



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for Communities

OFFICIAL REPORT (Hansard)

Private Tenancies Bill: Committee Report

12 January 2022

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

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Members present for all or part of the proceedings:

Ms Paula Bradley (Chairperson)
Ms Kellie Armstrong (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Andy Allen
Mr Mark Durkan
Ms Ciara Ferguson
Mr Paul Frew
Miss Aisling Reilly

The Deputy Chairperson (Ms Armstrong): I remind members that there is a requirement to declare any interests that they may have on the item under discussion today. Does anyone wish to declare any interests?

Mr Allen: Yes, Chair: I am a private-sector landlord.

Mr Frew: I declare an interest as the owner of a rented property.

The Deputy Chairperson (Ms Armstrong): Thank you.

The sole purpose of this meeting is to consider our draft report on the Private Tenancies Bill. Members have been provided with a copy of the draft report. We are focusing on the text of the report only, as the team will address any formatting issues once the text is agreed. I will ask for comments and agreement on each section of the report.

We will start with "Powers and Membership". Members have a copy of the document, and I hope that you have all had an opportunity to read it. Do members have any comments, or are they content with this section as drafted? If you are content, say it loudly so that I can hear you.

Members indicated assent.

The Deputy Chairperson (Ms Armstrong): There we go. All content. Thank you so much. This could be easy.

We will move on to the "Executive Summary". Do members have any comments, or are they content with the section as drafted?

Members indicated assent.

The Deputy Chairperson (Ms Armstrong): Thank you very much. We will move on to the "Introduction". Do members have any comments, or are they content with the section as drafted?

Members indicated assent.

The Deputy Chairperson (Ms Armstrong): Members, I am asking you now about "Committee Recommendations and Consideration of Wider Issues". Do members have any comments, or are they content with this section as drafted? All content?

Members indicated assent.

The Deputy Chairperson (Ms Armstrong): Thank you very much. I will now ask members about "Consideration of the Bill". Do members have any comments, or are they content with this section as drafted?

Members indicated assent.

The Deputy Chairperson (Ms Armstrong): I will now move on to "Clause by Clause Scrutiny of the Bill". Do members have any comments, or are they content with this section?

The Committee Clerk: Sorry. Excuse me, Deputy Chairperson: "Committee Deliberations on the Bill" is the next section.

The Deputy Chairperson (Ms Armstrong): Apologies. I am jumping ahead, folks. I will just go back to "Committee Deliberations on the Bill". Bear with me; I am moving ahead of myself. On "Committee Deliberations on the Bill", do members have any comments, or are they content with this section as drafted?

Members indicated assent.

The Deputy Chairperson (Ms Armstrong): Thank you very much. We will now move on to "Clause by Clause Scrutiny of the Bill". Do members have any comments, or are they content with this section as drafted?

Members indicated assent.

The Deputy Chairperson (Ms Armstrong): Thank you very much, folks. We will now move on to the appendices. Do members have any comments, or are they content with this section as drafted?

Members indicated assent.

The Deputy Chairperson (Ms Armstrong): Are members content that the minutes from today's meeting be included in the report?

Members indicated assent.

The Deputy Chairperson (Ms Armstrong): No changes have been made to any of the content. Are members content to agree that the report is final, pending the tidying up of formatting issues or any minor spelling or grammatical errors that are noticed at the formatting check only and, once those are done, that the report be printed?

Members indicated assent.

The Deputy Chairperson (Ms Armstrong): Members, this concludes the Committee Stage of the Private Tenancies Bill. I thank you all for your in-depth scrutiny of the Bill and put on record our thanks to all who made submissions and gave oral evidence. How many did we have? My goodness. I also thank our Clerks for their hard work and for getting the report to us so quickly after yesterday's meeting. I thank the departmental officials and the Assembly Bill Office officials for their hard work in helping us through the Bill.

We look forward to the debate at Consideration Stage. Yay! That is another Bill moved on. Thank you, members.