

**NEW NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY**

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WHIPS' MEETING**

**THURSDAY 2 JULY 1998 AT 10.00 AM**

**IN ROOM B4.20, BLOCK B, CASTLE BUILDINGS**

**Present:** Lord Alderdice (Initial Presiding Officer)  
Mr D Ervine  
Mr D Ford  
Mr A Maskey  
Mr M Morrow  
Mr E McGrady MP  
Prof M McWilliams  
Mr C Wilson  
Mr J Wilson

**In Attendance:** Mr N Carson  
Miss A Moore

1. **MEETINGS**

In order to ensure minutes of meetings are distributed as soon as possible Whips agreed to provide fax (preferably secure fax) and telephone contact numbers to the Deputy Clerk.

Mr C Wilson asked that it be recorded that he trusted the SDLP and UUP would not make arrangements regarding the New Assembly outside formal meetings.

2. **STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE**

**Agreed:** - Party nominations for representatives to fill seats on the Standing Orders Committee to be given to the Deputy Clerk by 3 July.

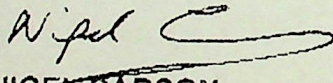
- The first meeting will be held on Monday, 6 July in Room B4.20 (Committee Room 2), Block B, Castle Buildings at 11.00 am, nominees will be informed by post but in the meantime Party Whips will inform their nominees of the details.
- It was thought that Standing Orders would require about 2 meetings a week at least until the end of July.
- It is for the Committee itself to decide on how independent Members are represented.
- The Deputy Clerk will have available copies of Standing Orders from a selection of other Parliamentary bodies by way of briefing material to the Members of the Committee.
- Minutes and other related material to be circulated to Members of the Committee and, for information, to Party Whips, Presiding Officer and Deputy Presiding Officer.
- A briefing note will be prepared for the Committee suggesting they use the Initial Standing Orders as a starting point and suggesting areas to be looked at.
- The Deputy Clerk will conduct the election of a Chairperson.

The Initial presiding Officer will endeavour to be in the building during the time of the first meeting in case he may be of some assistance.

3. COMMITTEE TO ADVISE THE PRESIDING OFFICER

Mr C Wilson asked that his concern be recorded that there should be an early meeting and if possible the Committee should be properly constituted before it met.

- Agreed:** - The Whips' Committee would form the backbone of the Committee to Advise the Presiding Officer but could have 1 additional member added from the four largest parties.
- If a Member cannot attend a substitute would be acceptable.
  - The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 8 July in Room B4.20 (Committee Room 2), Block B, Castle Buildings at 10.00 am including a visit to Parliament Buildings.

  
**NIGEL CARSON**  
2 July 1998