

Final Report of the General Assembly Business Committee

1. The General Assembly Business Committee met on Friday afternoon 24th June 2022 and resolved to circulate this Final Report to the General Assembly well in advance of it being considered by the Assembly, as the final item on business on Saturday afternoon. Any additional matters which arise prior to that debate will be reported verbally to the House.
2. Members of Assembly will be aware of the number of interim reports on significant matters which have come before this 2022 General Assembly. These include, the republication of the Code, the issue of decision making and dissent, and two issues being considered by the Doctrine Committee, to name but a few. There is a real concern that the current envisaged timing for the 2023 Assembly, opening on Wednesday night with business being conducted from Thursday morning to Saturday afternoon, may simply not be sufficient to deal with the volume of significant business requiring to be dealt with. Therefore Resolution 28 has been licensed and is tabled as a possible way forward, and to test the mind of the Assembly.
3. Related to this, but in many ways a separate matter, the Business Committee agreed to license a Notice of Motion for consideration at this 2022 Assembly, to enable the 2023 Assembly to decide if it wished to make any changes to the opening of the Assembly, with related 'knock-on changes'. This Notice of Motion is tabled as Resolution 27, again to test the mind of the Assembly. It should be stressed that if this notice of motion is received by this 2022 Assembly, it only means that the issue will be debated in 2023 and the earliest any changes (if agreed that year) could take effect would be in 2024.

Final Report of the General Assembly Business Committee - Draft Resolutions

26. That the Clerk be given authority to finalise and make corrections to the Minutes as required.
27. That the General Assembly receive Notice of Motion to enable proposals for changes to the opening of the General Assembly, and related 'knock-on changes' to be discussed at the 2023 General Assembly; and instruct the General Council, following recommendations from the General Assembly Business Committee, to report to the 2023 General Assembly, presenting options for that Assembly's consideration.
28. That the next General Assembly be held in Belfast on Wednesday 21st June 2023, or on another suitable date that month as agreed by the General Council, on the recommendation of the General Assembly Business Committee.
29. That the Final Report of the General Assembly Business Committee be received.

Roy Mackay, Convener

Trevor Gribben, Clerk of Assembly