

COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURES

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 25 OCTOBER 2016
ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Gordon Lyons MLA (Chairperson)
Mrs Rosemary Barton MLA
Mr Tom Buchanan MLA
Mr Chris Lyttle MLA
Mr Barry McElduff MLA
Mr Colin McGrath MLA
Mr Mervyn Storey MLA

In attendance: Ciara McKay (Clerk)
Neil Currie (Assistant Clerk)
Alex Carter (Clerical Officer)
Damien Martin (Clerk Assistant) - Agenda Item 4
Aoibhinn Treanor (Bill Clerk) - Agenda Item 4 and 5
Patricia Casey (Bill Clerk) - Agenda Item 5

Apologies: Mr Edwin Poots MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Steven Agnew MLA
Mr Fra McCann MLA

Agreed: The Committee agreed to meet in closed session.

1.20pm The meeting began in closed session.

1. Apologies

The apologies are noted above.

2. Draft minutes of the meeting held on 11th October 2016

Agreed: Members agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 11th October 2016.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Private Members' Bills

1.21pm Officials from the Bill Office joined the meeting.

Bill Office officials briefed the Committee on the procedural and support framework for Private Members' Bills and answered Members' questions.

1.24pm Mrs Barton MLA joined the meeting.

1.25pm Mr McGrath MLA joined the meeting.

The Committee discussed the approach and timescale for its review of the current procedures and support for Private Members' Bills.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the timescale and approach for the review.

Agreed: It was agreed that the Committee should commission research on Private Members' Bills in other jurisdictions including: the procedures and practices; support and resource; and the management of submissions and duplication.

Agreed: It was agreed to write to the Speaker to advise him of the review and the indicative timescale.

1.49pm Officials left the meeting.

5. Assembly and Executive Reform (Assembly Opposition) Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 – Section 15(3): Annual debate on Executive legislative timetable

1.50pm Officials from the Bill Office joined the meeting.

Bill Office officials briefed the Committee on the provision of Section 15(3) of the Assembly and Executive Reform (Assembly Opposition) Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 on an annual debate on the Executive legislative programme and answered Members' questions.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek the views of the political parties and independent Members on the scheduling, length and nature of an annual debate.

2.10pm Bill Office officials left the meeting.

6. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

7. Forward Work Programme

2.11pm Mrs Barton MLA left the meeting.

The Committee considered the report on the outcome of the strategic planning session held on 11th October 2016.

2.13pm Mr McGrath MLA left the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the report and priorities listed.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Committee on Standards and Privileges to advise that the review of Standing Order 70: Privilege and the review of the Attorney General for Northern Ireland's participation in proceedings of the Assembly will be kept on the Committee's Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed its Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to meet at 9.30am on Tuesday 8th November to avoid a clash with the first meeting of the Chairpersons' Liaison Group. The Committee agreed that the Clerk should contact other Committee Members to ascertain availability at this time on a permanent basis.

8. Any other Business

There was no other business.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Tuesday, 8th November 2016 at 9.30am in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

2.18pm The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Gordon Lyons

Chairperson, Committee on Procedures

8 November 2016