

COMMISSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

23 March 2022

CONCERNING (1) THE COMPETENCY OF DECISIONS MADE DURING THIS MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY WHERE SOME MEMBERS ARE ATTENDING ONLINE AND (2) VARIANCE OF THE MEETING FORMAT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 2022 SO THAT SOME COMMISSIONERS AND OTHERS MAY ATTEND THE ASSEMBLY ONLINE

At Edinburgh, and within the Assembly Hall, and also via video-conference using Zoom Meetings, on the 23rd day of March 2022 at 12.00noon.

This being a National Day of Reflection, marking the second anniversary of the first UK lockdown due to Covid-19, a one minute's silence was held.

The Commission of the General Assembly was constituted with prayer by the Moderator, the Lord Wallace of Tankerness.

The List of Commissioners was laid on the Table.

The Commission called for the Report of the Procedure Committee which was given in by the Rev Donald McCorkindale, Convener.

The Commission took up consideration of a Report of the Legal Questions Committee which was given in by the Rev Dr Grant Barclay, Convener.

It was moved and seconded:

The Commission of the General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Agree that this meeting of the Commission of Assembly where some members are attending online is a properly constituted meeting of the Commission and that decisions made during this session of the Commission are competent in terms of Act VI 1997.
3. Agree that, notwithstanding the decision of the General Assembly of 2021 to call the next General Assembly to meet in Edinburgh on 21 May 2022, it would be competent for the Commission to vary the meeting format of the General Assembly of 2022 to the extent that some commissioners and others may attend the Assembly through an online platform.

On a vote being taken For or Against section 1, there voted For 67 and Against 0.

On a vote being taken For or Against section 2, there voted For 66 and Against 1.

On a vote being taken For or Against section 3, there voted For 67 and Against 0.

On a vote being taken For or Against the Deliverance as a whole, there voted For 64 and Against 1.

The Commission took up consideration of a Report of the Assembly Business Committee which was given in by the Rev Donald McCorkindale, Convener.

It was moved and seconded:

The Commission of the General Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.
2. Agree that at the General Assembly to be held in Edinburgh from 21st May 2022, some commissioners may participate online rather than in person.
3. Instruct Presbyteries that when appointing commissioners to the 2022 General Assembly they shall identify those who will participate in person and those who will be online as recommended in Appendix 1 and shall advise the Principal Clerk by 1st April 2022.
4. Agree that corresponding members, delegates and youth representatives may participate online in the 2022 General Assembly by advising the Principal Clerk of their wish to do so by 15th April 2022, failing which they shall be assumed to be attending in person.
5. Instruct the Assembly Business Committee to bring forward a set of Standing Orders appropriate for use at the 2022 General Assembly in light of decisions made by this Commission.
6. Note that the Assembly Business Committee has prepared a Risk Assessment and that this will be kept under regular review up to the opening of, and during, the 2022 General Assembly.
7. Agree that the Assembly Business Committee, in consultation and with the concurrence of the Legal Questions Committee, may alter the arrangements agreed by this Commission for the 2022 General Assembly in line with any Covid-19 Regulations which are subsequently re-imposed, or reasonably anticipated to be imposed, by the Scottish Government.

On a vote being taken For or Against section 1, there voted For 65 and Against 1.

On a vote being taken For or Against section 2, there voted For 64 and Against 0.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment of section 3:

Remove the words "as recommended in Appendix 1".

On a vote being taken For or Against the amendment, there voted For 52 and Against 13.

It was moved and seconded as an amendment of section 3:

Change "1st April" to "8th April".

On a vote being taken For or Against the amendment, there voted For 63 and Against 0.

On a vote being taken For or Against the amended section 3, there voted For 63 and Against 0.

On a vote being taken For or Against section 4, there voted For 64 and Against 1.

On a vote being taken For or Against section 5, there voted For 64 and Against 0.

On a vote being taken For or Against section 6, there voted For 61 and Against 0.

On a vote being taken For or Against section 7, there voted For 64 and Against 0.

On a vote being taken For or Against the Deliverance as a whole as amended, there voted For 64 and Against 0.

The Moderator thanked everyone who had been involved in the Commission of Assembly.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

Appoint the Clerks as a Committee to Prepare the Minute.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

Instruct the Legal Questions Committee to report the proceedings and decisions of the Commission of Assembly to the next General Assembly in terms of sections 15 and 16 of the Commission of Assembly Act (Act VI 1997).

The Commission of Assembly concluded at 13.38pm with the Benediction pronounced by the Moderator.

ASSEMBLY HALL, EDINBURGH
and online via video-conference
23 March 2022,13.38pm