

Business Committee BC(2)35-07 (Final minutes)

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: Tuesday 16th January 2007

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

Kirsty Williams, Welsh Liberal
Democrats Business Manager

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

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

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

(i) BC(2)33-06 (Final minutes) - Tuesday 5th December 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)34-06 (draft minutes) - Tuesday 12th December 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

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3. Matters Arising

BC(2)34-06 (draft minutes)

3.1 Paragraph 7.3 The Business Minister reported back on progress in relation to setting a date for the first Plenary meeting following the 2007 elections. She said that the First Minister had consulted with Party Leaders and it had been proposed that the first meeting would be held on 9th May 2007. She said that the First Minister had written to the Presiding Officer to consult him on the proposed date and that the statutory instrument to set the date of the first meeting would be brought forward in due course.

4. Subordinate Legislation

Orders for consideration

The Children's Commissioner for Wales (Amendment) Regulations 2007 – **BC(2)35-07(p1)**

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Uncultivated Land and Semi-natural Areas) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2007– **BC(2)35-07(p2)**

The Health Act 2006 (Commencement No. 1 and Transitional Provisions) (Wales) Order 2007– **BC(2)35-07(p3)**

The Highways Act 1980 (Gating Orders) (Wales) Regulations 2007– **BC(2)35-07(p4)**

*& Report of the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee - **BC(2)35-07(p5)***

The Tax Credits (Approval of Child Care Providers) (Wales) Scheme 2007– **BC(2)35-07(p6)**

The Commissioner for Older People in Wales (Appointment) Regulations 2007– **BC(2)35-07(p7)**

Commissioner for Older People in Wales Regulations 2007 – **BC(2)35-07(p8)**

*& Report of the Health and Social Services Committee - **BC(2)35-07(p16)***

The Official Controls (Animals, Feed and Food) (Wales) Regulations 2007 – **BC(2)35-07**

(p9)

The Smoke-free Premises etc. (Wales) Regulations 2007 – **BC(2)35-07(p10)**

& Report of the Local Government and Public Services Committee - BC(2)35-07(p11)

The Business Committee recommended the Accelerated procedure for BC(2)35-07 (p1) and the Standard procedure for BC(2)35-07(p2) to BC(2)35-07(p10).

BC(2)35-07(p2)

4.1 The Chair referred to the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying this draft Order, which said that *"No consultation was undertaken on this matter, as the proposed changes will bring the legislation in Wales in line with European legislation."* The Chair noted that the Government normally undertook consultation on legislation arising from European Directives. The Business Minister gave an assurance that this would continue to be their policy.

BC(2)35-07(p6)

4.2 The Chair noted that the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying this draft Order said that there had been a two year delay in introducing the legislation in Wales. The Business Minister said that the legislation was being introduced later in Wales than in England because of a difference in policy.

BC(2)35-07(p10)

4.3 In response to a query, Marion Stapleton said that this draft Order was intended to be approved by Plenary on 30th January 2007 to allow sufficient time for distribution of guidance and signage to businesses before the legislation came into force. She said that the draft Order contained references to penalties which would be included in legislation being made by the Secretary of State for Health and which would apply in England and

Wales. The Committee noted that, if the approval of the legislation by the UK Parliament was delayed, this could have an effect on the timescale for commencement of the legislation in Wales.

4.4 Jocelyn Davies referred to the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying this draft Order, which said that *"Individual businesses will be required to have signage in place in their premises and smoke-free vehicles. Signs will be provided free of charge by the Welsh Assembly Government."* She said that it was not clear in the draft Order that signs would be provided to businesses free of charge by the Welsh Assembly Government. Marion Stapleton said she would seek clarification and report back on this issue.

(b) Standing Order 26 Subordinate Legislation

(c) Standing Order 29 Subordinate Legislation

The Local Health Board Dental Services Directions 2007 – **BC(2)35-07(p12)**

& Report of the Health and Social Services Committee - BC(2)35-07(p18)

4.5 The Committee noted the Directions.

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

(e) Papers for Information

5. Committees

6. Forthcoming Business

Responses to Requests

BC(2)35-07(p13)

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

A written statement had been issued on the safety at the LNG terminal at Milford Haven.

A written statement had been issued on Airbus.

There was currently no intention to make a statement on the charging for bus transport at Welsh-medium schools, as this was a matter for local authorities.

A written statement had been issued on the future of Post Offices and an oral statement would be scheduled in the New Year.

This Week's Business

BC(2)35-07(p14)

6.2 The Business Minister said that the First Minister intended to make an oral statement in Plenary on Wednesday, on the Defence Training Academy. She said that this would be confirmed in due course.

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

Business Managers' Requests

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

A statement on British Citizens who had been arrested and convicted abroad and returned to Britain to work in public sector areas in Wales.

6.5 Kirsty Williams supported the above request and asked if the following item of business could be scheduled:

A statement on Accident and Emergency waiting times.

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

A statement on the levels of hygiene education in Welsh hospitals.

A statement on the literacy and numeracy levels of secondary school pupils across Wales.

A statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's hospitality budget for the FA Cup final at the Millennium Stadium last year.

Draft Business Statement - BC(2)35-07(p15)

6.7 The Business Committee noted the Business Minister's proposed statement about the organisation of Assembly business for the weeks commencing 23rd January, 30th January and 6th February.

7. Advice to Assembly on procedures

7.1 The Chair referred to the national ballot by PCS union members that could lead to a day of industrial action on the 31st January. The Chair suggested that the potential impact on the Plenary and Committee meetings scheduled for that day could be considered at the Committee's next meeting.

8. Matters referred from plenary

9. Revisions to Standing Orders

BC(2)35-07(p17)

9.1 The Committee agreed the paper on proposed revisions to Standing Order 18.

9.2 Marion Stapleton said it was agreed that a slot would be found to discuss the proposed revisions in Plenary.

10. Presiding Officer rulings

11. Any other business.

CHAMBER SECRETARIAT