



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

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

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**TUESDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2016**

**ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

- Present: Ms Linda Dillon MLA (Chairperson)  
Ms Caoimhe Archibald MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Sydney Anderson MLA  
Mr David Ford MLA  
Mr William Irwin MLA  
Mr Patsy McGlone MLA  
Mr Harold McKee MLA  
Mr Oliver McMullan MLA  
Mr Robin Swann MLA
- In Attendance: Mrs Stella McArdle (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Christopher McNickle (Assistant Clerk)  
Mr Oliver Bellew (Clerical Supervisor)  
Ms Marion Johnson (Clerical Officer)  
Miss Zoe Rogers (Bursary Student)
- Apologies: Mr Maurice Bradley MLA

The meeting opened in **public** session at **12.49 p.m.**

**1. Apologies**

As above.

**2. Oral evidence from DAERA – Budget**

**12.49 p.m.** The following officials joined the meeting:

Ms Louise Warde Hunter, Head of Central Services and Rural Affairs Group,  
DAERA

Mr Graeme Wilkinson, Finance Director, DAERA

Mr David Small, Head of Environment Marine and Fisheries Group and Chief  
Executive of NIEA

Mr Roger Downey, Head of Financial Planning.

The officials briefed the Committee on the Department's Budget.

**12.52 p.m.** Mr Robin Swann left the meeting.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to request further information from the  
Department on the EU Farm Support Package July 2016.

**1.08 p.m.** The Chairperson left the meeting and the deputy Chairperson, Ms Caoimhe  
Archibald MLA, took the Chair.

**1.21 p.m.** Mr Patsy McGlone left the meeting.

**1.23 p.m.** The Chairperson returned to the meeting.

**1.23 p.m.** Mr Oliver McMullan left the meeting.

**1.27 p.m.** The briefing concluded.

### **3. Oral evidence from DAERA – draft Programme for Government**

**1.27 p.m.** The following officials briefed the Committee on the draft Programme for  
Government:

Ms Louise Warde Hunter, Head of Central Services and Rural Affairs Group;  
DAERA

Mr Graeme Wilkinson, Finance Director; DAERA

Mr David Small, Head of Environment Marine and Fisheries Group and Chief  
Executive of NIEA

**1.30 p.m.** Mr Oliver McMullan MLA returned to the meeting.

*Agreed:* It was agreed that the departmental briefing papers regarding the  
Department's 2016/17 Business Plan and Mid-year Progress Report,  
scheduled for Thursday 01 December, should be issued to the  
Committee at the earliest opportunity.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to request information on what rural proofing matrix is used by the Department in connection with the Rural White Paper and a written briefing on how the Department plans to rural proof its five draft Programme for Government Delivery Plans.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to key stakeholders to seek written briefings on the draft Programme for Government.

**1.56 p.m.** The officials left the meeting.

#### **4. Date, time and place of next meeting**

The Committee noted that its next meeting will be held at 09.30 a.m. on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016 in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

**1.56 p.m.** The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

**Linda Dillon MLA**

Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

17<sup>th</sup> November 2016