Formal Minutes

Wednesday 18 November 2009

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair
Mr John Grogan
Stephen Pound
Mrs Iris Robinson
David Simpson

Television Broadcasting in Northern Ireland

Mr Richard Williams, Chief Executive, and Mr Rick Hill, Chairman, Northern Ireland Screen; Mr Trevor Birney, Managing Director, Below the Radar; and Mr Paul Connolly, Group Managing Director, Independent News and Media Northern Ireland, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 25 November at 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday 25 November 2009

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair
Rosie Cooper
Christopher Fraser
Mr John Grogan
Lady Hermon
Kate Hoey
Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Stephen Pound
Mrs Iris Robinson
David Simpson

1. Future Programme

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into Forensic Science Services in Northern Ireland.

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into Progress towards devolution in Northern Ireland during the 2005 Parliament.

Resolved, That the Committee visit Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland in January 2010 in connection with its inquiry into Progress towards devolution in Northern Ireland during the 2005 Parliament, and that the Chairman seek the approval of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the visit.
2. Television Broadcasting in Northern Ireland

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to television broadcasting in Northern Ireland be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

   Memorandum from Below the Radar (RB 30)

   Memorandum from UTV (RB 31)

3. The Omagh bombing

Ordered, That written evidence relating to the Omagh bombing submitted by Mr Kevin Fulton (OB 09) be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

4. Northern Ireland Office: Winter Supplementary Estimate

Ordered, That a memorandum relating to its Winter Supplementary Estimate submitted by the Northern Ireland Office be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

5. Specialist adviser

Resolved, That Mr David Watkins be appointed a Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in matters relating to policing and criminal justice.

6. Television Broadcasting in Northern Ireland

Resolved, That the Committee request further memoranda from BBC Northern Ireland, UTV, Channel 4 and Five in relation to its inquiry into Television Broadcasting in Northern Ireland.

7. The work of the Committee in 2008-09

Draft Report (The work of the Committee in 2008-09), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to: the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the First Report of the Committee, HC 90.

8. Consultative Group on the Past

This matter was discussed.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 2 December at 2.30 p.m.]

Wednesday 2 December 2009
Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Rosie Cooper                      Mr Denis Murphy
Christopher Fraser                Stephen Pound
Lady Hermon                       David Simpson

1. Future Programme

This matter was discussed.

2. Work of the Committee in 2008-09

Ordered, That a memorandum submitted by the Northern Ireland Office relating to its 2009 Departmental Report be added to the list of Appendices to be published in the Committee’s Report on the work of the Committee 2008-09.

3. Television Broadcasting in Northern Ireland

This matter was discussed.

4. Consultative Group on the Past

The Committee discussed informally the Chairman’s draft Report.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 9 December at 2.30 p.m.]

Wednesday 9 December 2009

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Christopher Fraser              Mr Denis Murphy
Lady Hermon                     Stephen Pound
Kate Hoey                       Mrs Iris Robinson
Dr Alasdair McDonnell

1. Future Programme

This matter was discussed.

2. Television Broadcasting in Northern Ireland
Ordered, That written evidence submitted by ITV relating to Television Broadcasting in Northern Ireland be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. Northern Ireland Office: Winter Supplementary Estimate

Ordered, That a memorandum relating to its Winter Supplementary Estimates submitted by the Northern Ireland Office be added to the list of Appendices to be printed in the work of the Committee 2008-09 Report.

4. Consultative Group on the Past

Draft Report (The Report of the Consultative Group on the Past in Northern Ireland), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to: the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Second Report of the Committee, HC 171.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 6 January 2010 at 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday 6 January 2010

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Mr John Grogan           Kate Hoey
Mr Stephen Hepburn       Stephen Pound

1. Future Programme

This matter was discussed.

2. Forensic Science Service of Northern Ireland

This matter was discussed.

3. The Omagh bombing

This matter was discussed.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 13 January at 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday 13 January 2010

Members present:
1. Future Programme

This matter was discussed.

2. Television Broadcasting in Northern Ireland

The Committee discussed informally the Chairman’s draft report.

3. A Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland

The Committee discussed informally the Chairman’s draft report.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 20 January at 2 p.m.]

Wednesday 20 January 2010

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Mr Stephen Hepburn  Mr Denis Murphy
Lady Hermon  Stephen Pound
Kate Hoey  David Simpson

1. Television Broadcasting in Northern Ireland

Draft Report (Television Broadcasting in Northern Ireland), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to: the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Third Report of the Committee, HC 237.

2. A Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland

The Committee discussed informally the Chairman’s draft report.

3. Forensic Science Service Northern Ireland
Mr Stan Brown, Mr Peter Connon and Ms Clare Dornan, Forensic Science Northern Ireland, and Mr Brian Grzymek, Northern Ireland Office, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 25 January at 11 a.m.]

Monday 25 – Tuesday 26 January

The Chairman, Rosie Cooper, Christopher Fraser, Mr John Grogan, Mr Stephen Hepburn, Lady Hermon, Mr Denis Murphy, Stephen Pound and David Simpson visited Belfast in connection with the Committee’s inquiry into Progress towards devolution in Northern Ireland during the 2005 Parliament, in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 25 November 2009.

Monday 25 January 2010

MORNING SITTING

The Committee met at Parliament Buildings, Stormont, Northern Ireland

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Rosie Cooper
Mr John Grogan
Mr Stephen Hepburn
Lady Hermon

Mr Denis Murphy
Stephen Pound
David Simpson

1. Progress towards devolution in Northern Ireland during the 2005 Parliament

Mr Al Hutchinson, Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland, and Mr Barry Gilligan, Chairman, Mr Adrian Donaldson, Chief Executive, and Mr Brian Rea, Northern Ireland Policing Board, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 25 January at 2 p.m.]

Monday 25 January 2010

AFTERNOON SITTING

The Committee met at Parliament Buildings, Stormont, Northern Ireland

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair
1. Progress towards devolution in Northern Ireland during the 2005 Parliament

Mr David Lavery, Director, Northern Ireland Court Service, Mr Jim Scholes, Acting Director, Northern Ireland Public Prosecution Service, and Dr Michael Maguire, Chief Inspector, and Mr Brendan McGuigan, Deputy Chief Inspector, Criminal Justice Inspectorate Northern Ireland; and Mr Matt Baggott CBE, Chief Constable, Judith Gillespie, Deputy Chief Constable, and Mr Drew Harris, Assistant Chief Constable, Police Service of Northern Ireland, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 26 January at 9 a.m.

Tuesday 26 January 2010

The Committee met at Parliament Buildings, Stormont, Northern Ireland

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Rosie Cooper Mr Denis Murphy
Christopher Fraser Stephen Pound
Mr John Grogan David Simpson
Mr Stephen Hepburn

1. Progress towards devolution in Northern Ireland during the 2005 Parliament

Mr Robin Masefield, Director, and Mr Max Murray, Deputy Director and Head of Operations, Northern Ireland Prison Service; and Mr Ronnie Spence, Chairman, Mr Brian McCaughey, Director, Ms Cheryl Lamont, Assistant Director, and Mr James Quinn, Member, Probation Board Northern Ireland, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 3 February at 2.30 p.m.

Tuesday 26 – Wednesday 27 January

The Chairman, Rosie Cooper, Christopher Fraser, Mr Stephen Hepburn, Lady Hermon, Mr Denis Murphy and Stephen Pound visited Dublin, Republic of Ireland, in connection with the Committee’s inquiry into Progress towards devolution in Northern Ireland during the 2005 Parliament, in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 25 November 2009.
Wednesday 3 February 2010

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Rosie Cooper          Kate Hoey
Mr John Grogan        Stephen Pound
Lady Hermon           David Simpson

1. Future Programme

This matter was discussed.

2. Progress towards devolution in Northern Ireland during the 2005 Parliament

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Progress towards devolution in Northern Ireland during the 2005 Parliament be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Submission from the Northern Ireland Court Service (PJ01)

Follow-up information from the Northern Ireland Court Service (PJ02)

3. The Omagh bombing

The Committee discussed informally the Chairman’s draft report.

4. Consultative Group on the Past

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 10 February at 2.30 p.m.]

Wednesday 10 February 2010

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Christopher Fraser          Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Lady Hermon                  Mr Denis Murphy
Mr Stephen Hepburn           Stephen Pound
Kate Hoey                    David Simpson
1. **Future Programme**

This matter was discussed.

2. **The Omagh bombing**

*Resolved*, That the Committee visit Belfast on 15 and 16 March 2010 in connection with its inquiries into the Omagh bombing and Progress towards devolution in Northern Ireland during the 2005 Parliament.

Draft Report (*The Omagh bombing: some remaining questions*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

*The draft Report was agreed to: the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Fourth Report of the Committee, HC 374.*

3. **A Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland**

The Committee discussed informally the Chairman’s draft report.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 24 February at 2.30 p.m.]

**Wednesday 24 February 2010**

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Rosie Cooper  
Christopher Fraser  
Mr John Grogan  
Lady Hermon  
Mr Stephen Hepburn  
Kate Hoey  
Dr Alasdair McDonnell  
Mr Denis Murphy  
Stephen Pound  
David Simpson

1. **Future Programme**

This matter was discussed.

2. **Progress towards devolution in Northern Ireland during the 2005 Parliament**

*Ordered*, That written evidence relating to Progress towards devolution in Northern Ireland during the 2005 Parliament submitted by the Northern Ireland Prison Service be reported to the House for publication on the internet.
3. Presbyterian Mutual Society

This matter was discussed.

4. The Omagh bombing

This matter was discussed.

5. Forensic Science in Northern Ireland

Draft Report (Forensic Science in Northern Ireland), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

*The draft Report was agreed to: the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Fifth Report of the Committee, HC 314.*

6. A Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland

*Ordered,* That a Sub-Committee on a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland be appointed to consider the Chairman’s draft Report.

*Ordered,* That the Chairman, Lady Hermon, Dr Alasdair McDonnell and David Simpson be members of the Sub-Committee.

*Ordered,* That the Chairman be Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 3 March at 2.30 p.m.]

**Wednesday 3 March 2010**

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Christopher Fraser  Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Mr John Grogan  Stephen Pound
Kate Hoey  David Simpson

1. Future Programme

This matter was discussed.

2. Northern Ireland Office Spring Supplementary Estimate
Ordered, That a memorandum relating to the Northern Ireland Office Spring Supplementary Estimate submitted by the Northern Ireland Office be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. Bloody Sunday Inquiry

This matter was discussed.

4. Consultative Group on the Past

This matter was discussed.

5. Political Developments in Northern Ireland

Rt Hon. Shaun Woodward MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and Ms Hilary Jackson, Political Director, Northern Ireland Office, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 10 March at 2.30 p.m.

**Wednesday 10 March 2010**

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Mr Stephen Hepburn          Stephen Pound
Lady Hermon                  David Simpson
Kate Hoey

1. Future Programme

This matter was discussed.

2. Organised Crime

The Committee met privately with Mr Brandon McMaster, Northern Ireland Audit Office, Mandy Measures, National Audit Office, Mr John Whiting, Her Majesty’s Customs and Revenue, and Mr David Watkins.

[Adjourned till Monday 15 March at 6 p.m

*Monday 15 – Tuesday 16 March 2010*
The Chair, Mr David Anderson, Mr Christopher Fraser, Mr John Grogan, Mr Stephen Hepburn, Lady Hermon, Kate Hoey, Dr Alasdair McDonnell, Mr Denis Murphy, Stephen Pound and David Simpson visited Belfast in connection with the Committee’s inquiries into the Omagh Bombing and Progress towards devolution in Northern Ireland during the 2005 Parliament in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 10 February 2010.

Monday 15 March 2010

The Committee met at the Culloden Hotel, Belfast

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Christopher Fraser
Kate Hoey
Stephen Pound
David Simpson

1. A Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland

Draft Report (A Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland: an interim statement), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to: the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Sixth Report of the Committee, HC 236.

2. Progress towards devolution in Northern Ireland during the 2005 Parliament

The Committee discussed informally the Chair’s draft Report.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 24 March at 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday 24 March 2010

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Rosie Cooper
Christopher Fraser
Mr John Grogan
Mr Stephen Hepburn
Lady Hermon

Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Mr Denis Murphy
Stephen Pound
David Simpson
1. Future Programme

This matter was discussed.

2. Progress towards devolution in Northern Ireland during the 2005 Parliament

Draft Report (Progress towards devolution in Northern Ireland during the 2005 Parliament), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to: the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Seventh Report of the Committee, HC 319.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 7 April at 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday 7 April 2010

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair
Mr Stephen Hepburn          Stephen Pound
Kate Hoey                   David Simpson
Mr Denis Murphy

1. The Omagh bombing

Draft Report (The Omagh bombing: Government response) proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to: the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Eighth Report of the Committee, HC 440.

2. Northern Ireland Office 2009 Autumn Performance Report

Ordered, That a memorandum relating to the Northern Ireland Office 2009 Autumn Performance Report submitted by the Northern Ireland Office be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

[The Committee adjourned.]