

Business Committee

BC(2)18-06 (Final minutes)

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: **Tuesday 13th June 2006**

Time: **9.00 a.m.**

Venue: **Conference Room C**

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

Jocelyn Davies, Plaid Cymru Business Manager
Lisa Francis, Welsh Conservatives Business Manager
Peter Black, Welsh Liberal Democrats
John Marek, Deputy Presiding Officer

Paul Silk, Clerk to the Assembly

Andrew George, Clerk to the Business Committee

Marion Stapleton, Assembly Business Unit
Karin Phillips, 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

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)16-06 (Final minutes) - Tuesday 6th May 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)17-06 (draft minutes) - Tuesday 23rd May 2006

2.2 The minutes were presented to the Committee in draft. An amendment was suggested which would be incorporated before the minutes were translated and submitted to the Committee in final draft.

Action: Chamber Secretariat

3. Matters Arising

4. Subordinate Legislation

(a) Orders for consideration

The Assembly Learning Grants (European Institutions) (Wales) Regulations 2006 - BC(2)18-06 (p1)

The Education (Fees and Awards) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2006 - BC(2)18-06 (p2)

The Education (School Inspection) (Wales) Regulations 2006 - BC(2)18-06 (p3)

The Home Loss Payments (Prescribed Amounts) (Wales) Regulations 2006 - BC(2)18-06 (p4)
Recommended Procedure: Accelerated

The Local Health Boards (Establishment) (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2006 - BC(2)18-06 (p5)
Recommended Procedure: Standard

The National Health Service (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) (Wales) (Amendment) (No.2)

Regulations 2006 - BC(2)18-06 (p6) Recommended Procedure: Standard

The National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2006 - BC(2)18-06 (p7) Recommended Procedure: Accelerated

The Business Committee recommended the Standard procedure for BC(2)18-06(p3), BC(2)18-06 (p4), BC(2)18-06(p5), BC(2)18-06(p6), BC(2)18-05(p7). The Committee recommended the Accelerated procedure for BC(2)18-06(p1) and BC(2)18-06(p2). (Following the meeting, the Deputy Presiding Officer determined that none of the draft Orders should be referred to a subject committee.)

BC(2)18-06(p4)

4.1 Jocelyn Davies and Lisa Francis said their groups wanted to debate this draft Order.

BC(2)18-06(p6)

4.2 The Chair referred to the paragraph on Subject Committee consultation in the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying this draft Order, which said that “the Chair of the Health and Social Services was informed by letter about these Regulations on 23 May 2006.” The Chair said that the Subject Committee would normally be notified about legislation via the list of forthcoming legislation and asked why this had not happened on this occasion. Marion Stapleton said she would report back on this issue.

Action: Marion Stapleton

BC(2)18-06(p7)

4.3 Lisa Francis asked why stakeholders had not been consulted on this item of legislation. Marion Stapleton said that this was because the legislation introduced an increase which was made annually. Jocelyn Davies said her group wanted to debate this draft Order.

Standing Order 29 Subordinate Legislation

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

(d) Papers for Information

BC(2)18-06(p14)

4.4 The Committee noted the e-mail of notification about the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside’s intention to approve The North Western & North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee Byelaw 24. The Chair said that the Byelaw would be translated into Welsh once it had been agreed. The Deputy Presiding Officer said that it would be preferable if English and Welsh versions were available before the Byelaw was agreed.

5. Committees

6. Forthcoming Business

BC(2)18-06(p10)

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

- The Minister for Health and Social Services had responded to an urgent question on Ambulance Services in Plenary on 6 June.
- A written statement had been issued on the HE dispute and the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning would decide at an appropriate time whether or not an oral statement was necessary.
- There was no intention of scheduling a statement on appointments to Government Advisory Panels following the WDA/WTB mergers. The Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks had issued a written statement and members had the opportunity to raise the issue in the Enterprise, Innovation and Networks Committee meeting on 7 June.
- There was no intention of scheduling a statement on proposals for the Pwllheili Marina as it was a matter for Gwynedd County Council.
- There was no intention of scheduling a statement on job security at Airbus.
- A written statement had been issued on the consequences for people who have come into contact with a Gwynedd healthworker with Hepatitis C.
- There was no intention of making a statement on the Keane Report.

- The Minister said that a statement on NHS Deficits would be scheduled once the HSS Minister had provided information to the Health and Social Services Committee, detailing Local Health Boards actual and accumulating debts, which was an action point from the 8 March Health and Social Services Committee meeting.
- There was no intention of scheduling a statement on the powers to deliver free home care for the disabled as the policy could be delivered through local authorities by agreement.
- There was no intention of scheduling a debate on the use of Welsh by children outside of school as there would be an opportunity to debate this issue during the Iaith Pawb debate, which was scheduled for the end of this session.
- There was no intention of scheduling a statement on the Government's intentions for staffing the Orthopaedic Unit at Llandough Hospital.

6.2. Jocelyn Davies said that she was disappointed at this final response and asked if the Business Minister could reconsider the request.

This Week's Business

BC(2)18-06(p11)

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

Business Managers' Requests

6.4 Jocelyn Davies supported the above requests and asked if the following items of business could be scheduled:

- A statement on the Orthopaedic Unit at Llandough Hospital
- A statement clarifying the future of IGER (Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research)
- A statement on the safety of the LNG pipeline

- A statement on the reopening of the A5
- Debate(s) on the funding of home, hospice and palliative care

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

- A debate on NHS funding deficits
- A debate on the future of Community Hospitals
- A statement on the consequences for people who have come into contact with a Gwynedd healthworker with Hepatitis C.
- A statement on the Home Secretary's recent comments about the public taking greater responsibility for anti-social behaviour
- A debate on road safety
- A statement on the intervention of the Home Secretary in the sentencing of a paedophile .

6.6 Peter Black asked if the following items of business could be scheduled:

- A debate on Ambulance Services
- A statement on the numbers of dentists leaving the NHS
- A statement on ambulance response times in West Wales
- A statement on the Government's progress towards eliminating poverty

Draft Business Statement - BC(2)17-06(p18)

6.7 The Committee noted the Business Minister's proposed statement about the organisation of the

Assembly's business for the weeks commencing 20 June, 27 June and 4 July.

6.8 Jocelyn Davies asked if a debate on the Government's forward work programme could be scheduled before the summer recess.

7. Advice to Assembly on procedures

BC(2)18-06(p16)

7.1 Karin Phillips introduced a paper on the Parliamentary progress of Bills and said that the paper addressed the Committee's request for additional information about the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Bill. Peter Jones said that an issue which needed further consideration was whether or not there should be a mechanism for the Assembly, rather than only the Welsh Ministers, to be consulted on orders relating to the Assembly's functions. Lisa Francis said that this would need to be considered by the Standing Orders Committee. Business Managers noted that the Enterprise, Innovation and Networks Committee had considered the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Bill, but said that the Bill would impact on all subject committees' areas. The Chair said she would write to subject committee Chairs to suggest that they consider the Bill.

Action: Secretariat to write

8. Matters referred from plenary

9. Revisions to Standing Orders

10. Presiding Officer rulings

11. Any other business.

11.1 The Business Minister referred to the Railways Act 2005 and said she would be seeking Business Managers' views on the handling of the public consultation on the specification for the new cross country franchise. She said that Section 10(1) of the Railways Act 2005 required the Secretary of State to consult the Assembly before issuing an invitation to tender for all franchises that served Wales or before entering such a franchise agreement where no invitation to tender was issued. It was agreed that the Committee would return to this issue in its next meeting.

CHAMBER SECRETARIAT