



COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY 13 MAY 2020

Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, Belfast

Present: Dr Steve Aiken OBE MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Paul Frew MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Jim Allister MLA
Mr Pat Catney MLA
Ms Jemma Dolan MLA
Mr Seán Lynch MLA
Mr Maolíosa McHugh MLA
Mr Matthew O'Toole MLA
Mr Jim Wells MLA

Apologies:

In Attendance: Mr Jim McManus (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Neil Sedgewick (Clerical Supervisor)

The meeting commenced at 2.32pm in public session.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

4. Oral Evidence: The Functioning of Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill

The following officials joined the meeting at 2.34pm

- Mr Conor Murphy, Minister of Finance, Department of Finance
- Ms Sue Gray, Permanent Secretary, Department of Finance

This oral session was recorded by Hansard.

Items discussed included: the responsibility and accountability of ministers for the conduct of special advisers; the balance between the use of legislation and the use of codes of conduct within the unique circumstances in Northern Ireland; and the upgrading of the Private Secretary role to Grade 7.

Agreed: The Minister agreed to provide a copy of the paper to the Executive in relation to options and proposals for tailoring Rates support.

Agreed: The Department agreed to clarify the time limit for raising a matter for consideration by the Civil Service Commission as specified in the revised draft NICS Code of Ethics.

Agreed: To write to the Department asking for a response to a number of questions raised in relation to the Bill.

The Minister and Official left the meeting at 4.26pm.

7. Draft Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Forward Work Programme for April – July 2020

The Committee noted The NI Human Rights Commission and Mr Sam McBride are scheduled to provide oral evidence on the Bill on 27 May 2020

The Committee noted Mrs Felicity Huston is scheduled to provide oral evidence on 3 June 2020.

The Committee noted Research and Information Service has been asked to provide an oral briefing on its Research briefing paper on the Functioning of Government Bill on 10 June.

[Extract]