

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: 30th March 2004
Time: 9 a.m.
Venue: Conference Room E

Present: Jenny Randerson (Chair)
Karen Sinclair, Business Minister
Jonathan Morgan, Conservative Business Manager
Jocelyn Davies, Plaid Cymru Business Manager
Kirsty Williams, Welsh Liberal Democrat Business Manager
John Marek, Deputy Presiding Officer

Paul Silk, Clerk to the Assembly
Peter Jones, Presiding Office Legal Unit
Karin Phillips, Members' Research and Committee Services
Andrew George, Clerk to the Business Committee
Marion Stapleton, Assembly Business Unit
Alun Jenkins, OCG (Agenda Item 4)
Marc Wyn Jones, Business Committee Secretariat
Catherine Morris, PS to the Deputy Presiding Officer

1. Apologies & announcements

1.1 The Chair welcomed Gareth Williams of Members' Research and Committee Services, who was observing the meeting for training purposes.

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

(i) BC171-04 (Final) Tuesday 16th March 2004

2.1 The minutes were presented to the Committee in their final format. Since there were no comments, they would be translated in readiness for publication.

Action: Chamber Secretariat

(ii) BC188-04 (Draft) Tuesday 23rd March 2004

2.2 The minutes were presented to the Committee in draft. Some amendments were suggested which would be translated in readiness for publication.

Action: Chamber Secretariat

3. Matters Arising (BC188-04 - 23rd March 2004)

3.1 **Paragraph 4.3** Marion Stapleton said that the National Health Service (Nursing Care in Residential Accommodation) (Wales) Directions 2004 had been submitted to the Business Committee on 23rd March because a debate in Plenary had been scheduled for 30th March.

3.2 **Paragraph 5.1** The Chair said that a letter would be sent to the Chair of the North Wales Regional Committee.

3.3 Marion Stapleton said that an explanatory note relating to the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954, Part 2 (Notices) Regulations 2004 had been sent to Assembly Members on 26th March in advance of the motion to approve the Regulations, which was scheduled for 30th March.

4. Subordinate Legislation

(a) Orders for consideration

The Valuation Tribunals (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2004 (BC190-04)
Recommended Procedure: Accelerated

Care Homes (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2004 *Recommended Procedure: Accelerated* (BC191-04)

The Business Committee agreed the recommended procedure for BC190-04 and BC191-04. The Deputy Presiding Officer subsequently determined that neither of these draft Orders need be referred to subject committee.

(b) Standing Order 27 Subordinate Legislation

BC192-04

4.1 The Business Committee noted the e-mail of notification from the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning about her intention to approve a list of external qualifications.

(c) Orders made under the Executive Procedure; Papers to note.

BC193-04, BC194-04, BC200-04 & BC201-04

4.2 The Business Committee noted the letters from Cabinet Secretariat on the use of the Executive procedure for

- The National Health Service (General Ophthalmic Services) and (Optical Charges and Payments) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2004 (BC193-04).
- The Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (Wales) Regulations 2004 (BC194-04).
- The Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) and Non-Domestic Rating (Collection and Enforcement) (Local Lists) (Wales) Regulations 2004 (BC200-04).
- The Food for Particular Nutritional Uses (Addition of Substances for Specific Nutritional Purposes) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2004 (BC201-04).

4.3 The Chair said that the letters on the use of the Executive procedure said that "the Cabinet Subordinate Legislation Sub-Committee" had made determinations relating to various Orders. The Business Minister said that such determinations would normally be made by the Assembly Cabinet as a

whole, but when that was not possible, the determinations were made by a sub-committee, consisting of 3 Ministers.

BC193-04

4.4 The Deputy Presiding Officer said that this letter said that the Department of Health notified the Assembly of the voucher increase on 17th February and asked if the Regulations could have followed the Assembly's normal procedures.

BC201-04

4.5 The Deputy Presiding Officer noted that this letter said that "the consultation period in Wales only ended on 9th March 2004" and asked if the length of the process had meant that the Regulations could not follow the Assembly's normal procedures. Marion Stapleton said she would notify the Deputy Presiding Officer whether this was the case.

Action: Marion Stapleton

(d) Papers for Information

BC195-04

4.6 The Business Committee noted the e-mail from Cabinet Secretariat on The National Assistance (Assessment of Resources) Regulations 2004 which had been circulated in the previous meeting.

5. Committees

BC197-04

5.1 The Business Committee considered and approved a request for an additional meeting from the Health and Social Services Committee.

6. Forthcoming Business

BC165-04

6.1 The Business Minister responded to various requests from Business Managers and said that

- The Health Minister made a statement on the increase of MRSA infections in Plenary on Wednesday 24th March.
- The First Minister issued a written statement on emergency planning arrangements and public safety issues in the light of the recent terrorist attack in Madrid on Wednesday 24th March.
- The First Minister would be making a statement on the Richard Commission's Report on Wednesday 31st March.
- There was no intention to schedule a debate on a reduction of nursing training places as no such reduction had been proposed.

- A debate on Communities First would be scheduled before the Summer recess.

(ii) This Week's Business

6.2 The Committee considered paper BC198-04, which detailed the Assembly's agreed business for the week.

6.3 The Committee noted that a statement by the First Minister on the Richard Commission's Report, which was scheduled for Wednesday, had been allocated 30 minutes. Business Managers said that they felt that the statement would need more time. The Deputy Presiding Officer said that, depending on the number of Members wishing to speak, this item of business could be extended to 45 minutes.

(ii) Draft Business Statement

6.4 The Committee noted the Business Minister's proposed statement about the organisation of the Assembly's business for the weeks commencing 27th April, 4th May and 11th May.

6.5 The Business Minister said that a motion to delegate the functions of the Medicines for Human Use (Clinical Trials) Regulations 2004 to the First Minister was scheduled for 27th April.

6.6 Jonathan Morgan said that the Assembly Government's Second Offer Scheme was due to start in April and asked if a debate on NHS waiting lists in Wales could be scheduled in May. Business Managers said that they supported this request.

6.7 Jocelyn Davies asked if a statement could be scheduled on the relationship between Ministers and Quangos.

6.8 Kirsty Williams asked if a debate could be scheduled on Local Health Boards' Wanless Implementation Plans. Business Managers said that they supported this request.

6.9 Kirsty Williams noted that a debate on National Parks had been scheduled for 4th May. Karin Phillips confirmed that the author of a review of the National Parks of Wales would be attending the Environment, Planning and Transport Committee's next meeting on 5th May to discuss this issue. The Business Minister said that the debate could be postponed until a later date if required.

7. Advice to Assembly on procedures

8. Matters referred from plenary

9. Revisions to Standing Orders

10. Presiding Officer rulings

11. Any other business.

CHAMBER SECRETARIAT