FOI 48-26 **Appendix A**

1. I wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Paula Bradshaw MLA in her capacity as Chair of the Executive Office Committee during the committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

   At the conclusion of the meeting, while Timothy Gaston MLA was disconnecting from the meeting remotely, Fidelma Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect that "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly." Despite this comment being audible during the meeting, the Chair did not challenge the remark or ask for it to be withdrawn.

   However, when Timothy Gaston subsequently returned to the meeting to raise concerns about the comment, Paula Bradshaw immediately challenged him regarding disruption of the meeting. This gave the appearance that concerns raised by one participant were being treated differently from the conduct that prompted those concerns.

   I am also concerned by a further remark made by the Chair in which she stated words to the effect of "well done, I'm sure the Newsletter will pick it up tomorrow Timothy." Given that the Newsletter is widely regarded as having a unionist readership and perspective, I believe this comment was unnecessary and inappropriate. In my view, it risked creating the impression that the Chair was making a political observation rather than acting as a neutral presiding officer.

   The role of a committee chair carries a responsibility to act impartially, maintain order, and ensure that all participants are treated fairly and consistently. The actions outlined above gave the appearance of unequal treatment and raised questions regarding the neutrality expected of the position.

   I would therefore ask that this matter be reviewed and that clarification be provided as to whether the conduct of the Chair was consistent with the standards expected of a committee chairperson. I would also welcome an explanation of why the original comment was not addressed, while the subsequent challenge to it was met with criticism.

   I think this behavior was inappropriate and I'm calling for immediate suspension and appropriate sanctions against these two women.

   I look forward to your quick action and response.

2. I wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Paula Bradshaw MLA in her capacity as Chair of the Executive Office Committee during the committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

   At the conclusion of the meeting, while Timothy Gaston MLA was disconnecting from the meeting remotely, Fidelma Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect that "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly." Despite this comment being audible during the meeting, the Chair did not challenge the remark or ask for it to be withdrawn.

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   Sincerely

3. Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Paula Bradshaw MLA in her capacity as Chair of the Executive Office Committee during the committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

At the conclusion of the meeting, while Timothy Gaston MLA was disconnecting from the meeting remotely, Fidelma Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect that "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly." Despite this comment being audible during the meeting, the Chair did not challenge the remark or ask for it to be withdrawn.

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I look forward to your reply

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   Thank you

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    I would therefore ask that this matter be reviewed and that clarification be provided as to whether the conduct of the Chair was consistent with the standards expected of a committee chairperson. I would also welcome an explanation of why the original comment was not addressed, while the subsequent challenge to it was met with criticism.

11. To Whom It May Concern

I wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Paula Bradshaw MLA in her capacity as Chair of the Executive Office Committee during the committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

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I would therefore ask that this matter be reviewed and that clarification be provided as to whether the conduct of the Chair was consistent with the standards expected of a committee chairperson. I would also welcome an explanation of why the original comment was not addressed, while the subsequent challenge to it was met with criticism.

Thanks

12. I,[name omitted], wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Paula Bradshaw MLA in her capacity as Chair of the Executive Office Committee during the committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

    At the conclusion of the meeting, while Timothy Gaston MLA was disconnecting from the meeting remotely, Fidelma Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect that "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly." Despite this comment being audible during the meeting, the Chair did not challenge the remark or ask for it to be withdrawn.

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    I would therefore ask that this matter be reviewed and that clarification be provided as to whether the conduct of the Chair was consistent with the standards expected of a committee chairperson. I would also welcome an explanation of why the original comment was not addressed, while the subsequent challenge to it was met with criticism.

13. Dear Sir/ Madam

I wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Paula Bradshaw MLA in her capacity as Chair of the Executive Office Committee during the committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

At the conclusion of the meeting, while Timothy Gaston MLA was disconnecting from the meeting remotely, Fidelma Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect that "he's lucky I didn't get into the bast**d properly." Despite this comment being audible during the meeting, the Chair did not challenge the remark or ask for it to be withdrawn.

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Kind Regards

14. I wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Paula Bradshaw MLA in her capacity as Chair of the Executive Office Committee during the committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

    At the conclusion of the meeting, while Timothy Gaston MLA was disconnecting from the meeting remotely, Fidelma Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect that "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly." Despite this comment being audible during the meeting, the Chair did not challenge the remark or ask for it to be withdrawn.

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15. I'm writing to complain about the abusive comment "Lucky I didn't get stuck into the B*****d properly" directed at Timothy Gaston MLA by Ms Fidelma Fearon at the TEO committee on Wednesday 27th May 2026 and to why it has not been dealt with swiftly.

    Standards must be upheld and it is the responsibility of the chair to ensure everyone engages respectfully. It was extremely disappointing the Chairperson refused Mr Gaston the opportunity to speak and raise his concerns. Ref The Code of Conduct and the Guide to the Rule effective from 12 April 2021 (4. The Rules of Conduct. Rule 13.

    You shall not act in any way which improperly interfere, with the performance by the assembly of its functions, or the performance by a member , officer or staff of the Assembly of their duties) The Chairpersons action prevented Mr Gaston from challenging the poor behaviour as set out in The Seven Principles of Public Life 7.

    Leadership: Members should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

    The words spoken have been shared widely on social media and to my knowledge the Chairperson has yet to address the comment and no statement at this time has been made by the committee Chair stating the comment is appalling and totally unacceptable and to outline how the comment will be dealt with. Ref The Code of Conduct and the Guide to the Rule effective from 12 April 2021 The Seven Principles of Public Life 7. Leadership: Members should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

    It is important matters like this are dealt with swiftly to ensure everyone is made clear this behaviour is wrong and totally unacceptable to ensure the public's trust and confidence in the integrity of the Assembly. The Code of Conduct and the Guide to the Rule effective from 12 April 2021 (3.Principles of Conduct 3.1 Members should at all times conduct themselves in a manner which will tend to maintain and strengthen the public's trust and confidence in the integrity of the assembly and should never undertake any action which would bring the assembly into disrepute.

    I believe the Chairpersons reference to the Newsletter, "I'm sure the Newsletter will pick it up tomorrow, well done well done" was an inappropriate and unacceptable comment to be made by a committee chair where the chairperson is to be impartial and equal to all participants, treating everyone with respect as stated in, The Code of Conduct and the Guide to the Rule effective from 12 April 2021 The Additional Assembly Principles of Conduct.

    8. Equality: Members should promote equality of opportunity and not discriminate

against any person, treating people with respect regardless of race, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, political opinion, marital status and whether or not a person has dependants.

10 Respect: Members should show respect and consideration for others at all time

What was the purpose of this comment? How did it advance the work of the committee? What did it have to do with what the Committee was investigating? The Chairperson previously to this comment stopped Mr Gaston from speaking stating " We are getting away from what we are meant to be doing today What could be done to better reflect the sector in terms of race relations strategic framework" Why then did the Chairperson think it was appropriate to mention the Newsletter?

Verbal abuse of elected representatives threatens our democratic institutions and studies, such as those by the Local Government Association and the Electoral Commission—have highlighted how politicians face frequent hostility.

The Jo Cox Civility Commission's report, A Renewed Call to Action for the Devolved Nations, delivers a clear set of recommendations to curb abuse and promote civility in public life in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

These studies and reports must not only be read but acted upon when abuse is encountered.

Regards,

16. I wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Paula Bradshaw MLA in her capacity as Chair of the Executive Office Committee during the committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

    At the conclusion of the meeting, while Timothy Gaston MLA was disconnecting from the meeting remotely, Fidelma Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect that "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly." Despite this comment being audible during the meeting, the Chair did not challenge the remark or ask for it to be withdrawn.

    However, when Timothy Gaston subsequently returned to the meeting to raise concerns about the comment, Paula Bradshaw immediately challenged him regarding disruption of the meeting. This gave the appearance that concerns raised by one participant were being treated differently from the conduct that prompted those concerns.

    I am also concerned by a further remark made by the Chair in which she stated words to the effect of "well done, im sure the Newsletter will pick it up tomorrow Timothy." Given that the Newsletter is widely regarded as having a unionist readership and perspective, I believe this comment was unnecessary and inappropriate. In my view, it risked creating the impression that the Chair was making a political observation rather than acting as a neutral presiding officer.

    The role of a committee chair carries a responsibility to act impartially, maintain order, and ensure that all participants are treated fairly and consistently. The actions outlined above gave the appearance of unequal treatment and raised questions regarding the neutrality expected of the position.

    I would therefore ask that this matter be reviewed and that clarification be provided as to whether the conduct of the Chair was consistent with the standards expected of a committee chairperson. I would also welcome an explanation of why the original comment was not addressed, while the subsequent challenge to it was met with criticism.

    Yours sincerely,

17. I wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Paula Bradshaw MLA in her capacity as Chair of the Executive Office Committee during the committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

    At the conclusion of the meeting, while Timothy Gaston MLA was disconnecting from the meeting remotely, Fidelma Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect that "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly." Despite this comment being audible during the meeting, the Chair did not challenge the remark or ask for it to be withdrawn.

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18. I wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Paula Bradshaw MLA in her capacity as a supposed impartial Chair of the Executive Office Committee during the committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena. I would also like to complain about the disgraceful language of Fidelma Fearon.

    At the conclusion of the meeting, while Timothy Gaston MLA was disconnecting from the meeting remotely, Fidelma Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect that "he's lucky I didn't get stuck into the bastard properly." Despite this comment being audible during the meeting, the Chair did not challenge the remark or ask for it to be withdrawn.

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    The behaviour in Northern Ireland politics is reflective of the Northern Ireland Executive's inability to function. The people of Northern Ireland are being deprived of funding, deprived of NHS care and dental care, deprived of functioning infrastructure because the politicians seem only concerned with fighting with each other and many wish only to ensure their own comfortable, financially wealthy existence. The people of Northern Ireland need help.

    Regards

20. Hi,

I wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Paula Bradshaw MLA in her capacity as Chair of the Executive Office Committee during the committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

At the conclusion of the meeting, while Timothy Gaston MLA was disconnecting from the meeting remotely, Fidelma Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect that "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly." Despite this comment being audible during the meeting, the Chair did not challenge the remark or ask for it to be withdrawn.

However, when Timothy Gaston subsequently returned to the meeting to raise concerns about the comment, Paula Bradshaw immediately challenged him regarding disruption of the meeting. This gave the appearance that concerns raised by one participant were being treated differently from the conduct that prompted those concerns.

I am also concerned by a further remark made by the Chair in which she stated words to the effect of "well done, im sure the Newsletter will pick it up tomorrow Timothy." Given that the Newsletter is widely regarded as having a unionist readership and perspective, I believe this comment was unnecessary and inappropriate. In my view, it risked creating the impression that the Chair was making a political observation rather than acting as a neutral presiding officer.

The role of a committee chair carries a responsibility to act impartially, maintain order, and ensure that all participants are treated fairly and consistently. The actions outlined above gave the appearance of unequal treatment and raised questions regarding the neutrality expected of the position.

I would therefore ask that this matter be reviewed and that clarification be provided as to whether the conduct of the Chair was consistent with the standards expected of a committee chairperson. I would also welcome an explanation of why the original comment was not addressed, while the subsequent challenge to it was met with criticism.

Regards

21. I wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Paula Bradshaw MLA in her capacity as Chair of the Executive Office Committee during the committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

    At the conclusion of the meeting, while Timothy Gaston MLA was disconnecting from the meeting remotely, Fidelma Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect that "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly." Despite this comment being audible during the meeting, the Chair did not challenge the remark or ask for it to be withdrawn.

    However, when Timothy Gaston subsequently returned to the meeting to raise concerns about the comment, Paula Bradshaw immediately challenged him regarding disruption of the meeting. This gave the appearance that concerns raised by one participant were being treated differently from the conduct that prompted those concerns.

    I am also concerned by a further remark made by the Chair in which she stated words to the effect of "well done, im sure the Newsletter will pick it up tomorrow Timothy." Given that the Newsletter is widely regarded as having a unionist readership and perspective, I believe this comment was unnecessary and inappropriate. In my view, it risked creating the impression that the Chair was making a political observation rather than acting as a neutral presiding officer.

    The role of a committee chair carries a responsibility to act impartially, maintain order, and ensure that all participants are treated fairly and consistently. The actions outlined above gave the appearance of unequal treatment and raised questions regarding the neutrality expected of the position.

    I would therefore ask that this matter be reviewed and that clarification be provided as to whether the conduct of the Chair was consistent with the standards expected of a committee chairperson. I would also welcome an explanation of why the original comment was not addressed, while the subsequent challenge to it was met with criticism.

22. I wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Paula Bradshaw MLA in her capacity as Chair of the Executive Office Committee during the committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

    At the conclusion of the meeting, while Timothy Gaston MLA was disconnecting from the meeting remotely, Fidelma Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect that "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly." Despite this comment being audible during the meeting, the Chair did not challenge the remark or ask for it to be withdrawn.

    However, when Timothy Gaston subsequently returned to the meeting to raise concerns about the comment, Paula Bradshaw immediately challenged him regarding disruption of the meeting. This gave the appearance that concerns raised by one participant were being treated differently from the conduct that prompted those concerns.

    I am also concerned by a further remark made by the Chair in which she stated words to the effect of "well done, im sure the Newsletter will pick it up tomorrow Timothy." Given that the Newsletter is widely regarded as having a unionist readership and perspective, I believe this comment was unnecessary and inappropriate. In my view, it risked creating the impression that the Chair was making a political observation rather than acting as a neutral presiding officer.

    The role of a committee chair carries a responsibility to act impartially, maintain order, and ensure that all participants are treated fairly and consistently. The actions outlined above gave the appearance of unequal treatment and raised questions regarding the neutrality expected of the position.

    I would therefore ask that this matter be reviewed and that clarification be provided as to whether the conduct of the Chair was consistent with the standards expected of a committee chairperson. I would also welcome an explanation of why the original comment was not addressed, while the subsequent challenge to it was met with criticism.

    Regards

23. Afternoon

I wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Paula Bradshaw MLA in her capacity as Chair of the Executive Office Committee during the committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

At the conclusion of the meeting, while Timothy Gaston MLA was disconnecting from the meeting remotely, Fidelma Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect that "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly." Despite this comment being audible during the meeting, the Chair did not challenge the remark or ask for it to be withdrawn.

However, when Timothy Gaston subsequently returned to the meeting to raise concerns about the comment, Paula Bradshaw immediately challenged him regarding disruption of the meeting. This gave the appearance that concerns raised by one participant were being treated differently from the conduct that prompted those concerns.

I am also concerned by a further remark made by the Chair in which she stated words to the effect of "well done, im sure the Newsletter will pick it up tomorrow Timothy." Given that the Newsletter is widely regarded as having a unionist readership and perspective, I believe this comment was unnecessary and inappropriate. In my view, it risked creating the impression that the Chair was making a political observation rather than acting as a neutral presiding officer. This has become a pattern of language towards this MLA.

While you may not like everyone you work with this arena should be the basis of professionalism.

The role of a committee chair carries a responsibility to act impartially, maintain order, and ensure that all participants are treated fairly and consistently. The actions outlined above gave the appearance of unequal treatment and raised questions regarding the neutrality expected of the position.

I would therefore ask that this matter be reviewed and that clarification be provided as to whether the conduct of the Chair was consistent with the standards expected of a committee chairperson. I would also welcome an explanation of why the original comment was not addressed, while the subsequent challenge to it was met with criticism.

24. I wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Paula Bradshaw MLA and Ms Fearson in their capacity as Chair of the Executive Office Committee during the committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

    At the conclusion of the meeting, while Timothy Gaston MLA was disconnecting from the meeting remotely, Fidelma Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect that "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly." Despite this comment being audible during the meeting, the Chair did not challenge the remark or ask for it to be withdrawn.

    However, when Timothy Gaston subsequently returned to the meeting to raise concerns about the comment, Paula Bradshaw immediately challenged him regarding disruption of the meeting. This gave the appearance that concerns raised by one participant were being treated differently from the conduct that prompted those concerns.

    I am also concerned by a further remark made by the Chair in which she stated words to the effect of "well done, im sure the Newsletter will pick it up tomorrow Timothy." Given that the Newsletter is widely regarded as having a unionist readership and perspective, I believe this comment was unnecessary and inappropriate. In my view, it risked creating the impression that the Chair was making a political observation rather than acting as a neutral presiding officer.

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    I would therefore ask that this matter be reviewed and that clarification be provided as to whether the conduct of the Chair was consistent with the standards expected of a committee chairperson. I would also welcome an explanation of why the original comment was not addressed, while the subsequent challenge to it was met with criticism.

    Regards,

25. I wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Paula Bradshaw MLA in her capacity as Chair of the Executive Office Committee during the committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

    At the conclusion of the meeting, while Timothy Gaston MLA was disconnecting from the meeting remotely, Fidelma Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect that "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly." Despite this comment being audible during the meeting, the Chair did not challenge the remark or ask for it to be withdrawn.

    However, when Timothy Gaston subsequently returned to the meeting to raise concerns about the comment, Paula Bradshaw immediately challenged him regarding disruption of the meeting. This gave the appearance that concerns raised by one participant were being treated differently from the conduct that prompted those concerns.

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    The role of a committee chair carries a responsibility to act impartially, maintain order, and ensure that all participants are treated fairly and consistently. The actions outlined above gave the appearance of unequal treatment and raised questions regarding the neutrality expected of the position.

    I would therefore ask that this matter be reviewed and that clarification be provided as to whether the conduct of the Chair was consistent with the standards expected of a committee chairperson. I would also welcome an explanation of why the original comment was not addressed, while the subsequent challenge to it was met with criticism.

26. I wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Paula Bradshaw MLA in her capacity as Chair of the Executive Office Committee during the committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

    At the conclusion of the meeting, while Timothy Gaston MLA was disconnecting from the meeting remotely, Fidelma Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect that "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly." Despite this comment being audible during the meeting, the Chair did not challenge the remark or ask for it to be withdrawn.

    However, when Timothy Gaston subsequently returned to the meeting to raise concerns about the comment, Paula Bradshaw immediately challenged him regarding disruption of the meeting. This gave the appearance that concerns raised by one participant were being treated differently from the conduct that prompted those concerns.

    I am also concerned by a further remark made by the Chair in which she stated words to the effect of "well done, im sure the Newsletter will pick it up tomorrow Timothy." Given that the Newsletter is widely regarded as having a unionist readership and perspective, I believe this comment was unnecessary and inappropriate. In my view, it risked creating the impression that the Chair was making a political observation rather than acting as a neutral presiding officer.

    The role of a committee chair carries a responsibility to act impartially, maintain order, and ensure that all participants are treated fairly and consistently. The actions outlined above gave the appearance of unequal treatment and raised questions regarding the neutrality expected of the position.

    I would therefore ask that this matter be reviewed and that clarification be provided as to whether the conduct of the Chair was consistent with the standards expected of a committee chairperson. I would also welcome an explanation of why the original comment was not addressed, while the subsequent challenge to it was met with criticism.

27. Hi,

I wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Paula Bradshaw MLA in her capacity as Chair of the Executive Office Committee during the committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

At the conclusion of the meeting, while Timothy Gaston MLA was disconnecting from the meeting remotely, Fidelma Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect that "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly." Despite this comment being audible during the meeting, the Chair did not challenge the remark or ask for it to be withdrawn.

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The role of a committee chair carries a responsibility to act impartially, maintain order, and ensure that all participants are treated fairly and consistently. The actions outlined above gave the appearance of unequal treatment and raised questions regarding the neutrality expected of the position.

I would therefore ask that this matter be reviewed and that clarification be provided as to whether the conduct of the Chair was consistent with the standards expected of a committee chairperson. I would also welcome an explanation of why the original comment was not addressed, while the subsequent challenge to it was met with hostile remarks.

Why do these women think they can make these types of remarks without any co sequences. If it was the other way round there would be a complete uproar.

28. I wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Paula Bradshaw MLA in her capacity as Chair of the Executive Office Committee during the committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

    At the conclusion of the meeting, while Timothy Gaston MLA was disconnecting from the meeting remotely, Fidelma Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect that "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly." Despite this comment being audible during the meeting, the Chair did not challenge the remark or ask for it to be withdrawn.

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    Regards,

29. I wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Paula Bradshaw MLA in her capacity as Chair of the Executive Office Committee during the committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

    At the conclusion of the meeting, while Timothy Gaston MLA was disconnecting from the meeting remotely, Fidelma Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect that "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly." Despite this comment being audible during the meeting, the Chair did not challenge the remark or ask for it to be withdrawn.

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    I would therefore ask that this matter be reviewed and that clarification be provided as to whether the conduct of the Chair was consistent with the standards expected of a committee chairperson. I would also welcome an explanation of why the original comment was not addressed, while the subsequent challenge to it was met with criticism.

    Yours sincerely

30. I wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Paula Bradshaw MLA in her capacity as Chair of the Executive Office Committee during the committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

    At the conclusion of the meeting, while Timothy Gaston MLA was disconnecting from the meeting remotely, Fidelma Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect that "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly." Despite this comment being audible during the meeting, the Chair did not challenge the remark or ask for it to be withdrawn.

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    Kind Regards

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The role of a committee chair carries a responsibility to act impartially, maintain order, and ensure that all participants are treated fairly and consistently. The actions outlined above gave the appearance of unequal treatment and raised questions regarding the neutrality expected of the position.

I would therefore ask that this matter be reviewed and that clarification be provided as to whether the conduct of the Chair was consistent with the standards expected of a committee chairperson. I would also welcome an explanation of why the original comment was not addressed, while the subsequent challenge to it was met with criticism.

Kind regards,

31. I wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Paula Bradshaw MLA in her capacity as Chair of the Executive Office Committee during the committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

At the conclusion of the meeting, while Timothy Gaston MLA was disconnecting from the meeting remotely, Fidelma Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect that "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly." Despite this comment being audible during the meeting, the Chair did not challenge the remark or ask for it to be withdrawn.

However, when Timothy Gaston subsequently returned to the meeting to raise concerns about the comment, Paula Bradshaw immediately challenged him regarding disruption of the meeting. This gave the appearance that concerns raised by one participant were being treated differently from the conduct that prompted those concerns.

I am also concerned by a further remark made by the Chair in which she stated words to the effect of "well done, im sure the Newsletter will pick it up tomorrow Timothy." Given that the Newsletter is widely regarded as having a unionist readership and perspective, I believe this comment was unnecessary and inappropriate. In my view, it risked creating the impression that the Chair was making a political observation rather than acting as a neutral presiding officer.

The role of a committee chair carries a responsibility to act impartially, maintain order, and ensure that all participants are treated fairly and consistently. The actions outlined above gave the appearance of unequal treatment and raised questions regarding the neutrality expected of the position.

I would therefore ask that this matter be reviewed and that clarification be provided as to whether the conduct of the Chair was consistent with the standards expected of a committee chairperson. I would also welcome an explanation of why the original comment was not addressed, while the subsequent challenge to it was met with criticism.

Yours Sincerely

31. I wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Paula Bradshaw MLA in her capacity as Chair of the Executive Office Committee during the committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

    At the conclusion of the meeting, while Timothy Gaston MLA was disconnecting from the meeting remotely, Fidelma Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect that "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly." Despite this comment being audible during the meeting, the Chair did not challenge the remark or ask for it to be withdrawn.

    However, when Timothy Gaston subsequently returned to the meeting to raise concerns about the comment, Paula Bradshaw immediately challenged him regarding disruption of the meeting. This gave the appearance that concerns raised by one participant were being treated differently from the conduct that prompted those concerns.

    I am also concerned by a further remark made by the Chair in which she stated words to the effect of "well done, im sure the Newsletter will pick it up tomorrow Timothy." Given that the Newsletter is widely regarded as having a unionist readership and perspective, I believe this comment was unnecessary and inappropriate. In my view, it risked creating the impression that the Chair was making a political observation rather than acting as a neutral presiding officer.

    The role of a committee chair carries a responsibility to act impartially, maintain order, and ensure that all participants are treated fairly and consistently. The actions outlined above gave the appearance of unequal treatment and raised questions regarding the neutrality expected of the position.

    I would therefore ask that this matter be reviewed and that clarification be provided as to whether the conduct of the Chair was consistent with the standards expected of a committee chairperson. I would also welcome an explanation of why the original comment was not addressed, while the subsequent challenge to it was met with criticism.

32. I wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Paula Bradshaw MLA in her role as Chair of the Executive Office Committee during the recent committee session on oral evidence relating to race relations and the disturbances in Ballymena.

At the conclusion of the meeting, while Timothy Gaston MLA was in the process of disconnecting remotely, a comment was made by Fidelma Fearon to a colleague which was audible to those present. The remark was to the effect that "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly." Despite the comment being clearly heard during the proceedings, no intervention was made by the Chair, nor was any request made for the remark to be withdrawn.

Subsequently, when Mr Gaston re-entered the meeting to raise concerns regarding the comment, he was immediately challenged by the Chair for disrupting proceedings. This gave the appearance that concerns about inappropriate conduct were treated more critically than the conduct which prompted those concerns in the first place.

I am also concerned by a further remark made by the Chair, who stated words to the effect of, "Well done, I'm sure the Newsletter will pick it up tomorrow, Timothy." Given the perceived political context of that comment and the widely recognised readership profile of the publication referenced, I believe the remark was unnecessary and potentially inappropriate. In my view, it risked creating the impression that the Chair was making a political observation rather than maintaining the impartiality expected of a presiding officer.

The position of Committee Chair carries a clear responsibility to act impartially, uphold standards of conduct, maintain order and ensure that all participants are treated fairly and consistently. The actions outlined above gave the appearance of unequal treatment and raise legitimate questions regarding the neutrality expected of the role.

I would therefore request that this matter be reviewed and that clarification be provided as to whether the conduct of the Chair was consistent with the standards and expectations applicable to committee chairpersons. I would also welcome an explanation as to why the original remark was not addressed, while the subsequent challenge to it was met with criticism.

I look forward to your response.

32. I wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Paula Bradshaw MLA in her capacity as Chair of the Executive Office Committee during the committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

    At the conclusion of the meeting, while Timothy Gaston MLA was disconnecting from the meeting remotely, Fidelma Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect that "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly." Despite this comment being audible during the meeting, the Chair did not challenge the remark or ask for it to be withdrawn.

    However, when Timothy Gaston subsequently returned to the meeting to raise concerns about the comment, Paula Bradshaw immediately challenged him regarding disruption of the meeting. This gave the appearance that concerns raised by one participant were being treated differently from the conduct that prompted those concerns.

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33. To whom it may concern,

I wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Paula Bradshaw MLA in her capacity as Chair of the Executive Office Committee during the committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

At the conclusion of the meeting, while Timothy Gaston MLA was disconnecting from the meeting remotely, Fidelma Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect that "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly." Despite this comment being audible during the meeting, the Chair did not challenge the remark or ask for it to be withdrawn.

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With regards

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Yours Sincerly,

40. I wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Paula Bradshaw MLA in her capacity as Chair of the Executive Office Committee during the committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

At the conclusion of the meeting, while Timothy Gaston MLA was disconnecting from the meeting remotely, Fidelma Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect that "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly." Despite this comment being audible during the meeting, the Chair did not challenge the remark or ask for it to be withdrawn.

However, when Timothy Gaston subsequently returned to the meeting to raise concerns about the comment, Paula Bradshaw immediately challenged him regarding disruption of the meeting. This gave the appearance that concerns raised by one participant were being treated differently from the conduct that prompted those concerns.

I am also concerned by a further remark made by the Chair in which she stated words to the effect of "well done, im sure the Newsletter will pick it up tomorrow Timothy." Given that the Newsletter is widely regarded as having a unionist readership and perspective, I believe this comment was unnecessary and inappropriate. In my view, it risked creating the impression that the Chair was making a political observation rather than acting as a neutral presiding officer.

The role of a committee chair carries a responsibility to act impartially, maintain order, and ensure that all participants are treated fairly and consistently. The actions outlined above gave the appearance of unequal treatment and raised questions regarding the neutrality expected of the position.

I would therefore ask that this matter be reviewed and that clarification be provided as to whether the conduct of the Chair was consistent with the standards expected of a committee chairperson. I would also welcome an explanation of why the original comment was not addressed, while the subsequent challenge to it was met with criticism.

Regards

36. I wish to make a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Fidelma Fearon during the recent Executive Office Committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

    Ms Fearon attended the meeting as a representative of the Minority Ethnic Support Armagh organisation. At the conclusion of the meeting, and while Timothy Gaston MLA was in the process of leaving the meeting remotely, Ms Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect of, "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly."

    I found this comment inappropriate and unacceptable, particularly in the context of a formal Northern Ireland Assembly committee proceeding. In my view, the remark was abusive in nature and could reasonably be interpreted as hostile or threatening towards an elected representative who had participated in the meeting.

    Committee proceedings should provide an environment in which strongly differing views can be expressed respectfully and professionally. While robust debate is an important part of democratic scrutiny, personal insults and remarks that appear intended to intimidate or demean another participant have no place in official proceedings.

    As a representative invited to give evidence to the Committee, Ms Fearon was participating in a formal public process and should therefore be held to appropriate standards of conduct. I believe the remark in question fell below those standards and risked undermining public confidence in the integrity and professionalism of committee proceedings.

    I therefore request that this incident be reviewed and that consideration be given to whether Ms Fearon's conduct was consistent with the standards expected of witnesses and representatives appearing before Assembly committees.

    I would welcome clarification as to whether any action will be taken in relation to this matter and whether guidance exists regarding the conduct expected of external witnesses participating in Assembly committee proceedings.

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I would welcome clarification as to whether any action will be taken in relation to this matter and whether guidance exists regarding the conduct expected of external witnesses participating in Assembly committee proceedings.

Thankyou

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    Ms Fearon attended the meeting as a representative of the Minority Ethnic Support Armagh organisation. At the conclusion of the meeting, and while Timothy Gaston MLA was in the process of leaving the meeting remotely, Ms Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect of, "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly."

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    Regards

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Kind regards

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I would welcome clarification as to whether any action will be taken in relation to this matter and whether guidance exists regarding the conduct expected of external witnesses participating in Assembly committee proceedings.

Yours sincerely

45. Hi,

I wish to make a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Fidelma Fearon during the recent Executive Office Committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

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I would welcome clarification as to whether any action will be taken in relation to this matter and whether guidance exists regarding the conduct expected of external witnesses participating in Assembly committee proceedings.

Regards

46. Good Morning,

I wish to make a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Fidelma Fearon during the recent Executive Office Committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

Ms Fearon attended the meeting as a representative of the Minority Ethnic Support Armagh organisation. At the conclusion of the meeting, and while Timothy Gaston MLA was in the process of leaving the meeting remotely, Ms Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect of, "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly."

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I would welcome clarification as to whether any action will be taken in relation to this matter and whether guidance exists regarding the conduct expected of external witnesses participating in Assembly committee proceedings.

Looking forward to your response

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49. Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to make a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Fidelma Fearon during the recent Executive Office Committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

Ms Fearon attended the meeting as a representative of the Minority Ethnic Support Armagh organisation. At the conclusion of the meeting, and while Timothy Gaston MLA was in the process of leaving the meeting remotely, Ms Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect of, "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly."

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I would welcome clarification as to whether any action will be taken in relation to this matter and whether guidance exists regarding the conduct expected of external witnesses participating in Assembly committee proceedings.

Yours faithfully

50. I wish to lodge a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Paula Bradshaw MLA and Ms Fearson in their capacity as Chair of the Executive Office Committee during the committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

    At the conclusion of the meeting, while Timothy Gaston MLA was disconnecting from the meeting remotely, Fidelma Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect that "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly." Despite this comment being audible during the meeting, the Chair did not challenge the remark or ask for it to be withdrawn.

    However, when Timothy Gaston subsequently returned to the meeting to raise concerns about the comment, Paula Bradshaw immediately challenged him regarding disruption of the meeting. This gave the appearance that concerns raised by one participant were being treated differently from the conduct that prompted those concerns.

    I am also concerned by a further remark made by the Chair in which she stated words to the effect of "well done, im sure the Newsletter will pick it up tomorrow Timothy." Given that the Newsletter is widely regarded as having a unionist readership and perspective, I believe this comment was unnecessary and inappropriate. In my view, it risked creating the impression that the Chair was making a political observation rather than acting as a neutral presiding officer.

    The role of a committee chair carries a responsibility to act impartially, maintain order, and ensure that all participants are treated fairly and consistently. The actions outlined above gave the appearance of unequal treatment and raised questions regarding the neutrality expected of the position.

    I would therefore ask that this matter be reviewed and that clarification be provided as to whether the conduct of the Chair was consistent with the standards expected of a committee chairperson. I would also welcome an explanation of why the original comment was not addressed, while the subsequent challenge to it was met with criticism.

    Regards,

51. I wish to make a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Fidelma Fearon during the recent Executive Office Committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

    Ms Fearon attended the meeting as a representative of the Minority Ethnic Support Armagh organisation. At the conclusion of the meeting, and while Timothy Gaston MLA was in the process of leaving the meeting remotely, Ms Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect of, "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly."

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I wish to make a formal complaint regarding the conduct of Fidelma Fearon during the recent Executive Office Committee meeting regarding oral evidence on race relations which covered the disturbances in Ballymena.

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Ms Fearon attended the meeting as a representative of the Minority Ethnic Support Armagh organisation. At the conclusion of the meeting, and while Timothy Gaston MLA was in the process of leaving the meeting remotely, Ms Fearon was heard making a remark to a colleague to the effect of, "he's lucky I didn't get into the bastard properly."

I found this comment inappropriate and unacceptable, particularly in the context of a formal Northern Ireland Assembly committee proceeding. In my view, the remark was abusive in nature and could reasonably be interpreted as hostile or threatening towards an elected representative who had participated in the meeting.

Committee proceedings should provide an environment in which strongly differing views can be expressed respectfully and professionally. While robust debate is an important part of democratic scrutiny, personal insults and remarks that appear intended to intimidate or demean another participant have no place in official proceedings.

As a representative invited to give evidence to the Committee, Ms Fearon was participating in a formal public process and should therefore be held to appropriate standards of conduct. I believe the remark in question fell below those standards and risked undermining public confidence in the integrity and professionalism of committee proceedings.

I therefore request that this incident be reviewed and that consideration be given to whether Ms Fearon's conduct was consistent with the standards expected of witnesses and representatives appearing before Assembly committees.

I would welcome clarification as to whether any action will be taken in relation to this matter and whether guidance exists regarding the conduct expected of external witnesses participating in Assembly committee proceedings.

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