

MINUTES
OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING (the “INAUGURAL MEETING”)
OF THE CROSS-PARTY LEGAL GROUP
OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES
HELD AT TY HYWEL
ON TUESDAY 24TH APRIL 2018 AT 12.30PM

Present:	
John Griffiths AM	Labour
Mark Reckless AM	Conservative
Darren Millar AM	Conservative
David Melding AM	Conservative
Janet Finch-Saunders AM	Conservative
Gareth Bennett AM	UKIP
Michelle Brown AM	UKIP
In Attendance:	
Craig Lawton (for Suzy Davies AM)	
Catriona Reckless	
Hannah Moscorp	

1. The agenda at Annex A was presented to the Inaugural Meeting.
2. The Assembly Members present confirmed they wished to be members of the Cross-Party Legal Group.
3. Mark Reckless AM confirmed that in addition to the Assembly Members present, the following additional Assembly Members had indicated to him that they also wished to be members of the Cross-Party Legal Group:

Adam Price AM	Plaid Cymru
Simon Thomas AM	Plaid Cymru
Mick Antoniw AM	Labour
Angela Burns AM	Conservative
Suzy Davies AM	Conservative

4. Mark Reckless AM reported on his meeting with Lord Thomas in relation to his role as chair of the Commission on Justice in Wales currently considering issues relating to the increasing divergence between the law in Wales and in England, and the possibility of a separate or distinct legal jurisdiction for Wales, and that Lord Thomas had indicated that he would like

to engage with Assembly Members appropriately after the first stage of the Commission's deliberations.

5. Catriona Reckless reported that she had participated in an earlier meeting with Matthew Richards and Elisabeth Jones, as co-heads of the Assembly's legal team, and they were in support of the Cross-Party Legal Group being established, and wished at a future date to give a presentation to the Cross-Party Legal Group about the Assembly's legal function, its established leading expertise in devolved law, and its role in optimally supporting Assembly Members.
6. The Assembly Members present agreed the purpose of the Cross-Party Legal Group to be as set out in Annex B, and specifically agreed to add the words "The Group will promote clarity, accessibility and understanding of law applicable in Wales".
7. It was agreed that future meetings of the Cross-Party Legal Group would seek to engage with a range of potential representatives from outside the Assembly, which might include partners from law firms, lawyers undertaking pro-bono work, in-house counsel, Legal Practice Course representatives, and business.
8. It was agreed that Tuesdays around 12 noon were generally a good time for future meetings of the Cross Party Legal Group.
9. Janet Finch-Saunders AM proposed Mark Reckless AM be Chair of the Cross-Party Legal Group, and the proposal was seconded by Gareth Bennett AM. The proposal was passed and Mark Reckless AM was elected Chair of the Cross-Party Legal Group at the Inaugural Meeting.
10. Janet Finch-Saunders AM proposed Michelle Brown AM be Vice-chair of the Cross-Party Legal Group, and the proposal was seconded by Gareth Bennett AM. The proposal was passed and Michelle Brown AM was elected Vice-chair of the Cross-Party Legal Group at the Inaugural Meeting.
11. The Inaugural Meeting agreed that Catriona Reckless would be Secretary of the Cross-Party Legal Group.
12. It was agreed the establishment of the Group and appointment of its officers would be registered in accordance with the Assembly's rules.

Annex A

Cross Party Legal Group

Inaugural AGM 12.30pm Tuesday 24th April 2018

Agenda

1. Signed Up Members
2. Purpose of Group
3. Commission on Justice in Wales
4. Assembly legal team
5. Future meetings
6. Registration of Group and officers

Annex B

Cross Party Legal Group

The Cross Party Legal Group will act as a forum for discussion of legal issues relevant to Wales and its legal profession. This will include consideration of the opportunities and challenges presented by the increasing divergence between the law in Wales and in England, including the possibility of a separate or distinct legal jurisdiction for Wales.

The group will seek to strengthen the relationship between the National Assembly for Wales and the legal profession in Wales. Initial work will include encouraging Assembly Members, as well as solicitors, barristers and other legal professionals in Wales, to engage with the Commission on Justice in Wales, and then consider the implications of its Report.

The Group will promote clarity, accessibility and understanding of law applicable in Wales.