



COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND PRIVILEGES

WEDNESDAY, 22ND JUNE 2016
ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Mr Cathal Boylan MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Adrian McQuillan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Doug Beattie MC MLA
Ms Paula Bradshaw MLA
Ms Joanne Bunting MLA
Mr Gerry Carroll MLA
Ms Linda Dillon MLA
Mr Sammy Douglas MLA
Mr Sean Lynch MLA
Mrs Emma Little Pengelly MLA
Mr Richie McPhillips MLA

In Attendance: Mr Shane McAteer (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Keith McBride (Senior Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mrs Clairita Frazer (Assistant Clerk)
Mr Jim Nulty (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Alison Ferguson (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: None.

The meeting commenced at 10.30am in public session.

1. Apologies

As detailed above.

2. Declaration of Members' Interests

Members noted that they are obliged to declare any relevant financial or other interests before and during each Committee meeting.

Joanne Bunting declared that she is a member of the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

3. Draft minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2016.

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2016 were agreed.

Sammy Douglas joined the meeting at 10.33am.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Potential Topics on Forward Work Programme

Members noted the Clerk's briefing paper, which outlined potential topics for the Committee's Forward Work Programme.

Emma Little-Pengelly joined the meeting at 10.35am.

Agreed: that the suggested scoping work on each potential topic will be carried out to further inform members' consideration at a strategic planning meeting early in the next session.

6. Update on All Party-Groups

Members noted an update on the progress of re-establishing the All-Party Groups in the new mandate.

Members also noted that to date the following five pre-existing All Party Groups have returned their completed New Mandate Update Forms: Congenital Heart Disease, Epilepsy, Cancer, Social Enterprise and Autism.

Members further noted that All Party Groups are required to provide an updated list of office holders and membership to the Clerk of Standards within two months of the commencement of the new mandate. Any group which does not return these details to the Clerk before 8 July 2016 will cease to exist and will be required to re-establish as a new All Party Group.

The Committee moved into closed session at 10.37am in line with normal protocol for considering draft reports.

7. Proposed Amendments to the Code of Conduct and to the Guide to the Rules relating to the Conduct of Members.

Members noted that, as previously agreed by the Committee, a plenary debate on the Motion to amend Rules 4 and 5 of the Code of Conduct would take place on Tuesday 28 June 2016.

Members further noted the need to consider minor and consequential amendments to the Guide to the Rules relating to the Conduct of Members (hereafter referred to as

‘the Guide to the Rules’), including in the event of the Assembly agreeing the proposed amendments to Rules 4 and 5 of the Code of Conduct.

The Committee considered minor and consequential amendments to the Guide to the Rules as follows:

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Introduction, paragraph 2 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendments to Chapter 1, paragraph 1 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendments to Chapter 1, paragraph 2 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendments to Chapter 1, paragraph 3 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Chapter 1, paragraph 5 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Chapter 1, paragraph 12 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Chapter 1, paragraph 23 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Chapter 1, paragraph 30(a) of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Chapter 1, paragraph 31 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Chapter 1, paragraph 32 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Chapter 1, paragraph 33 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendments to Chapter 1, paragraph 34(f) of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Chapter 1, paragraph 35 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendments to Chapter 1, paragraph 36 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Chapter 1, paragraph 40 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Chapter 1, paragraph 44 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Chapter 1, paragraph 45 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Chapter 1, paragraph 48 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Chapter 1, paragraph 49(f) of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Chapter 1, paragraph 49(g) of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Chapter 1, paragraph 50(ii) of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendments to Chapter 1, paragraph 51(a) of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendments to Chapter 1, paragraph 52(c) of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Chapter 1, paragraph 53 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Chapter 1, paragraph 55 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendments to Chapter 1, paragraph 56(a) of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendments to Chapter 1, paragraph 56(b) of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Chapter 1, paragraph 57 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendments to Chapter 1, paragraph 62 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Chapter 1, paragraph 68 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Chapter 1, paragraph 71 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Chapter 1, paragraph 72(b) of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Chapter 1, paragraph 73 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Chapter 1, paragraph 74 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Chapter 2, paragraph 1 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Chapter 2, paragraph 3(a) of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Chapter 2, paragraph 12 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Chapter 2, paragraph 15 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Chapter 2, paragraph 15(b) of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendments to Chapter 2, paragraph 19 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed amendment to Chapter 2, paragraph 20 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed appendix 1 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee was content with the proposed appendix 2 of the Guide to the Rules.

Agreed: that the Committee will consider the possible need for further amendments to the Guide to the Rules in future to include definitions of terms such as ‘political activities’ and ‘third party’.

Agreed: that the Committee is content with the Guide to the Rules as amended.

Agreed: that the Committee reports the amended Guide to the Rules to the Assembly, as required under paragraph 4 of the Introduction to the Guide.

Agreed: that the revised Code of Conduct and Guide to the Rules be printed, subject to the Committee’s Motion to amend Rules 4 and 5 of the Code of Conduct being agreed by the Assembly on Tuesday 28 June 2016.

Members noted that the amended Code of Conduct and Guide to the Rules will be laid in the Business Office and a copy provided to each MLA.

Members further noted that an information pack of background papers for the Committee Motion will be circulated to all MLAs, via the Assembly Library Service in advance of Tuesday's debate.

8. Correspondence

Freedom of Information (FoI) requests

The Committee discussed correspondence from the Assembly's Information Standards Officer in relation to a recently received FoI request.

Agreed: that the Clerk will circulate a draft response to Members for consideration.

Agreed: that the Committee is content to delegate authority to the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, during summer recess, to submit views on the releasing or handling of any non-routine or contentious FoI requests received and that the Committee will be informed of such requests, views expressed and the response issued at the first available meeting following the recess period.

9. Any other business

There was no other business.

10. Time, date and place of next meeting

Members noted that the time, date and place of the next meeting of the Committee will be circulated in due course.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11.53am.

Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Chairperson, Committee on Standards and Privileges

14 September 2016