

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> June 2001

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Venue:** Room A3.13

**Present:** Kirsty Williams, Lib Dem. Business Manager (Acting Chair)  
Andrew Davies, Minister for Assembly Business  
Jocelyn Davies, Plaid Cymru Business Manager  
William Graham, Conservative Business Manager

Paul Silk, Clerk to the Assembly  
David Lambert, Presiding Office Legal Adviser  
Marie Knox, Head of Committee Secretariat (agenda item 6)  
Andrew George, Clerk to the Business Committee  
Marion Stapleton, PS/Minister for Assembly Business  
Adrian Green, Chamber Secretariat  
Alun Gruffudd, PS/Deputy Presiding Officer  
Angela Parkes, Office of the Counsel General (agenda item 4)

**1. Apologies & announcements**

1.1 The Deputy Presiding Officer sent his apologies for absence.

**2. Minutes of the previous meetings**

**5th June 2001 BC198-01 (final)**

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**

**12<sup>th</sup> June BC210-01 (draft)**

2.2. The minutes were presented to the Committee in draft. Since there were no comments they would be presented to the Committee at its next meeting in their final format. **Action: Chamber Secretariat**

**3. Matters arising (BC210-01)**

3.1 **Paragraph 3.2** The Minister for Assembly Business reported that he had not had an opportunity to discuss the paper about revised procedures for First Minister question time with the First Minister since his return from official business abroad. However he hoped to be able to do so before next week's meeting. **ACTION: Minister for Assembly Business to report back.**

3.2 **Paragraph 3.4** The Minister for Assembly Business said that he recognised the importance of the revocation motion tabled by Glyn Davies on the Prescribed Waste (Wales) Regulations 2001 (NNDM 663) and officials

were looking into the matter. William Graham reminded the Committee that there was a sunset provision in the Regulations so timing was important. The Chair pointed out that the Assembly had a statutory duty to provide time for Plenary consideration of such motions. Section 67(3) of the Government of Wales Act 1998 states that procedures must provide for any Assembly Member to be entitled to move, within a period of 40 working days on which Assembly subordinate legislation is made under the Executive procedure, a motion that the legislation be revoked. Jocelyn Davies said that this was an essential counter balance to the use of the Executive procedure. It was vital that Assembly Members were given the opportunity to exercise their rights and once tabled, a revocation motion should be debated. **ACTION: Minister for Assembly Business.**

#### **4. Subordinate legislation**

4.1 The Chair reminded the Committee that consideration of the Care Standards Act 2000 (Commencement No 6) (Wales) Order 2001 (BC204-01) had been deferred from last week's meeting because it had not been previously published on the intranet for the agreed ten days. Marion Stapleton reported that the Legislation Committee was content to take the order to a tighter timescale. This meant that the Business Committee could consider the Order this week without jeopardising the date on which it came into force.

4.2 William Graham expressed concern that other pieces of draft legislation on the agenda had also breached this agreement. Jocelyn Davies said that Business Managers needed time to consult their members fully. The Minister for Assembly Business noted that no complaints had been received about the posting dates of the orders in question. Marion Stapleton said that as we got nearer to Recess, it was more likely that time would be squeezed to ensure that officials had sufficient time to draw up the legislation. The Chair said that this should be a transparent process. Business managers were required to consult widely and the full ten days were required.

4.3 The Committee considered papers BC204-01; and BC212-01 to BC215-01 which provided advice from Ministers on the handling of five pieces of subordinate legislation. Members of the Business Committee advised the Chair that they were content with the proposal not to send any of the draft orders to a subject committee and that they should follow the procedure recommended. **The Presiding Officer, in the absence of the Deputy Presiding Officer, subsequently determined that the following five orders need not be referred to subject committees.**

- ❑ **The Care Standards Act 2000 (Commencement No 6) (Wales) Order 2001 (BC 204-01)** *Standard Procedure*
- ❑ **The Plant Health (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2001 (BC212-01)** *Accelerated Procedure*
- ❑ **The Local Government Elections (Wales) Order 2001**

(BC213-01) *Standard Procedure*

- **The National Health Service (General Dental Services) (Amendment) (No 2) (Wales) Regulations 2001 (BC214-01)** *Accelerated Procedure*

**The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2001 (BC215-01)** *Standard Procedure*

## **5. Advice to Assembly on procedures**

5.1 The Chair invited members of the Committee to consider paper BC216-01 on the Revision of Guidance for Assembly Questions. The Committee agreed that the revised paper accurately reflected what had been agreed at last week's meeting in relation to answers to written questions and recommended that the revised guidance should now be tabled for approval by the Assembly.

**ACTION: Table Office**

## **6. Committees**

None

## **7. Forthcoming business**

### **This week's business**

7.1 The Committee considered paper BC217-01 which detailed the Assembly's agreed business for the week.

7.2 The Minister for Assembly Business reported that there was a slight change to that afternoon's business because the First Minister would be making a statement on his visit to Argentina and Chile. He said that the statement on the Welsh Baccalaureate mooted for 21<sup>st</sup> June would now be a written statement and was no longer part of Plenary business.

### **The Draft Business Statement**

7.3 The Minister for Assembly Business reported that following the Queen's speech on 20<sup>th</sup> June, the Secretary of State would be making a statement in plenary on 26<sup>th</sup> June. He said that there would be a debate on the Queen's Speech on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July and one hour had been set aside for this.

## **8. Matters referred from plenary**

None

## **9. Revisions to Standing Orders (BC219-01)**

9.1 The Chair invited the Committee to consider the paper entitled "Proposed Change to Standing Order 3 – Determination on Salaries, Allowances and Pensions (BC219-01)". The paper sought the Committee's agreement to table a motion requesting that the Assembly approve a minor change to S.O. 3 for

the purposes of allowing the Assembly to make allowances to party groups and implement suggestions regarding pay and allowances made by the Senior Salaries Review Board. The Chair noted that the proposed date for Plenary consideration was 5<sup>th</sup> July. This request had been discussed in principle at last week's meeting and was agreed. **ACTION: Chamber Secretariat.**

**CHAMBER SECRETARIAT**