



Northern Ireland
Assembly

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

DRAFT Minutes of Proceedings

25 March 2025

Meeting Location: Room 29, Parliament Buildings

Present:

Cathy Mason MLA, Deputy Chairperson

Paula Bradshaw MLA

Pádraig Delargy MLA

Gary Middleton MLA

John Stewart MLA

Apologies:

Phillip Brett MLA, Chairperson

Daniel McCrossan MLA

In Attendance:

Jim McManus, Committee Clerk

Roisin Donnelly, Assistant Assembly Clerk

Carla Campbell, Clerical Supervisor

The meeting commenced at 1:03 pm in public session with the Deputy Chairperson in the chair.

1. Apologies

Apologies are noted above.

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 18 March 2025.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item 7.

6. Assembly Members (Remuneration Board) Bill – consideration of written evidence

- i. The Committee considered written evidence from the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to publish the written evidence on the Committee page of the Assembly website.

- ii. The Committee considered written evidence from the Scottish Parliament Corporate Body.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to publish the written evidence on the Committee page of the Assembly website.

- iii. The Committee considered 11 responses that had been received to the Call for Evidence on the Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to publish the 11 responses to the call for evidence on the Committee page of the Assembly website.

The Committee noted that the call for evidence ended on 19 March.

The meeting was suspended at 1.06 pm.

The meeting resumed at 1.13 pm.

The Committee agreed to return to agenda item 6.

7. Assembly Members (Remuneration Board) Bill – oral evidence from Assembly Commission

The following members of the Assembly Commission and Assembly officials joined the meeting at 1.13 pm:

Trevor Clarke MLA;

Sinéad Ennis MLA;

Nuala McAllister MLA;

Colin McGrath MLA;

Lesley Hogg, Clerk and Chief Executive of the NI Assembly; and

Tara Caul, Director of Legal, Governance and Research Services, NI Assembly.

Nuala McAllister MLA outlined the Assembly Commission's response to the issues raised in the oral and written evidence considered by the Committee and the Commission's proposed amendments to the Bill.

This was followed by a question and answer session.

The Chairperson thanked the Assembly Commission Members and Assembly officials for their attendance.

The evidence session was reported by Hansard.

The Committee agreed to move to closed session at 1.31 pm.

8. Assembly Members (Remuneration Board) Bill – Committee Deliberations

The following Assembly Bill Office officials joined the meeting at 1.31 pm:

Aoibheann Baker, Senior Assistant Bill Clerk; and

Liz Marsh, Bill Clerk.

The Committee considered a proposed Committee amendment to Clause 1 of the Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed it was content with the proposed Committee amendment.

The Chairperson thanked the Bill Clerks for their attendance.

The Committee agreed to move to public session at 1.39 pm.

9. Assembly Members (Remuneration Board) Bill – Preliminary View

Members provided their views on the clauses, proposed Commission amendments and proposed Committee amendment of the Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to move to clause by clause consideration of the Bill at the next meeting.

10. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

11. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered a draft Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to hold formal clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill at the meeting on 1 April and to consider the Committee's report on its consideration of the Bill at the meeting on 8 April.

12. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

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, 1 April 2025 in Room 30.

The meeting was adjourned at 1.41 pm.

Cathy Mason MLA

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

1 April 2025