

COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURES

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 28 MAY 2013
ROOM 144, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Gerry Kelly MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Jim Allister MLA
Mr Samuel Gardiner MLA
Mr Barry McElduff MLA
Mr Oliver McMullan MLA
Mr Alban Maginness MLA
Lord Morrow MLA
Mr George Robinson MLA
Mr Mervyn Storey MLA

In attendance: Alison Ross (Clerk)
Neil Currie (Assistant Clerk)
Jonathan Watson (Clerical Supervisor)

1.01pm The meeting opened in public session.

1. Apologies

Mr Chris Lyttle MLA

2. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2013

Agreed : Members agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2013.

1.02pm Mr McElduff joined the meeting.

3. Inquiry into the extent to which Standing Orders should permit the Attorney General to participate in proceedings of the Assembly

1.02pm Mr John Larkin QC, Attorney General for Northern Ireland, joined the meeting and briefed Members on his written submission to the Committee's inquiry. This was followed by a question and answer session.

1.16pm Mr Storey joined the meeting.

1.23pm Mr Maginness left the meeting.

1.30pm Mr Allister left the meeting.

1.40pm The Chairperson thanked Mr Larkin for his oral evidence, who then left the meeting.

1.40pm Mr McElduff left the meeting.

The Committee considered the written submissions that had been received for the inquiry, along with a summary of the responses.

Agreed: It was agreed to write to Assembly Legal Services to obtain their views on some issues relating to the inquiry Terms of Reference.

Agreed: It was agreed that it should not be necessary to take any other oral evidence.

Agreed: It was agreed that the Clerk should start work on drafting a report for consideration at the meeting in September 2013.

The Committee considered correspondence from the Chairperson of the Committee for Justice, requesting that the Committee on Procedures considers clarifying the jurisdiction and powers of Assembly Committees, particularly with regard to private organisations, where the matter under consideration relates to a transferred matter.

Agreed: It was agreed that as this issue was beyond the Terms of Reference for the current inquiry, the correspondence would be reconsidered on conclusion of the inquiry.

4. Standing Orders for Topical Questions

The Committee considered proposed amendments to Standing Orders for Topical Questions.

Agreed: The amendments and the motion on the proposed new Standing Order 20A were agreed.
The amendment to Standing Order 10(2)(a) and the motion were agreed.
The amendments to Standing Order 19 and the motion were agreed.
The amendment to Standing Order 20(1) and the motion were agreed.

5. Correspondence

There was no other correspondence.

6. Any other Business

None.

7. Date, time and place of next meeting

As there were key items of business from today's meeting yet to be completed, it was agreed that an extra meeting of the Committee would take place on 11 June 2013 at 1.00pm in Room 144, Parliament Buildings.

1.54pm The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Gerry Kelly
Chairperson, Committee on Procedures

11 June 2013