

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE MEETING**MINUTES:**

Date: 26 November 2002
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Venue: Committee Room 1, National Assembly Building

Attendance:

Mick Bates	(Liberal Democrat)
Rosemary Butler	(Labour)
Ron Davies	(Labour)
Pauline Jarman	(Plaid Cymru)
Ann Jones	(Labour)
Dr Dai Lloyd	(Plaid Cymru)
Karen Sinclair	(Labour)
Owen John Thomas	(Plaid Cymru)

Officials

John Turnbull	Legal Adviser
Huw Rowlands	Legal Adviser
Olga Lewis	Committee Clerk
Simon Thwaite	Deputy Committee Clerk

Apologies for absence: Glyn Davies

Item 1: Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising: LEG-24-2002(min)

1.1 The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2002.

Item 2: Chair's Report

2.1 The Chair informed the Committee that at the moment a reorganisation is taking place resulting in Committee Secretariat being united with the Library to form a new bigger division called "Members' Research and Committee Services", headed by Marie Knox.

2.2 The Chair further informed the Committee that this new division consists of two parts, one still being Committee Secretariat and the other being newly established "Members' Research Service". Members' Research Service will cover a variety of subjects, including Assembly procedures, constitutional and legal affairs.

2.3 The Chair suggested that it would be beneficial for the Committee to invite the Head of Members' Research Service Debra Carter to make a 15-minute presentation to the Committee about the services her department now offers. The Committee proposed to ask Ms Carter to make her presentation and answer any questions the Committee might have at the next meeting on the 3rd December 2002.

2.4 The Chair informed Members that the Committee shall be organising a lunchtime seminar on primary legislation for all Assembly Members and their researchers. The Chair stated it would be useful for everybody to be informed about the connection between primary legislation and Assembly legislation and the ways in which the Assembly might seek to influence the form and content of primary legislation. This event is being organised in co-operation with the Office of the Counsel General and will take place between 13.00 – 13.30pm on Wednesday, 22nd of January 2003.

2.5 The Chair reminded the Committee that on the 19th of November 2002 Members and officials of our Committee visited the Office of Counsel General. The Committee found the visit very informative and useful. The Chair further reminded the Committee about the decision to thank the Office of the Counsel General for receiving the Members of the Legislation Committee and commend the work on co-drafting of Statutory Instruments. The Chair had sent a letter to the Counsel General to this effect. The Chair informed the Committee that he had received a reply from the Counsel General which had been circulated to Members for information.

Item 3: Assembly Orders for Consideration

LC566 - The National Assembly for Wales (Returning Officers' Charges) Order 2002

3.1 Mr Turnbull presented the report to the Committee. The Order will be made under the Standard Procedure.

3.2 The Committee agreed that it did not need to invite the Assembly to pay special attention to the Order on any grounds specified in Standing Order 11.5. The Legal Advisers had had the opportunity to see an early draft and identified a number of points which had been taken into account in the final draft.

3.3 The Committee made an observation which they felt should be recorded in their report.

3.4 The Committee's report to the Assembly on the Order is attached as LC566 (Report).

LC567 - The Organic Products (Wales) Regulations 2002

3.5 Mr Turnbull presented the report to the Committee. The Regulations will be made under the Accelerated Procedure.

3.6 The Committee agreed that it did not need to invite the Assembly to pay special attention to the regulations on any grounds specified in Standing Order 11.5 nor did they have any observations.

3.7 The Committee's report to the Assembly on the Regulations is attached as LC567 (Report).

LC568 - The Relocation Grants (Forms of Application) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002

3.8 Mr Turnbull presented the report to the Committee. The Regulations had been made under the Executive Procedure.

3.9 The Committee agreed that it did not need to invite the Assembly to pay special attention to the Regulations on any grounds specified in Standing Order 11.5. However, the Committee did make an observation which they felt should be recorded in their report.

3.10 The Committee's report to the Assembly on the Regulations is attached as LC568 (Report).

LC569 - The Housing Renewal Grants (Prescribed Forms and Particulars) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002

3.11 Mr Rowlands presented the report to the Committee. The Regulations had been made under the Executive Procedure.

3.12 The Committee agreed that it did not need to invite the Assembly to pay special attention to the regulations on any grounds specified in Standing Order 11.5 nor did they have any observations.

3.13 The Committee's report to the Assembly on the Regulations is attached as LC569 (Report).

LC570 - The Housing Renewal Grants (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002

3.14 Mr Rowlands presented the report to the Committee. The Regulations had been made under the Executive Procedure.

3.15 The Committee agreed that it did not need to invite the Assembly to pay special attention to the Regulations on any grounds specified in Standing Order 11.5. However, the Committee did make an observation which they felt should be recorded in their report.

3.16 Members were concerned that the people of Wales could be disadvantaged by the fact that the following Regulations came into force in Wales some seven and a half months later than the corresponding provisions in England: **LC568 - The Relocation Grants (Forms of Application) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002**, **LC569 - The Housing Renewal Grants (Prescribed Forms and Particulars) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002** and **LC570 - The Housing Renewal Grants (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002**. The Committee requested the Chair to write a letter to the relevant Minister expressing this concern. **Action: Clerk/Legal Adviser**

3.17 The Committee's report to the Assembly on the Regulations is attached as LC570 (Report).

LC571 - The Education (Assembly Learning Grant Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2002

3.18 Mr Rowlands presented the report to the Committee. The Regulations had been made under the Executive Procedure.

3.19 The Committee agreed that it did not need to invite the Assembly to pay special attention to the Regulations on any grounds specified in Standing Order 11.5. The Legal Advisers had had the opportunity to see an early draft and identified a number of points which had been taken into account in the final draft.

3.20 The Committee's report to the Assembly on the Regulations is attached as LC571 (Report).

Item 4: Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting

4.1 The Chair proposed to discuss the Committee's Draft Submission to the Richard Commission. A concern was expressed that this matter should be discussed as a separate Item on the Agenda as this was so important. The Chair reported to the Committee that he was informed of the need to make a submission from the Legislation Committee to the Richard Commission after the Agenda had been sent to Members. It was decided to delay this discussion until next week, when this matter could be placed as a separate Agenda Item.

4.2 The next meeting would be held on 3 December 2002.