

COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURES

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2015
ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
Mr Paul Givan MLA
Mr Barry McElduff MLA
Mr Oliver McMullan MLA
Mr Alban Maginness MLA
Mr George Robinson MLA

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

1.00pm The meeting opened in public session.

1. Apologies

Mr Gerry Kelly MLA (Chairperson)
Lord Morrow MLA

2. Draft minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2015

Agreed: Members agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2015.

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

1.03pm Mr Maginness joined the meeting.

The Committee considered draft amendments to Standing Orders relating to Part 1 of the AGNI inquiry report, plus concurrent amendments to reflect the provisions of the new Code of Conduct and the Guide to the Rules Relating to the Conduct of Members.

Agreed: It was agreed to forward the draft amendments to Standing Orders to the Committee on Standards and Privileges, asking it to confirm that the proposed amendments relating to its remit reflect the intentions of the Committee on Standards and Privileges and meet its requirements.

Agreed: It was agreed to seek legal advice on the draft amendments to Standing Orders.

The Committee considered Part 2 of the AGNI inquiry, relating to the management of Statutory Rules laid by the AGNI subject to the draft affirmative and negative resolution procedures.

Agreed: As there was insufficient time for consideration of Part 2 of the inquiry in this mandate, it was agreed to refer the matter to the next Committee and include it in the legacy report, highlighting the need to give particular attention to the speaking rights of the AGNI in the Assembly.

4. Review of Public Petitions Procedures

Agreed: It was agreed to defer consideration of this item to the next meeting.

5. Review of the time allocated to Topical Questions

The Committee considered the response from the Ulster Unionist Party in relation to the time allocated to Topical Questions.

Agreed: As no other parties or Independent Members had responded, it was agreed to defer consideration of this matter to the next meeting.

The Deputy Chairperson asked Members to encourage responses from their parties for the next meeting.

6. Forward Work Programme

The Committee was content with the Forward Work Programme.

7. Correspondence

The Committee noted correspondence from the Assembly and Executive Review Committee calling for evidence in relation to the Assembly and Executive Reform (Assembly Opposition) Bill.

8. Any other Business

None.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on 24 November 2015 at 1.00pm in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

1.25pm The Deputy Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Gerry Kelly
Chairperson, Committee on Procedures

24 November 2015