

Business Committee

BC(2)25-06 (Final minutes)

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: Tuesday 3rd October 2006

Time: 9.00 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room C

Present: Jenny Randerson (Chair)
Jane Hutt, Business Minister

Jocelyn Davies, Plaid Cymru Business Manager
Kirsty Williams, Welsh Liberal Democrats Business Manager
Lisa Francis, Welsh Conservatives Business Manager

John Marek, Deputy Presiding Officer

Paul Silk, Clerk to the Assembly

Andrew George, Clerk to the Business Committee

Marion Stapleton, Assembly Business Unit
Adrian Crompton, Members' Research and Committee Service

Peter Jones, Counsel to the Assembly Parliamentary Service
Alun Jenkins, DLS (Agenda Item 4)
Marc Wyn Jones, Business Committee Secretariat

Catherine Morris, PS to the Deputy Presiding Officer

1. Apologies & announcements

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

(i) BC(2)23-06 (Final minutes) - Tuesday 19th September 2006

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

Action: Chamber Secretariat

(ii) BC(2)24-06 (draft minutes) - Tuesday 26th September 2006

2.2 The minutes were presented to the Committee in draft. As there were no comments, they would be translated before being submitted to the Committee in final draft.

Action: Chamber Secretariat

3. Matters Arising

4. Subordinate Legislation

(a) Orders for consideration

The Common Agricultural Policy Single Payment and Support Schemes (Cross Compliance) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 – **BC(2)25-06(p1)**

The Traffic Management Act 2004 (Commencement No.1) (Wales) Order 2006 – **BC(2)25-06(p2)**

The Supply of Student Support Information to Governing Bodies (Wales) Regulations 2006 – **BC(2)25-06(p3)**

The Street Works (Reinstatement) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2006 – **BC(2)25-06(p4)**

The Plant Health (Import Inspection Fees) (Wales) (No. 2) Regulations 2006 – **BC(2)25-06(p5)**

The Food (Emergency Control) (Revocation) (Wales) Regulations 2006 – **BC(2)25-06(p6)**

The National Health Service (Travelling Expenses and Remission of Charges) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2006 – **BC(2)25-06(p7)**

The Business Committee recommended the Accelerated procedure for BC(2)25-06(p1), BC(2)25-06(p3), BC(2)25-06(p5) and BC(2)25-06(p6) and recommended the Standard procedure for BC(2)25-06(p2), BC(2)25-06(p4) and BC(2)25-06(p7). (Following the meeting, the Deputy Presiding Officer determined that none of the draft Orders should be referred to a subject committee.)

4.1 The Chair noted that the Explanatory Memorandums accompanying some draft Orders considered by the Committee in this and its last meeting had said that there had been a delay in introducing the legislation in Wales. Marion Stapleton said that delays had sometimes occurred because the responsible departments had prioritised more urgent legislation work. The Chair said that she was concerned about the capacity across Government departments to deal with the volume of legislation which was anticipated for next year.

BC(2)25-06(p5)

4.3 The Chair referred to the Explanatory Memorandum, which said that the “*Regulations had been notified to the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee, via the list of forthcoming legislation on 28 September 2006*”. She said that it was unfortunate that the Committee had not been given more notice of the legislation.

BC(2)25-06(p6)

4.4 Lisa Francis noted that these Regulations had been notified to the Health and Social Services Committee, but that they would also be relevant to the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee. It was noted that it had previously been agreed that, if that was the case, such draft Orders would be referred to both Committees. Marion Stapleton said that both Committees should have been notified, and would confirm.

Action: Marion Stapleton

(b) Standing Order 26 Subordinate Legislation

The Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (Public Authorities) (Statutory Duties) Order 2006– **BC(2)25-06 (p8)**

& Report of the Local Government and Public Services Committee – BC(2)25-06(p18)

& Report of the Equality of Opportunity Committee – BC(2)25-06(p11)

& Letter from the Chair of Equality of Opportunity Committee - BC(2)25-06(p16)

The Closures Guidance (Railway Services in England and Wales) Order 2006 – **BC(2)25-06(p9)**

& Report of the Enterprise, Innovation and Networks Committee – BC(2)25-06(p17)

BC(2)25-06(p8), BC(2)25-06(p18), BC(2)25-06(p11) & BC(2)25-06(p16)

4.5 The Business Committee noted the draft Order and the associated Committee Reports and letter. It was noted that the *Equality of Opportunity Committee had reported that “while the Committee supported the principle of the introduction of specific duties on public authorities in respect of the gender equality, it felt that the legislation, as drafted, undermined the progress that had been made to date in addressing gender equality in Wales.”* The report went on to say that, on that basis, the Committee had recommended that the Assembly should reject the draft Order. Adrian Crompton said that the Chair had indicated that she wished to table an amendment to the motion to confirm the legislation in order to draw the Assembly’s attention formally to the report.

(c) Standing Order 29 Subordinate Legislation

The Specification for the Reinstatement of Openings in Highways 2nd Edition 2006 – **BC(2)25-06 (p10)**

4.6 The Committee noted this item of legislation.

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

(e) Papers for Information

5. Committees

6. Forthcoming Business

Responses to Requests

BC(2)25-06(p12)

6.1 The Committee noted the Business Minister’s responses to requests for items of business:

- It was intended to issue a written statement on job losses at MoD establishments and on the Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks' future plans for RAF St Athan.
- A debate would be scheduled on the Electoral Commission's report on the Welsh Assembly Elections.
- There was currently no intention of scheduling a statement on the numbers of students as a result of the change in the fees position. The Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills had updated the Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee on this issue at their last meeting and had undertaken to provide a further update after the provisional post -"clearing" data on entries was published.
- There was currently no intention of scheduling a statement on Ambulance Services in advance of the debate on the review of Ambulance Services, which would be scheduled for later in the year.

This Week's Business

BC(2)25-06(p13)

6.2 The Business Minister said that there were no changes to the week's business.

Business Managers' Requests

6.3 Kirsty Williams asked if a statement on the second Severn crossing could be scheduled.

6.4 Jocelyn Davies asked if statements could be scheduled on the "Valleywood" development and on the Tir Mynydd budget.

6.5 Lisa Francis supported the last request and asked if statements could be scheduled on funding the next stage of the children's hospital; on the availability of flu vaccine, and on the Government's work to encourage supermarkets to sell locally sourced produce.

Draft Business Statement - BC(2)25-06(p10)

6.6 The Committee noted the Business Minister's proposed statement about the organisation of the Assembly's business for the weeks commencing 10 October, 17 October and 24 October.

6.7 Lisa Francis noted that Jonathan Morgan had said in the previous meeting that 60 minutes might not be sufficient time for the debate on "Designed to Deliver", which had been scheduled for 18 October. The Business Minister said that, if there was not sufficient time, she would propose a motion to extend the meeting.

6.8 The Chair noted that a debate on the budget for the Assembly Parliamentary Service had been scheduled as the final item on 10 October. She said that this was the final date that on which the budget could be approved, and that there could be a risk that the item would be lost, if time was short. The Business Minister said that she would reschedule the debate to take place earlier in the meeting.

Recess Dates – BC(2)25-06(p15)

6.9 The Committee considered a paper on recess dates for Easter 2007. Jocelyn Davies said that the starting date had already been agreed in Plenary, and that, if agreement to change the date could not be reached, that would remain the default position. Business Managers said that party leaders should consider the issue and decide whether or not a change of dates was needed.

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