

Business Committee BC(2)31-06 (Final minutes)

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: Tuesday 21st November 2006

Time: 9.00 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room C

Present: Jenny Randerson (Chair)
Jane Hutt, Business Minister
Lisa Francis, Welsh Conservatives
Business Manager

Jocelyn Davies, Plaid Cymru Business
Manager

Peter Black, Welsh Liberal Democrats

John Marek, Deputy Presiding Officer
(attending in accordance with Standing
Order 13.2)

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

Leanne Hatcher, Business Committee
Secretariat

Eve Pennant-Jones, PS to the Deputy
Presiding Officer

1. Apologies & announcements

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Kirsty Williams. The Chair welcomed Peter Black who would be representing her in accordance with Standing Order 13.3.

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

(i) BC(2)29-06 (Final minutes) - Tuesday 7th November 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)30-06 (draft minutes) - Tuesday 14th November 2006

2.2 The minutes were presented to the Committee in their draft format. 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

Orders for consideration

The Fishery Products (Official Controls Charges) (Wales) Regulations 2006 – **BC(2)31-06 (p1)**

The Feed (Specified Undesirable Substances) (Wales) Regulations 2006 – **BC(2)31-06(p2)**

The Business Committee recommended the Accelerated procedure for BC(2)31-06(p1) and BC(2)31-06(p2).

(b) Standing Order 26 Subordinate Legislation

(c) Standing Order 29 Subordinate Legislation

BC(2)31-06(p3)

4.1 The Committee noted the e-mail about the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills' intention to approve a list of external qualifications.

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

(e) Papers for Information

BC(2)31-06(p7)

4.2 The Committee noted the updating paper about the handling of the draft National Assembly for Wales (Disqualification) Order 2006.

5. Committees

6. Forthcoming Business

Responses to Requests

BC(2)31-06(p4)

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

The Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks had answered an urgent question on Visteon on 14th November.

A written statement had been issued on Local Authority Food Hygiene Inspections.

An oral statement had been scheduled for 22nd November on deaths resulting from carbon monoxide poisoning.

There was currently no intention to make a statement on the Health Minister's intervention in the consultation for Powys Local Health Boards Community Services, as no intervention had taken place.

There was currently no intention to make a statement on Neurosurgery. A debate on this issue had taken place on 22nd November.

There was currently no intention to hold a debate on the effectiveness of MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements). In view of the pressure on the plenary programme the Business Minister was not inclined to schedule time for this debate.

A debate would be scheduled in the New Year on the Stern Report on climate change.

There was currently no intention to make a statement on arrangements with Westminster in relation to Orders in Council post May 2007, as the procedures and Measures were laid out in the Government of Wales Act 2006, and were currently being

replicated in the drafting of the Standing Orders by the Standing Orders Committee.

6.2 Business Managers asked if the Business Minister would reconsider the request for a statement on comments made by the Secretary of State for Wales in relation to Orders in Council and the procedures for dealing with legislation under the Government of Wales Act 2006. The Business Minister said she would consider the request.

This Week's Business

BC(2)31-06(p5)

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

Business Managers' Requests

6.4 Jocelyn Davies asked if the following items of business could be scheduled:

A debate on the Convergence Programme.

A statement on the bird flu vaccine.

6.5 Lisa Francis supported the above requests and asked if the following items of business could be scheduled:

A statement on the security of Welsh Ferry Ports against terrorist attacks.

A statement on road congestion charging.

A statement on the safety of the first Severn Bridge.

A statement on discussions that Welsh Minister's have had with Westminster, regarding intentions to reduce consumer debt in Wales.

6.6 Peter Black supported the above requests and asked if the following item of business could be scheduled:

A statement on the relocation of the Wales Screen Commission.

Draft Business Statement - BC(2)31-06(p6)

6.7 The Business Committee noted the Business Minister's proposed statement about the organisation of the Assembly business for the weeks commencing 28 November, 5 December and 12 December.

6.8 The Business Minister said that under the Executive procedure The Avian Influenza (H5N1 in Wild Birds) (Wales) Order 2006 and The Avian Influenza (H5N1 in Poultry) (Wales) Order 2006 would be scheduled for debate in Plenary on 6th December.

6.9 The Chair referred to the statement by the Secretary of State for Wales and the debate on the Queen's speech, which had been scheduled for 28th November. She said that the allocated time of 90 minutes for both items might not be sufficient and suggested that the debate on the Welsh Assembly's 7th Equality Annual Report could be re-scheduled. The Business Minister sought views from Business Managers, who were content with this proposal. The Business Minister said that she would discuss the issue with the Chair of the Equality of Opportunity Committee.

6.10 Lisa Francis asked the Business Minister about progress with her proposal for subordinate legislation under Standing Order 31. She said that as the initial proposal had been agreed, a Minister was required to lay before the Assembly a report on the feasibility of the proposal, recommending whether or not the Assembly should proceed before 4th January. Peter Black said that when preparing the report, the Minister should also consult with any relevant Assembly Committees. The Business Minister said that she would report back on progress in the Committee's next meeting.

BC(2)31-06(p8)

6.11 The Committee noted the revised periodic timetable statement.

6.12 In response to a query, the Business Minister said that there was a requirement in the Government of Wales Act 2006 for the current Assembly to make a statutory instrument setting the date of the first meeting following the 2007 elections. She said that party leaders were considering the issue and she would be in a position to report back in the Committee's next meeting.

6.13 Peter Black asked if the dates of the Shadow Commission meetings could be scheduled on the revised periodic timetable statement. The Business Minister said that she would consider this request.

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