



COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY 27 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 2.35pm in public session.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

A Member declared the following interest:

Dr Steve Aiken – Agenda Item 5 - Oral Evidence from Mr Sam McBride on the Functioning of Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill

4. Oral Evidence: The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission on the Functioning of Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill

The following witnesses joined the meeting at 2.41pm

- Mr Les Allamby, Chief Commissioner, NIHRC
- Dr David Russell, Chief Executive, NIHRC

This oral evidence session was recorded by Hansard.

The main issues discussed included: the NICS disciplinary process as it relates to special advisers; the responsibility and accountability of ministers for the conduct of their special advisers; the need for and importance of proportionality in creating criminal offences; and possible exceptions to criminal offences under Clause 11 of the Bill.

Agreed: To forward any further questions to the NIHRC for a written response.

Witnesses left the meeting at 3.47pm

5. Oral Evidence: Mr Sam McBride on the Functioning of Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill

The following witness joined the meeting at 3.50pm

- Mr Sam McBride, Author

This oral session was recorded by Hansard.

The main issue discussed included the misuse of personal email accounts and the need for tougher sanctions for breaches of security.

Agreed: To forward any further questions to Mr McBride for a written response.

The witness left the meeting at 5.00pm

6. Written Evidence: Functioning of Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill

Committee noted the written evidence regarding the Functioning of Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.

8. Draft Forward Work Programme

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

Agreed:

To invite the NI think tank Pivotal to make a written submission with regards to the Functioning of Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.

[Extract]