



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

CHAIRPERSONS' LIAISON GROUP

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY 2 JUNE 2020

The Senate, Parliament Buildings

Present: Dr Steve Aiken OBE MLA
Dr Caoimhe Archibald MLA
Ms Paula Bradley MLA
Ms Sinéad Ennis MLA, Deputy Chairperson (present by videoconference)
Mr Colm Gildernew MLA
Mr Paul Givan MLA
Mr William Humphrey MLA, Chairperson
Mr Chris Lyttle MLA
Mr Declan McAleer MLA
Mr Colin McGrath MLA
Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA
Ms Carál Ní Chuilín MLA (present by videoconference)
Ms Emma Sheerin MLA
Mr Mervyn Storey MLA

Apologies: No apologies

In Attendance: Mr Keith McBride (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Trevor Allen (Senior Assistant Clerk)

The meeting commenced at 1.34 pm.

1. Apologies

No apologies were received.

2. Chairperson's Business

No items of Chairperson's business were raised.

3. Matters Arising

No matters arising were raised.

4. Co-ordination of the Assembly's response to EU Exit

Chairpersons' received briefing from Assembly officials Paul Gill, Clerk Assistant, and Shauna Mageean, EU Affairs Manager, detailing options for the potential establishment of an EU Exit Committee.

1:55pm Dr Aiken left the meeting

Agreed: Having considered the paper and questioned officials on the proposals, the Group agreed to write to the Committee for the Executive Office outlining that consideration should be given to the provision of additional staffing resources which would enable the Executive Office Committee to lead on cross-cutting EU Exit issues. It was also agreed that the CLG would continue to provide a liaison role as necessary.

The Group noted Mr Lyttle's support for the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on EU Exit.

5. CLG Priorities – Project timelines

The Group noted papers on Strengthening Committee Scrutiny and Innovative Practices in Committees.

2:04pm Mr Humphrey declared an interest as Chairperson to the Public Accounts Committee.

Agreed: The Group approved the timelines for both pieces of work and agreed to extend the Strengthening Committee Scrutiny scope to include the Public Accounts Committee and the Audit Committee.

6. Committee to Monitor Programme for Government Outcomes

Chairpersons' considered a paper on a potential Programme for Government Committee.

Agreed: The Group agreed to defer a decision on this matter until it receives more detailed information on how the committee might be established and its possible Terms of Reference.

7. Guidance for Committees – update

Chairpersons' considered revised guidance for Assembly Committees during the public health crisis. The Clerk provided an update on the revised principles of the guidance and the new video conferencing system to facilitate the work of committees.

Agreed: The Group agreed that committees should adhere to the revised guidance and keep to allocated timings where possible but accepted that there may be occasions when sticking rigidly to the timings may not be possible.

2:19pm Mr McGrath left the meeting.

The Group also received briefing from the Clerk Assistant on correspondence received from the Speaker in relation to holding plenary and committee meetings over summer recess.

Agreed: The Group agreed to consider further the revised guidance and to raise any concerns with the Clerk by correspondence; the revised guidance will issue to all committees on Friday 5th June.

8. Correspondence

No other correspondence was received.

9. Any Other Business

No other items of business were raised.

10. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The Clerk will advise Chairpersons of the date of the next meeting of the Chairpersons' Liaison Group.

The meeting was adjourned at 2.30 pm.

William Humphrey MLA
Chairperson, Chairpersons' Liaison Group