

# House Committee

## Minutes

**Date:** 12 October 2006

**Time:** 9.00am

**Venue:** Committee Room 2, Senedd, Cardiff Bay

**Members present:**

- Deputy Presiding Officer (Chair)
- Lorraine Barrett, AM Labour
- Peter Black, AM Liberal Democrat
- Janice Gregory, AM Labour
- Jane Hutt, AM Labour
- Owen John Thomas, AM Plaid Cymru

**Officials present:**

- Paul Silk, Clerk to the Assembly
- Dianne Bevan, Deputy Clerk to the Assembly and Clerk to the House Committee
- Gwen Parry, Director of Assembly Communications
- Adrian Crompton, Acting Head of Members’ Research and Committee Service
- Gwyn Griffiths, Legal Adviser
- Catherine Morris, Parliamentary Executive
- Gareth Brydon, House Committee Secretariat

**In Attendance :**

- John Chick, Human Resources (for agenda items 2.2 & 3.1)
- John Grimes, Clerk’s Office (for item2.1)

**Apologies :**

- William Graham, AM Conservative
- Presiding Officer

	<b>Introductions</b>

	The Chair welcomed John Chick to the meeting
1	<b>Minutes of previous meeting and actions arising</b>
1.1	Members noted that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2006 will be published by 9 November 2006.
2	<b>Items for decision</b>
2.1	House Committee Annual Report 2005-06 HC(2)-10-06(p1)
	<p>The Committee considered the draft Annual Report. It encompassed the main work of the Committee during the year together with a summary of the work and performance of APS staff.</p> <p>Members discussed the draft report. Janice Gregory asked whether Members would have sight of the forewords by the Deputy Presiding Officer and Presiding Officer before the final report was laid before the Assembly. The Chair said that although a foreword was essentially a personal item and it had not been the practice previously, he would ensure that Members saw his foreword before the report was laid and he assumed the Presiding Officer would do likewise.</p> <p>Janice Gregory referred to ‘Highlights of the Year: April 2005 – March 2006’ on page 8 of the report. The word ‘by’ should be deleted from the first line and under ‘Opening of the Senedd’ she noted that the word ‘the’ should be inserted in the first line before ‘Assembly.’</p> <p>Janice Gregory also referred to the ‘South Wales West Regional Committee’ on page 33 under ‘Assembly Business 2005-2006’. She noted that the second paragraph recorded that Janet Davies was elected Chair for the year in May 2005. Members briefly discussed whether information on the election of Chairs should be included in the report for all of the Committees.</p> <p>Members agreed that the identities of Chairs of all Committees should be included in the report.</p> <p>Action : Clerk to the Committee</p> <p>Members discussed the statistics included at Annex 1 on page 45 for ‘Committee</p>

Membership, Attendance and Statistics’.

The Committee agreed that reference to Member attendance at Committee meetings shown in percentages should be removed from the report.

Action : Clerk to the Committee

The Clerk to the Assembly said that reference to the ‘Assembly First Secretary’ at Annex 2, page 58 should be amended to ‘First Minister’.

Action : Clerk to the Committee

The House Committee agreed to approve the report and that it should be placed before the Assembly in accordance with Standing Orders.

Action : Clerk to the Committee

2.2	Assembly’s Annual Equality Report 2005-06 HC(2)-10-06(p2)
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The Committee was presented with the draft Assembly Parliamentary Service Annual Equality Report 2005-06.

Members agreed that the Assembly had made significant strides in promoting equality of opportunity principles in the work of the APS. The Clerk to the Assembly expressed his gratitude to Denise Rogers for all her hard work.

The Committee endorsed the draft report for consideration by the Equality of Opportunity Committee on 25 October 2006.

3	<b>Items for noting</b>
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3.1	Age Discrimination Legislation HC(2)-10-06(p3)
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The House Committee noted the requirements of the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations Act 2006 which took effect on 1 October 2006.

Any Other Business

There was none.

4	<b>Date of next scheduled meeting: 9 November 2006</b>
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