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Assembly Business

Notice of First Meeting

The Clerk to the Assembly: Please be seated. In accordance with Standing Order 3(1)(a), I shall now read the notice sent under Standing Order 2(2) convening this meeting of the Assembly.

In accordance with Standing Order 2(1), I hereby give notice that the Assembly will meet, as required by section 31(4) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, in Parliament Buildings at 4.00 pm on Monday 13 March 2017.

Please stand for the Speaker.

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

Undertaking and Roll of Membership

Mr Speaker: Please take your seats. Before we proceed with today's business, I offer my congratulations to all of you following the election. As well as welcoming back former Members, I extend a particular welcome to those who are present in the Chamber for the first time. I would also like to put on record our appreciation to colleagues from all sides of the Chamber who either decided not to return or were not re-elected. We thank them for their service.

Item 2 on the Order Paper is the signing of the undertaking and the Roll of Membership. Standing Order 3(7) says that a Member shall take his or her seat by giving the undertaking set out in section 40A(1) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and then signing the Roll of Membership.

As you will not have taken your seats until I have had an opportunity to check the undertaking and the Roll, Members will not be able to participate in Assembly proceedings or be entitled to the privileges of office. This means that I cannot take any points of order during this process. Members can always raise procedural matters of concern with me outside the Chamber or seek advice from the Business Office.

I will now explain the procedures for giving the undertaking and signing the Roll of Membership. I will invite Members to come forward in their party groups. I will call the parties in alphabetical order. I will then call the independent Member. When each party name is called, I will ask the members of the party to proceed through the Aye Lobby on my right. Members should then come forward to the first table to give the undertaking.

In accordance with Standing Order 3(7), Members must give the undertaking before signing the Assembly's Roll of Membership. Members will give the undertaking by printing their name, entering the date and signing the page provided, on which the undertaking has been printed. The giving of the undertaking shall be supervised by Assembly officials. Any Member who does not give the undertaking during this item of business may do so at a later date by appointment through the Speaker's Office. A Member may not sign the Assembly's Roll of Membership unless he or she has given the undertaking in accordance with this procedure. My decision as to whether a Member has properly given the undertaking shall be final. The signed undertaking page will be kept as the official record of Members having given the undertaking.

Members should then move to the second table and sign one of the Roll pages. Again, Members should enter today's date and print and sign their name, but, for the Roll, they must also enter a designation of identity as "Nationalist", "Unionist" or "Other". Members should note that Standing Order 3(12) provides that a Member who does not enter a designation of identity in one of those terms will be deemed to be designated "Other".

The process of giving the undertaking and signing the Roll may take some time. I, therefore, ask Members for their patience during the procedure.

Before we proceed, Members might find it helpful if the undertaking is read into the record:
To undertake:

to support the rule of law unequivocally in word and deed and to support all efforts to uphold it;

to work collectively with the other members of the Assembly to achieve a society free of paramilitarism;

to challenge all paramilitary activity and associated criminality;

to call for, and to work together with the other members of the Assembly to achieve, the disbandment of all paramilitary organisations and their structures;

to challenge paramilitary attempts to control communities;

to support those who are determined to make the transition away from paramilitarism;

to accept no authority, direction or control on my political activities other than my democratic mandate alongside my own personal and party judgment.

(Mr Speaker gave the undertaking and signed the Roll of Membership)

Mr Speaker: Members, we shall now proceed. I invite members of the Alliance Party to come forward to give the undertaking and sign the Roll of Membership. The following Members gave the undertaking and signed the Roll of Membership:

Ms Kellie Armstrong     United Community
Ms Paula Bradshaw     United Community
Mr Stewart Dickson     United Community
Dr Stephen Farry     United Community
Mr David Ford     United Community
Mrs Naomi Long     United Community
Mr Trevor Lunn     United Community
Mr Chris Lyttle     United Community

Mr Speaker: I invite members of the Democratic Unionist Party to come forward to give the undertaking and sign the Roll of Membership. The following Members gave the undertaking and signed the Roll of Membership:

Mr Maurice Bradley     Unionist
Ms Paula Bradley     Unionist
Mr Keith Buchanan     Unionist
Mr Thomas Buchanan     Unionist
Mr Jonathan Buckley     Unionist
Ms Joanne Bunting     Unionist
Mrs Pam Cameron     Unionist
Mr Gordon Dunne     Unionist
Mr Alex Easton     Unionist
Mrs Arlene Foster     Unionist
Mr Paul Frew     Unionist
Mr Paul Girvan     Unionist
Mr Paul Givan     Unionist
Mr Simon Hamilton     Unionist
Mr David Hilditch     Unionist
Mr William Humphrey     Unionist
Mr William Irwin     Unionist
Ms Carla Lockhart     Unionist
Mr Gordon Lyons     Unionist
Miss Michelle McIlveen     Unionist
Mr Gary Middleton     Unionist
Mr Edwin Poots     Unionist
Mr George Robinson     Unionist
Mr Christopher Stalford     Unionist
Mr Mervyn Storey     Unionist
Mr Peter Weir     Unionist
Mr Jim Wells     Unionist
Mr Jim Wells     Unionist
Mr Speaker: I invite members of the Green Party to come forward to give the undertaking and sign the Roll of Membership. The following Members gave the undertaking and signed the Roll of Membership:

Mr Steven Agnew     European
Ms Clare Bailey     Feminist

Mr Speaker: I invite the member of the People Before Profit Alliance to come forward.

The following Member gave the undertaking and signed the Roll of Membership:

Mr Gerry Carroll     Socialist

Mr Speaker: I invite the members of Sinn Féin to come forward to give the undertaking and sign the Roll of Membership. The following Members gave the undertaking and signed the Roll of Membership:

Ms Caomhí Archibald     Nationalist
Mr Cathal Boylan     Nationalist
Ms Michaela Boyle     Nationalist
Ms Linda Dillon     Nationalist
Ms Jemma Dolan     Nationalist
Ms Sinéad Ennis     Nationalist
Ms Megan Fearon     Nationalist
Ms Órlaithí Flynn     Nationalist
Ms Michelle Gildernew     Nationalist
Mr Chris Hazzard     Nationalist
Mr Declan Kearney     Nationalist
Mr Gerry Kelly     Nationalist
Mr Seán Lynch     Nationalist
Mr Declan McAleer     Nationalist
Ms Elisha McCallion     Nationalist
Mr Fra McCann     Nationalist
Mr Raymond McCartney     Nationalist
Mr Barry McElduff     Nationalist
Mr Philip McGuigan     Nationalist
Mr Alex Maskey     Nationalist
Mr Ian Milne     Nationalist
Mr Conor Murphy     Nationalist
Ms Carál Ni Chuilín     Nationalist
Mr Máirtín Ó Muilleoir     Nationalist
Mr John O’Dowd     Nationalist
Mrs Michelle O’Neill     Nationalist
Mr Pat Sheehan     Nationalist

Mr Speaker: I invite the members of the Social Democratic and Labour Party to come forward to give the undertaking and sign the Roll of Membership. The following Members gave the undertaking and signed the Roll of Membership:

Ms Sinéad Bradley     Nationalist
Mr Pat Catney     Nationalist
Mr John Dallat     Nationalist
Mr Mark Durkan     Nationalist
Mr Colum Eastwood     Nationalist
Ms Claire Hanna     Nationalist
Mrs Dolores Kelly     Nationalist
Ms Nichola Mallon     Nationalist
Mr Daniel McCrossan     Nationalist
Mr Patsy McGlone     Nationalist
Mr Colin McGrath     Nationalist
Mr Justin McNulty     Nationalist

Mr Speaker: I invite the member of Traditional Unionist Voice to come forward to give the undertaking and sign the Roll of Membership. The following Member gave the undertaking and signed the Roll of Membership:

Mr Jim Allister     Unionist
Mr Speaker: I invite members of the Ulster Unionist Party to come forward to give the undertaking and sign the Roll of Membership. The following Members gave the undertaking and signed the Roll of Membership:

Mr Steve Aiken Unionist
Mr Andy Allen Unionist
Mrs Rosemary Barton Unionist
Mr Doug Beattie Unionist
Mr Roy Beggs Unionist
Mr Alan Chambers Unionist
Mr Mike Nesbitt Unionist
Mr John Stewart Unionist
Mr Robin Swann Unionist

Mr Speaker: I invite Ms Claire Sugden to come forward to give the undertaking and sign the Roll of Membership.

The following Member gave the undertaking and signed the Roll of Membership:

Ms Claire Sugden Unionist

Mr Speaker: Finally, I invite any Member present who has not already done so to come forward to give the undertaking and sign the Roll of Membership.

I thank Members for their cooperation and patience during the giving of the undertaking and the signing of the Roll of Membership. Any Member who has not been able to do that today may do so at a later date by appointment through the Speaker's office. Standing Order 3(6) states that my decision on whether a Member has taken his or her seat is final. I can make that decision only after examining all the undertakings and entries on the Roll. After the Assembly is adjourned and I have conducted my checks, in accordance with Standing Order 3(14), the Clerk will draw up a list of the party affiliations of Members who have taken their seat. The list will be communicated to Members via an all-party notice, a copy of which will be placed in Members' pigeonholes. I encourage you to ensure that your affiliation is entered correctly.

Having consulted the Whips and the representatives of the smaller parties, I can advise that the election of Speaker will take place as the first business at the next sitting.

Adjourned at 4.46 pm.
Suggested amendments or corrections that arrive no later than two weeks after the publication of each report will be considered by the Editor of Debates.

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