyons	Junior Minister
Ms K Loveland-Morrison	Executive Office

1 Apologies

1.1 Apologies were received from John Stewart.

2 **Minutes of previous meetings**

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting on 6 October were **agreed**.

3 **Matters Arising**

- 3.1 Members **noted** that the Committee on Procedures had written seeking views on the temporary provisions provided for by SOs 110 -116, so that it can consider any potential amendments.
- 3.2 Members **noted** that they had agreed to consult with their parties and bring views to the Committee in time to respond to the Committee on Procedures by the deadline of 23 October.
- 3.3 Members **agreed** to bring any views to the Committee at the next meeting.
- 3.4 There were no other matters arising.

4 **Finalisation of the Order Papers for the Plenary Meetings on Week Commencing 19 October 2020**

Monday 19 October

Assembly Business

- 4.1 Members **noted** that the UUP was seeking to schedule a Committee membership motion on this date.
- 4.2 Members **agreed** to schedule the motion as a business motion with no debate or amendment.

Executive Committee Business

- 4.3 Members **noted** that Question Time was scheduled for the Education and Finance Ministers.
- 4.4 Members **noted** that they had previously agreed a single debate for the Supply Resolution for the Main Estimates 2020-21, and Supply Resolution 2016-2017 Statement of Excesses.
- 4.5 Members **noted** that the Minister of Finance intended to introduce the Budget (No. 3) Bill after the supply resolution debates.

- 4.6 Members **noted** that Executive Office has now scheduled three additional items of business for the Minister for Communities for which they have requested a single debate, as follows:
- The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2)(Amendment No. 5) Regulations
 - The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2)(Amendment No. 6) Regulations
 - The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2)(Amendment No. 7) Regulations
- 4.7 Members **agreed** to schedule a single untimed debate to consider all three motions to approve the statutory rules.
- 4.8 Members **noted** that the Minister of Finance had tabled a motion seeking to suspend Standing Orders 10(2) to 10(4), which would allow the sitting to extend beyond 7pm should it be necessary, and that it had been scheduled as the first item of Executive Business.
- 4.9 Members **noted** that the Minister for Communities also intended to introduce the Licensing and Registration of Club (Amendment) Bill but that this would not be included on the indicative timings until the Speaker was content the Bill was within the legislative competence of the Assembly.

Private Members' Business

- 4.10 Members **noted** that no Private Members motions had been scheduled.
- 4.11 Members **agreed** the Order Paper for Monday 19 October.

Tuesday 20 October

Executive Committee Business

- 4.12 Members **noted** that the Health and Infrastructure Ministers would respond to oral questions.
- 4.13 Members **noted** that an oral statement on October Monitoring from the Minister of Finance was still scheduled but remained unconfirmed.
- 4.14 Members **noted** that they had previously agreed an untimed debate for the Second Stage of the Budget (No. 3) Bill.
- 4.15 Members **noted** that no other Executive Business had been scheduled.

Private Members' Business

- 4.16 Members **noted** that no Private Members motions had been scheduled.
- 4.17 Members **noted** that they had previously scheduled an Adjournment debate on Lack of Rail Connectivity in Foyle for Sinn Féin.
- 4.18 Members **agreed** the Order Paper for Tuesday 20 October.

5 Provisional Arrangements for the Plenary Meetings on Week Commencing 2 November 2020

Monday 2 November

Executive Committee Business

- 5.1 Members **noted** that Question Time was scheduled for the Executive Office and Justice Ministers.
- 5.2 Members **noted** that the Executive had scheduled two items of Executive Business, as follows:
- Consideration Stage of the Budget (No. 3) Bill
 - Legislative Consent Motion on the Pension Schemes Bill
- 5.3 Members **noted** that Consideration Stage had been allocated a few minutes on the provisional indicative timings, but that this would increase in the event that amendments to the Bill are tabled.
- 5.4 Members **agreed** to schedule untimed debates for both items of Executive Business.
- 5.5 The junior Minister advised that no other Executive business was expected.

Private Members' Business

- 5.6 Members **agreed** to defer scheduling Private Members' Business until the next meeting.
- 5.7 Members **agreed** the Provisional Order Paper for Monday 2 November.

Tuesday 3 November

Executive Committee Business

- 5.8 Members **noted** that Question Time would be for the Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and Communities Ministers.
- 5.9 Members **noted** that the Executive had scheduled two items of business for this date, as follows:
- The Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020 (Coronavirus) (Amendment of Relevant Period for Meetings of Registered Societies and Credit Unions) Regulations (NI) 2020
 - Second Stage of the Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Bill
- 5.10 Members **agreed** to schedule untimed motions for both items.
- 5.11 The junior Minister advised that no other business was expected.

Private Members' Business

- 5.12 Members **agreed** to defer scheduling Private Members' motions and an adjournment debate until the next meeting.
- 5.13 Members **agreed** the Provisional Order Paper for Tuesday 3 November.

6 Any Other Business

- 6.1 There was no other business.

7 Date and time of next meeting

- 7.1 Members **agreed** that the next meeting would take place at 1pm on Tuesday 20 October in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Speaker brought the meeting to a close at 1.19pm

The Speaker
Chairperson