

COLLABORATIVE LAW MAKING IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Tuesday 21st April 2015 10am-4pm
Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings

Morning Session

- 9.30am** **Registration and Refreshments**
The Rotunda, Parliament Buildings
- 10.00am** **Opening of Workshop**

Mitchel McLaughlin MLA, Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly

Martin McGuinness MLA, deputy First Minister for Northern Ireland
- 10.20am** **Overview of Proceedings**
Brenda King, First Legislative Counsel for Northern Ireland
- 10.30am** **The Northern Ireland Assembly: Formation and Structure**
Anne-Marie Fleming, Northern Ireland Assembly Education Service
- 11.00am** **The Northern Ireland Assembly Legislative Process: Collaboration in Practice**
Damien Martin, Clerk Assistant, Northern Ireland Assembly
- 11.30am** **The Role of Assembly Legal Advisers in Assessing Legislative Competence**
Hugh Widdis, Director of Legal and Governance Services, Northern Ireland Assembly
- 12.00pm** **Question and Answer Session**
- 12.45pm** **Lunch**
Long Gallery, Parliament Buildings

Delegates have the option of attending a short demonstration of the Assembly's new Legislative Workbench software and the legislation.gov.uk website at either 12.45pm or 1.30pm. Those wishing to attend before lunch should gather in the Rotunda at 12.45pm and those wishing to attend after lunch should gather outside the Long Gallery at 1.25pm to be escorted to Room 55.

Afternoon Session

- 2.00pm** **The Development of Tools to Assist Members in the Understanding and Scrutiny of Legislation**
Dr Gareth McGrath, Director of Clerking and Reporting, Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive Director of PoliticsPlus
- 2.30pm** **Members' Perspective**
Paul Givan MLA and Raymond McCartney MLA
- 3.00pm** **Closing of Workshop**
- Dr Malcolm McKibbin, Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service
- Trevor Reaney, Clerk/Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Assembly
- Peter Quiggin PSM, First Parliamentary Counsel for Australia and President of the Commonwealth Association of Legislative Counsel

Optional Tours

- 3.30pm** **Tour of Parliament Buildings**
Lasting approximately 20 minutes, this short tour will allow participants to learn more about the history and architecture of Stormont.
- 4.00pm** **Bus Tour of Belfast**
Departing from the front of Parliament Buildings, this tour will take in many of the main sights around Belfast including St Anne's Cathedral, Crumlin Road Jail and the Belfast Peace Wall, as well as the political murals on the Shankill Road and Falls Road. The tour will conclude at the front of Belfast City Hall.