



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE ECONOMY**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**26 FEBRUARY 2020**

**ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

**10:00am**

Present: Dr Caoímhe Archibald (Chairperson)  
Ms Sinéad McLaughlin (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Gordon Dunne MBE  
Mr Gary Middleton  
Mr John O'Dowd  
Mr Christopher Stalford  
Ms Claire Sugden

In Attendance: Mr Peter Hall (Assembly Clerk)  
Ms Angela McParland (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Ms Sinead Kelly (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Michael Greer (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mr Thomas Manning (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Stewart Dickson  
Mr John Stewart

*The meeting began at 10:07 in closed session.*

*The Committee agreed to move to Agenda item 4.*

#### **4. Departmental Briefing: Update on Ulster University: Belfast Improvement & Magee Expansion**

*The Officials joined the meeting at 10.08am*

Members received a briefing from:

**Mr Mike Brennan**, Permanent Secretary, Department for the Economy

**Ms Heather Cousins**, Head of Skills and Education group, Department for the Economy

**Mr Trevor Cooper**, Head of Finance Division, Department for the Economy

**Mr Michael Donnelly**, Head of Corporate Finance, Strategic Investment Board

The key issues discussed included the

*Claire Sugden joined the meeting at 10:09am*

*Christopher Stalford left the meeting at 11:05am*

*The officials left the meeting at 11.52pm*

*The meeting commenced in open session at 12.00pm*

*The Committee agreed to move to Agenda item 1.*

##### **1. Apologies**

As noted above.

##### **2. Draft Minutes**

*Agreed:* the Committee agreed the draft Minutes of the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

##### **3. Chairpersons Business**

There were no items of business.

##### **4. EU Affairs: Overview**

*Agreed:* the Committee agreed to defer the EU Affairs Briefing

## **5. Matters Arising**

*Noted:* Members noted a response from the Department in relation to PfG Strategic Priorities.

*Noted:* Members noted a response from the Department in regarding the Department for Trade Public Consultation on the UK Global Tariff.

*Noted:* Members noted a response from the Department in relation VAT and the Tourism & Hospitality Sector.

## **6. SL1 - The Education (Student Support) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020**

Members considered SL1 - The Education (Student Support) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020

*Agreed:* that the Committee is content with the policy implications of the proposed legislation.

## **7. Departmental Written Briefing - HSENI Strategic Outlines**

Members noted the HSENI Strategic Outlines

## **8. CITB NI Annual Report and Accounts 2018-2019**

Members noted the CITB NI Annual report and Accounts

## **9. Correspondence**

*Noted:* Members noted correspondence from the PAC Committee in relation to concerns from an individual.

*Noted:* Members noted correspondence from the Utility Regulator on an update on the SONI Governance review consultation.

*Noted:* Members noted correspondence from NIC-ICTU requesting to brief the Committee

*Noted:* Members noted an invitation from the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission to an event.

*Noted:* Members noted an invitation from the Irish League of Credit Unions to an event in the Long Gallery.

## **10. Forward Work Programme**

Members considered the revised draft Forward Work Programme.

*Agreed: the Committee agreed to the Forward Work Programme.*

**11. Any Other Business**

There were no items of business.

**12. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020 in Room 29, Parliament Buildings at 10am.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1:05pm*

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**Dr Caoímhe Archibald**  
**Chairperson**  
**Committee for the Economy**

**4<sup>th</sup> March 2020**