

COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURES

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2015
ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Gerry Kelly MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
Mr Jim Allister MLA
Mr Paul Givan MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Mr Barry McElduff MLA
Lord Morrow MLA

In attendance: Alison Ross (Clerk)
Neil Currie (Assistant Clerk)
Christopher Jeffrey (Clerical Officer)

1.13pm The meeting opened in public session.

1. Apologies

Mr Oliver McMullan MLA

2. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2015

Agreed: Members agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2015.

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

1.15pm Mr Allister joined the meeting.

1.15pm Lord Morrow joined the meeting.

Agreed: Following a brief discussion on the management of Statutory Rules laid by the AGNI, it was agreed to

defer consideration of this matter to the next meeting.

4. Review of Public Petitions Procedures

The Chairperson advised Members that, as agreed, he had written to the junior Ministers outlining the proposed e-petitions process and seeking their views, however, no response had been received to date.

Agreed: It was agreed that an e-petition cannot be the same, or substantially the same as another e-petition received during that mandate. It was also agreed that the Business Office would encourage the proposer of a similar petition to join with the existing petition.

5. Review of the time allocated to Topical Questions

The Committee noted the response from the Speaker outlining his suggestions in relation to the time allocated to Topical Questions.

Agreed: It was agreed to write again to the party Whips and Independent Members seeking their views on the Speaker's suggestions.

6. Draft End of Session Report

The Committee considered the draft End of Session report summarising the work of the Committee from 1 September 2014 to 31 August 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft End of Session report (as amended) and was content for it to be published.

7. Forward Work Programme

The Committee was content with the Forward Work Programme.

8. Correspondence

The Committee considered correspondence from Steven Agnew MLA.

Agreed: It was agreed that the issues raised in the correspondence were already covered by the Terms of Reference for the Committee's ongoing review of the public petitions procedures, and that the Chairperson should write back to Mr Agnew assuring him in this regard.

9. Any other Business

None.

10. Date, time and place of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on 20 October 2015 at 1.00pm in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

1.29pm The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Gerry Kelly
Chairperson, Committee on Procedures

20 October 2015