



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

# Committee for the Economy

## Minutes of Proceedings

9<sup>th</sup> February 2022

**Meeting Location:** Room 29

**In Attendance:** Dr Caoimhe Archibald (MLA (Chairperson))  
Mr Stewart Dickson MLA  
Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA  
Mr John O'Dowd MLA  
Mr Stephen Dunne MLA  
Mr Peter Weir MLA  
Mr Keith Buchanan MLA

**In Attendance by Video or Teleconference:**

Ms Claire Sugden MLA

**Apologies:** Mr Matthew O'Toole

**In Attendance:** Mr Peter Hall (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Thomas Armstrong (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Aaron Pakenham (Clerical Officer)



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**In Attendance by Video or Teleconference:**

Ms Sinead Kelly (Assistant Assembly Clerk)

Mr Michael Greer (Clerical Supervisor)

The meeting commenced at 10:05am in open session.

**1. Apologies**

As above.

**2. Draft Minutes**

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Minutes from 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022.

**3. Chairperson's Business**

Members discussed concerns around the time available for scrutiny of the two Bills currently at Committee Stage.

**Agreed:** Members discussed the Onshore Fracking (Prohibition) Bill which passed its 2<sup>nd</sup> stage on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and has been referred to the Committee and agreed to invite the Bill sponsor to provide a briefing.

**Agreed:** Members noted correspondence from the Department in relation to the granting of two prospecting licences and agreed to write to the Department for further clarification on a number of issues.

**4. Departmental Briefing – Common Frameworks**

Members received a briefing from:

Glyn Roberts    Chief Executive, Retail NI



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Joel Neill                      Operations Director, Hospitality Ulster

Issues discussed included initiatives by both bodies to promote and protect workers' rights; the prevalence of zero hour contracts; the use of exclusivity clauses; the impact of the Covid pandemic on employment law and practice; challenges faced by both the hospitality and retail sectors; and the time available for scrutiny of this Bill.

The witness left the meeting at 11.18am

### 5. Matters Arising

**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from the Chair of Invest NI regarding the recruitment of a new CEO.

**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from the Managing Director of City of Derry Airport regarding airport issues.

**Noted:** Members noted the Spring Supplementary Updates Memorandum 2021-22.

**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from Linsey Gibson, UUP Spokesperson for West Belfast regarding ESF funding for Job Assist Centres Greater Shankill.

### 6. Levelling Up

Members noted a number of the Levelling Up documents published by the UK Government including the specifics relating to Northern Ireland and the City and Growth deals.

**Agreed:** Members agreed to write to the Department of Finance and the Finance Committee to seek clarification in relation to the specific funding for Northern Ireland.



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**7. Correspondence**

Members agreed to deal with Agenda item 7 via correspondence due to time constraints.

**8. Any Other Business**

There were no items of business.

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

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022 in Room 30, Parliament Buildings at 10am.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11.58am.**

**Dr Caoímhe Archibald MLA  
Chairperson, Committee for the Economy  
16<sup>th</sup> February 2022**