



## **COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND PRIVILEGES**

**WEDNESDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2014  
ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

- Present:** Mr Alastair Ross (Chairperson)  
Mr Steven Agnew  
Mr Cathal Boylan  
Mr Colum Eastwood  
Mr Declan McAleer  
Mr Fra McCann  
Mr Ian McCrea  
Mrs Sandra Overend  
Mr Mervyn Storey
- In Attendance:** Mr Paul Gill (Assembly Clerk)  
Mrs Ashleigh Mitford (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Jonathan Watson (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mr Jim Nulty (Clerical Supervisor)
- Apologies:** Ms Paula Bradley

*The meeting commenced at 1.31pm in open session.*

### **Chairperson's Introduction**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the meeting should commence in open session and then move into closed session from agenda item 5.

The Chairperson welcomed Committee members to the meeting.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Ms Bradley

### **2. Declaration of Interests**

The Chairperson reminded Members of their obligation to declare any relevant financial or other interests before and during each Committee meeting.

No interests were declared.

### **3. Draft minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2014 were agreed by the Committee.

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

### **4. Review of the Code of Conduct: Briefing from the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland**

The Chairperson advised the Committee that the Northern Ireland Government Affairs Group was due to provide oral evidence at the meeting. However, following the election of a new Chair and committee, NIGAG will not now be giving evidence as part of the Review. The Clerk will update the Committee on this matter in due course.

Dr Michael Wardlow, Chief Commissioner and Mrs Roisin Mallon, Senior Policy Officer, both of the Equality Commission, joined the meeting and were invited to brief the Committee. This was followed by a question and answer session.

*1.45pm Mr Eastwood joined the meeting*

*1.55pm Mrs Overend joined the meeting*

*2.15pm Mr Eastwood left the meeting*

*The meeting moved into closed session at 2.44pm*

### **5. Committee Consideration of its Report on complaints against a Member and its Motion to the Assembly**

The Chairperson referred members to the tabled draft report.

*Agreed:* The Committee considered the draft report paragraph by paragraph, agreed it and ordered it to be published.

*Agreed:* The Committee considered the tabled draft motion and agreed it as amended.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that its report should be embargoed until it is debated by the Assembly

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Member complained of and the complainants should receive an advance embargoed copy of the Report.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Chairperson should move the motion and wind on the debate on behalf of the Committee.

**6. Any other business**

No items were raised

**7. Time, date and place of next meeting**

The Chairperson advised Members that the next meeting will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at 1.30pm in room 106.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 2.52pm.*

**Mr Alastair Ross MLA**

**Chairperson, Committee on Standards and Privileges**

**11<sup>th</sup> June 2014**