



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for the Economy

OFFICIAL REPORT (Hansard)

Parental Bereavement (Leave and Pay) Bill:
Consideration of Draft Report

10 November 2021

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Members present for all or part of the proceedings:

Dr Caoimhe Archibald (Chairperson)
Mr Matthew O'Toole (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Keith Buchanan
Mr Stewart Dickson
Mr Stephen Dunne
Mr Mike Nesbitt
Mr John O'Dowd
Mr Peter Weir

The Chairperson (Dr Archibald): I remind members that the title page, the table of contents, "Committee powers" and "Membership" were all agreed at Monday's meeting. We will move on to the executive summary, which is paragraphs 1 to 28 at pages 33 to 38 of our pack. There is also the introduction and "Committee approach" at paragraphs 29 to 50 at pages 39 to 42 of our pack. Are members broadly content with those sections?

Members indicated assent.

The Chairperson (Dr Archibald): Peter, I wanted to ask you about the executive summary and recommendations, when we get to that. We discussed the leave and pay issue and workers and employees. Can we refer in some way to that being considered as part of the overall employment review that they are doing in terms of non-employees having the same protections as workers?

The Committee Clerk: Yes.

The Chairperson (Dr Archibald): It is referred to in other ways.

The Committee Clerk: We can make that more specific.

The Chairperson (Dr Archibald): Have members any other comments on that? Are members are content with those sections?

Members indicated assent.

The Chairperson (Dr Archibald): We move on to paragraphs 51 to 210, which concern considerations of the Bill's provisions, the responses to the call for evidence, the comments and the specifics of the clauses.

Are members are content with those sections of the Bill?

Members indicated assent.

The Chairperson (Dr Archibald): We move on to other issues raised in the consideration of the Bill. Members will remember the evidence from the Coalition for Bereaved Workers, for example, and looking at the broader issues about bereavement.

Peter, is the day one/week one issue reflected?

The Committee Clerk: It is reflected in a number of places, Chair. Although we referenced day one and the discussion in the survey and the call for evidence was largely about day one, we had a discussion with the Bill Clerks about why a week-one right is more practical than a day-one right and how it allows the Bill to proceed with less amendment. We have reflected all that in the narrative on clause-by-clause consideration and the reason for amendments.

The Chairperson (Dr Archibald): Are members content with the paragraphs on consideration of the Bill?

Members indicated assent.

The Chairperson (Dr Archibald): Are members content with the sections on clause-by-clause scrutiny of the Bill?

Mr Dickson: That reflects our meeting on Monday.

The Chairperson (Dr Archibald): Yes.

Members indicated assent.

The Chairperson (Dr Archibald): The list of appendices is fairly straightforward. Are members happy with that?

Members indicated assent.

The Chairperson (Dr Archibald): We agreed that the Department's latest correspondence would be added in.

The Committee Clerk: All correspondence, Hansards and Minutes will go in. Pretty much everything that relates to the Bill will be there.

Members indicated assent.

The Chairperson (Dr Archibald): OK. That is it.