



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

**COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2020**

**ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Declan McAleer MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Philip McGuigan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Ms Clare Bailey MLA  
Mrs Rosemary Barton MLA  
Mr John Blair MLA  
Mr Maurice Bradley MLA  
Mr John Dallat MLA  
Mr Harry Harvey MLA  
Mr William Irwin MLA

In attendance: Ms Stella McArdle, Committee Clerk  
Ms Elaine Farrell, Assistant Assembly Clerk  
Ms Marion Johnson, Clerical Supervisor  
Mr Thomas Coogan, Clerical Officer  
Mr Mark Allen, Research Officer (Agenda item 9)  
Ms Suzie Cave, Research Officer (Agenda item 9)

*The meeting commenced at 10.04 am in open session.*

**1. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

**2. Chairperson's Business**

The Chairperson advised Members that he and the Deputy Chairperson would be meeting with members of the TB Eradication Partnership after the meeting and would provide an update in due course.

The Chairperson advised Members that their electronic devices would be ready for collection on Monday 17 February in Room 401.

### **3. Draft Minutes**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the minutes of the meetings held on 28 and 30 January 2020.

### **4. Departmental Oral Briefing from Food and Farming Group**

The following departmental officials joined the meeting at 10.07 a.m.

Norman Fulton, Grade 3, Head of Food and Farming

Rosemary Agnew, Grade 5, Director of Brexit Food and Farming Group

Colette McMaster, Grade 5, Director of Food and Farming Policy Division

The officials briefed the Committee and this was followed by a question and answer session.

*Mr Irwin joined the meeting at 10.21 a.m.*

The officials agreed to provide further information on a number of issues.

The Chairperson thanks the officials for their attendance.

### **5. Departmental Oral Briefing from Environment, Marine and Fisheries Group**

The following departmental officials joined the meeting at 11.00 a.m.

David Small, Grade 3, Head of Environment, Marine and Fisheries Group  
and Head of Northern Ireland Environment Agency

John Mills, Grade 5, Director of Environmental Policy Division

Helen Anderson, Grade 5, Director of Natural Environmental Division

Tracey Teague., Grade 5, Director of Resource Efficiency

The officials briefed the Committee and this was followed by a question and answer session.

*Ms Bailey left the meeting at 11.40 a.m.*

*Ms Bailey rejoined the meeting at 11.45 a.m.*

The officials agreed to provide information on a number of issues.

The Chairperson thanked the officials for their attendance.

**6. SR 2019/61: The Sea Fish Licensing Order (Northern Ireland) 2019**

The following departmental officials joined the meeting at 11.50 a.m.

David Small, Grade 3, Head of Environment, Marine and Fisheries Group  
and Head of Northern Ireland Environment Agency  
Paddy Campbell, Deputy Principal, Sea Fisheries Policy  
Patrick Smith, Deputy Principal, Sea Fisheries Policy and Grants

The officials briefed the Committee and this was followed by a question and answer session.

The oral briefing was reported by Hansard.

*Mr Blair left the meeting at 11.50 a.m.*

*Mr Blair rejoined the meeting at 11.54 a.m.*

The Committee considered The Sea Fish Licensing Order (Northern Ireland) 2019, which provides that foreign fishing vessels must have a licence to fish in the respective national waters once the United Kingdom leaves the European Union.

The question was put:

That the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs has considered SR 2019/61: The Sea Fish Licensing Order (Northern Ireland) 2019 and has no objection to the Rule.

The Committee divided: Ayes:4; Noes 5

**AYES**

Rosemary Barton  
Maurice Bradley  
Harry Harvey  
William Irwin

**NOES**

Claire Bailey  
John Blair  
John Dallat  
Phillip McGuigan  
Declan McAleer

The question was put:

That the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs has considered SR 2019/61: The Sea Fish Licensing Order (Northern Ireland) 2019 and recommends that it be annulled by the Assembly

The motion was agreed.

**7. SR 2019/65: The Sea Fishing (Licenses and Notices) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019**

The Committee considered The Sea Fishing (Licenses and Notices) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 which provides for a minor amendment to the definition of a nominee for receipt of licences by the Department as a consequence of the Sea Fish Licensing Order (Northern Ireland) 2019.

The question was put:

That the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs has considered SR 2019/65: The Sea Fishing (Licenses and Notices) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 and has no objection to the rule.

The Committee divided: Ayes:4; Noes 5

**AYES**

Rosemary Barton  
Maurice Bradley  
Harry Harvey  
William Irwin

**NOES**

Claire Bailey  
John Blair  
John Dallat  
Phillip McGuigan  
Declan McAleer

The question was put:

That the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs has considered SR 2019/65: The Sea Fishing (Licenses and Notices) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 and recommends that it be annulled by the Assembly

The motion was agreed.

The Chairperson thanked the officials for their attendance.

**8. Consideration of the Examiner of Statutory Rules Report**

*Noted:* The Committee considered and noted the First Report of Session 2019-2020 from the Examiner of Statutory Rules.

## 9. Oral Briefing RalSe

The Assembly Research Officers joined the meeting at 12.03 p.m. and briefed the Committee.

This was followed by a question and answer session.

## 10. Correspondence

The Committee noted the following:

- i. Correspondence from the Attorney General NI offering congratulations to the Chairperson and deputy Chairperson on their appointments.
- ii. Correspondence from the Committee for the Economy forwarding correspondence from NI Farm Groups specifying the need for legislation on farm gate prices.
- iii. Correspondence from Planet Earth on global warming and the threat to wildlife.
- iv. Correspondence from the Department providing a note of the meeting with Minister Poots and the Chairperson and deputy Chairperson on 20 January 2020.
- v. Correspondence from RSPBNI requesting to meet the Chairperson. A report of the meeting will issue in due course.

The Committee considered correspondence from a member of the public regarding the implementation of the "NI contaminated land regime."

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the correspondent to advise that the issue should be referred to the Department directly.

The Committee considered correspondence from a member of the public regarding the clean-up of the Mobuoy site.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the correspondent to advise that the issue should be referred to the Department directly.

The Committee considered correspondence from the British Egg Industry Council regarding practices post Brexit and the BEIC Competiveness Report.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to RalSe for information and agreed to consider scheduling an

oral evidence session with the British Egg Industry Council in due course.

The Committee considered correspondence from NI Farm Group in respect of legislation for farm gate prices.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule an oral evidence session with NI Farm Group at a future date.

The Committee considered a publication of the Consultation on the Interim Waste Prevention Programme from the Department.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to request an oral briefing following completion of the consultation.

The Committee considered correspondence from a member of the public on recycling issues.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the correspondent to advise that the issue should be referred to the Department directly.

#### **11. AOB**

There was no other business.

#### **12. Date, time and place of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs will take place on Thursday 13 February 2020 at 10.00 a.m. in Room 29.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to move into closed session to consider the agenda item on the Forward Work Programme.

*The Committee moved into closed session at 12.12 p.m.*

#### **13. Forward Work Programme**

The clerk briefed the Committee on the Forward Work Programme.

The Committee discussed and agreed to focus on forthcoming work on three Legislative Consent Memorandums up to Easter Recess and that appropriate witnesses should be invited to provide evidence to the Committee.

*12.45 p.m. The meeting adjourned.*

Declan McAleer

Declan McAleer, Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

13/2/20

Date