



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for the Economy

Minutes of Proceedings

20th October 2021

Meeting Location: Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings

Present:

Dr Caoímhe Archibald (MLA (Chairperson))

Mr Keith Buchanan MLA

Mr Stewart Dickson MLA

Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA

Mr John O'Dowd MLA

Ms Claire Sugden MLA

Present by Video or Teleconference:

Mr Stephen Dunne MLA

Apologies:

Mr Matthew O'Toole MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

Mr Peter Weir MLA



Northern Ireland
Assembly

In Attendance: Mr Peter Hall (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Thomas Manning (Clerical Officer)

In Attendance by Video or Teleconference:

Ms Sinead Kelly (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Michael Greer (Clerical Supervisor)

The meeting commenced at 10:04am in closed session.

Members agreed to move to agenda item 4.

4. Parental Bereavement (Leave and Pay) Bill

The officials joined the meeting at 10:04am

Members received a briefing from:

Ms Stephanie Mallon,

Bill Clerk, NIA

Ms Aobhinn Baker,

AG5, Bill Office, NIA



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Members discussed the potential Committee Amendments to the Parental Bereavement (Leave and Pay) Bill.

Members agreed to move to open session at 11.18am

4. Parental Bereavement (Leave and Pay) Bill

The officials joined the meeting at 11:18am

Members received a briefing from:

Mr Colin Jack,

Director of Business &
Employment Regulation, DfE

Ms Kellie Sprott,

Employment Relations Policy and
Legislation, DfE

Mr Laurence Rogers,

Employment Relations, DfE

Members discussed the potential Committee Amendments to the Parental Bereavement (Leave and Pay) Bill.

The Officials left the meeting at 11.39am.

Agreed: to the draft Committee amendments as discussed.

Members agreed to return to Agenda item 1.



Northern Ireland Assembly

1. Apologies

As noted above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson welcomed Matthew O'Toole to the Committee and put on record her thanks to Sinead McLaughlin for her work during her time on the Committee.

The Chairperson informed Members that this will be Thomas Manning's last Committee meeting as he is due to leave the Assembly and the Chairperson thanked him for his work and support during his time in the Assembly.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Minutes from the 13th October 2021.

5. Small-Scale Green Energy Bill

Members discussed the Small-Scale Green Energy Bill.

6. Matters Arising

Noted: Members noted a copy of a Departmental response regarding Innovate UK and Bids.



Northern Ireland Assembly

Noted: Members noted a copy of correspondence from the EU Affairs Manager regarding a European Affairs Committee report on UK FTAs.

Noted: Members noted a response from the Department to the Committee's request for further information on EU Exit, frontier workers and the EU Settlement scheme.

Noted: Members noted a response from the Department in relation to the joint letter from the Committee on the Administration of Justice.

Noted: Members noted a response from the Department on why the business case for the all-age apprenticeships programme was rejected by the Department and what work is now being done to take it forward.

7. Correspondence

Noted: Members noted a copy of various correspondence from the Lord Jay, Chair of the Sub Committee on the Protocol.

Noted: Members noted a copy of a Department for the Economy factsheet for September 2021 regarding online job posting trends.

Noted: Members noted a copy of the Departmental monthly economic update for October 2021.

Noted: Members noted a copy of a response from the Department to the Communities Committee regarding the British government's current plans for the introduction of a gas and oil boiler ban on new build homes from 2025.

Noted: Members noted a whistleblowing complaint from the University and Colleges Union.

Agreed: to respond to advise the UCU of the Committee's position.

Noted: Members noted a copy of the fourth report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules.



Northern Ireland
Assembly

8. Any Other Business

Members discussed the approaching deadline for applying for the High Street Support Scheme.

Agreed: to arrange an informal meeting with Officials.

9. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 3rd November 2021 in Room 30, Parliament Buildings at 10am.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.05pm.

**Dr Caoímhe Archibald MLA
Chairperson, Committee for the Economy
3rd November 2021**