



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for Health, Social Services and
Public Safety

OFFICIAL REPORT (Hansard)

Human Transplantation Bill:
Committee Report

3 February 2016

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

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Members present for all or part of the proceedings:

Ms Maeve McLaughlin (Chairperson)
Mr Thomas Buchanan
Mrs Pam Cameron
Mr Kieran McCarthy
Ms Rosaleen McCorley
Mr Daithí McKay
Mr Fearghal McKinney

The Chairperson (Ms Maeve McLaughlin): We are about to agree the report on the Committee Stage of the Human Transplantation Bill. I advise you that we have formally considered a final draft of the Committee report, and agreement will be sought on each section. A copy of the report was emailed to members on Monday and is included in the tabled pack for today's meeting.

First, I refer members to the title page, the table of contents and the Committee powers and membership section, which are on pages 3 to 5 in your tabled pack, and to put the Question formally that the title page, the table of contents and the Committee powers and membership stand part of the report. Are members in agreement?

Members indicated assent.

The Chairperson (Ms Maeve McLaughlin): I refer members to the "Introduction" section, which is on pages 8 and 9, and put the Question: are members content that the introduction, in paragraphs 1 to 9, stand part of the report?

Members indicated assent.

The Chairperson (Ms Maeve McLaughlin): I refer members to the "Consideration of the Bill" section in pages 10 to 28 and put the Question: are members content that the "Consideration of the Bill" section in paragraphs 10 to 83 stand part of the report?

Members indicated assent.

The Chairperson (Ms Maeve McLaughlin): I refer members to the clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill section, which is on pages 29 to 32. Are members content that the clause-by-clause consideration section in paragraphs 84 to 108 stand part of the report?

Members indicated assent.

The Chairperson (Ms Maeve McLaughlin): I also refer members to the executive summary, which is on pages 6 and 7 of the tabled pack, and the three amended versions: one with amendments suggested by Mrs Dobson, one with further amendments suggested by Mr Easton, and one with further amendments suggested by me. Copies of the amended versions have also been supplied to members.

I advise members that, procedurally, I am required to put the Question on the amended version first, so that, if it is agreed, no further Questions will be put on the executive summary. The first amended version is my amended version, so, I put the Question: are members content that the executive summary, as amended by —

Mr McCarthy: I am sorry; I have not had time to read all three amended versions. What are the specific differences between them? I want to agree them if I can, but I do not want to be snookered into agreeing something that I do not agree with.

The Chairperson (Ms Maeve McLaughlin): OK. I will start with my version; maybe that would be more appropriate. I am looking to the Clerk to keep me right on this. The additional comment is in paragraph 2 and is simply the last line:

"A view was also expressed that a robust evidence base did not exist to demonstrate a positive or negative impact of deemed consent."

It is merely a reflection of some of the evidence that we sought.

Mr Easton's amendment is at the end of paragraph 3:

"However, other Members felt that these amendments did not address the fundamental concerns around deemed consent, as expressed by local clinicians and others."

Mrs Dobson's amendment — I am just looking to be technically correct here — is in paragraph 3:

"These Members were of the view that the amendments would serve as a 'double lock' in that the retrieval of organs could not take place unless the family or a person in a qualifying relationship had confirmed that they had no objections."

It is very clear and straightforward: it is a reflection of people's observations.

Mr McCarthy: That is all right.

Mr McKinney: Just explain the process again. Do all these go in, or are we voting on one of them?

The Chairperson (Ms Maeve McLaughlin): Mine goes first. It has been added to the amendments from Mr Easton and Mrs Dobson. It contains the three amendments.

Mrs Cameron: For clarification, the draft that Marie did was amended by Jo-Anne. That amended version was amended by Alex, which, in turn, was amended by Maeve. Maeve's final version includes everybody's amendments.

Mr McKinney: I am sorry; I get it now. It includes everybody's amendments.

The Chairperson (Ms Maeve McLaughlin): It is a comprehensive amendment.

Mr McKinney: OK, that is understood. It took me a minute. You were right, Kieran. We got there in the end. *[Laughter.]*

The Chairperson (Ms Maeve McLaughlin): Well done. Are members content that the executive summary as amended by me stand part of the report?

Members indicated assent.

The Chairperson (Ms Maeve McLaughlin): I refer members to the appendices at page 33. Are members content that the appendices stand part of the report?

Members indicated assent.

The Chairperson (Ms Maeve McLaughlin): I seek agreement that the minutes of today's meeting are approved by me so that they can be included as part of this report and the other two Bill reports that we are considering today. I seek agreement for the Committee staff to make any necessary formatting changes in advance of electronic publication.

Members indicated assent.

The Chairperson (Ms Maeve McLaughlin): I ask that the Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety is content for the report on the Human Transplantation Bill to be published and seek agreement to issue an electronic copy of the report to all the organisations and individuals that provided evidence to the Committee and to the Health Department. Are members in agreement with that?

Members indicated assent.