



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

# Ad Hoc Committee on the Assembly Members (Remuneration Board) Bill

## Minutes of Proceedings

**18 March 2025**

**Meeting Location:** Room 29, Parliament Buildings

**Present:**

Phillip Brett MLA, Chairperson

Cathy Mason MLA, Deputy Chairperson

Paula Bradshaw MLA

Gary Middleton MLA

Daniel McCrossan MLA

John Stewart MLA

**Apologies:**

Pádraig Delargy MLA

**In Attendance:**

Jim McManus, Committee Clerk

Roisin Donnelly, Assistant Assembly Clerk

Carla Campbell, Clerical Supervisor

The meeting commenced at 1:02 pm in public session.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies are noted above.

The Chairperson gave notice that he would not be available to attend the next committee meeting on 25 March 2025.

### **2. Declaration of Interests**

The Chairperson advised members of their requirement to register their interests under Standing Order 69(5).

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed that as the Ad Hoc Committee has been established to scrutinise a Bill that relates to MLA salaries, allowances and pensions, the minutes should reflect that all members of the Committee have a financial interest in the work of the Committee.

### **3. Chairperson's Business**

There was no Chairperson's business.

### **4. Draft Minutes**

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2025.

## **5. Matters Arising**

The Committee considered correspondence from the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority providing clarification regarding its Board Member appointments.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to publish the IPSA's correspondence on the Committee's webpage.

The Committee noted that the plenary debate on the motion to extend the Committee Stage of the Bill has been provisionally scheduled for 25 March 2025.

## **6. Assembly Members (Remuneration Board) Bill – oral evidence from the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority**

Ray McCaffrey, Research Officer, NI Assembly Research and Information Service, joined the meeting at 1:04 pm.

The Research Officer briefed the Committee on the differences in devolved powers across legislatures.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

The Chairperson thanked the Research Officer for his attendance.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed that the RalSe Briefing Paper is published on the Committee's webpage.

## **7. Assembly Members (Remuneration Board) Bill – consideration of written evidence from the Independent Remuneration Board of the Senedd**

The Committee considered written evidence from the Independent Remuneration Board of the Senedd.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to publish the written evidence on the Committee's webpage.

## **8. Assembly Members (Remuneration Board) Bill – consideration of written evidence**

The Committee considered two additional responses that had been received to the Call for Evidence on the Bill.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to publish the two responses to the call for evidence on the Committee's webpage.

The Committee agreed to move to closed session at 1.13 pm.

*Daniel McCrossan joined the meeting at 1.13 pm.*

## **9. Assembly Members (Remuneration Board) Bill – Committee Deliberations**

Aoibheann Baker, Senior Assistant Bill Clerk joined the meeting at 1.13 pm.

The Committee considered the evidence it had received to date on each clause of the Bill and potential amendments based on that evidence.

The Chairperson thanked the Senior Assistant Bill Clerk for her attendance.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to ask the Bill Clerk to prepare a draft amendment to Clause 1 for the Committee's consideration.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to include the views expressed by Members relating to salary determinations in the Committee's report.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to ask the Assembly Commission to respond to the evidence the Committee has received to date and to provide detail of any proposed amendments it wishes to make in advance of the Commission's attendance at the meeting on 25 March.

*Cathy Mason left the meeting at 1.28 pm.*

The Committee agreed to move to public session at 1.32 pm.

## **10. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

## **11. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee considered a draft Forward Work Programme.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed its Forward Work Programme.

## **12. Any Other Business**

Committee members considered whether oral evidence should be invited from those who provided written responses to the call for evidence.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed that it was not necessary to seek oral evidence further to the written responses received to the Call for Evidence.

## **13. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee was scheduled to take place at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, 25 March 2025 in Room 29.

The meeting was adjourned at 1.35 pm.

**Phillip Brett MLA**

**Chairperson, Ad Hoc Committee on the Assembly Members (Remuneration Board) Bill**

**26 March 2025**