



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2015

SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

- Present: Ms Anna Lo MLA (Chairperson)
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr William Irwin MLA
Mr Alban Maginness MLA
Mr Ian Milne MLA
Lord Morrow MLA
- In Attendance: Miss Ciara McKay (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Clerk)
Mr Neil Sedgewick (Clerical Supervisor)
Mrs Sharon Young (Clerical Officer)
Ms Stephanie Mallon (Bill Clerk – agenda items 6 & 7)
- Apologies: Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Mr Colum Eastwood MLA
Mr Barry McElduff MLA
Mrs Sandra Overend MLA
Mr George Robinson MLA

The meeting opened in public session at 10.04am.

6. Environmental Better Regulation Bill - Deliberation of clauses

Officials joined the meeting at 10.22am.

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| Mr Simon Webb | Bill Lead, Regulatory and Natural Resources Policy Division. |
| Mr Robert Gray | Regulatory and Natural Resources Policy Division |
| Mr Dave Foster | Director, Regulatory and Natural Resources Policy Division |

The Committee noted that it had considered clauses 1 to 27 at its meeting on 5th November 2015 and was content with clauses 1 to 27 and Schedules 2 & 3.

The Committee noted a response from the Department to issues raised on Schedule 1 and the proposed new clause 22A.

The Committee carried out an informal deliberation of the following clauses while officials remained in attendance:

Schedule 1 - Matters for, or in connection with, which regulations may be made under section 2

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with Schedule, as amended.

New Clause 22A – National Security

The Committee noted the proposed wording for new clause 22A.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the proposed amendment, as it had insufficient time to scrutinise the amendment.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to reflect its disappointment in the Committee report that the amendment was presented so late during the Committee stage.

Mr Irwin joined the meeting at 10.30am.

7. Environmental Better Regulation Bill - Formal Clause by Clause consideration

The following officials remained in attendance:

Mr Simon Webb Bill Lead, Regulatory and Natural Resources Policy Division.

Mr Robert Gray Regulatory and Natural Resources Policy Division

Mr Dave Foster Director, Regulatory and Natural Resources Policy Division

The Committee commenced its formal clause by clause consideration of the Environmental Better Regulation Bill.

Part 1 - General environmental regulation.

Clause 1

“Question: That the Committee is content with clause 1, put and agreed to”.

Clause 2

“Question: That the Committee is content with clause 2, put and agreed to”.

Clause 3

“Question: That the Committee is content with clause 3 subject to the amendment as proposed by the Department, put and agreed to”.

Clause 3A

“Question: That the Committee is content with the proposed departmental amendment to introduce new clause 3A, setting out the objectives on the face of the Bill, put and agreed to”.

Clause 4

“Question: That the Committee is content with clause 4, put and agreed to”.

Clause 5

“Question: That the Committee is content with clause 5, put and agreed to”.

Part 2 - Powers of entry and associated powers

Agreed: The Committee agreed to group clauses 6 and 7 of the Bill for the purposes of putting the question.

Clauses 6 and 7

“Question: That the Committee is content with clauses 6 and 7, put and agreed to”.

Clause 8

“Question: That the Committee is content with clause 8 subject to the amendment as proposed by the Department, put and agreed to”.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to group clauses 9 to 11 of the Bill for the purposes of putting the question.

Clauses 9 to 11

“Question: That the Committee is content with clauses 9 to 11, put and agreed to”.

Clause 12

“Question: That the Committee is content with clause 12 subject to the amendments as proposed by the Department, put and agreed to”.

Clause 13

“Question: That the Committee is content with clause 13, put and agreed to”.

Part 3 - Amendments to the Clean Air (Northern Ireland) Order 1981

Agreed: The Committee agreed to group clauses 14 and 15 of the Bill for the purposes of putting the question.

Clauses 14 and 15

“Question: That the Committee is content with clauses 14 and 15, put and agreed to”.

Part 4 - Amendments to the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

Agreed: The Committee agreed to group clauses 16 and 17 of the Bill for the purposes of putting the question.

Clauses 16 and 17

“Question: That the Committee is content with clauses 16 and 17, put and agreed to”.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to group clauses 18 to 22 of the Bill for the purposes of putting the question.

Clauses 18 to 22

“Question: That the Committee is content with clauses 18 to 22, put and agreed to”

New Clause 22A

“Question: That the Committee notes new clause 22A, on national security, put and agreed to”.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to reflect its decision to note this amendment in its report.

Part 6 - Miscellaneous and Supplementary

Agreed: The Committee agreed to group clauses 23 to 27 of the Bill for the purposes of putting the question.

Clauses 23 to 27

“Question: That the Committee is content with clauses 23 to 27, put and agreed to”.

Schedule 1

“Question: That the Committee is content with Schedule 1 subject to the amendment as proposed by the Department, put and agreed to”.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to group Schedules 2 and 3 of the Bill for the purposes of putting the question.

Schedules 2 and 3

“Question: That the Committee is content with Schedules 2 and 3, put and agreed to”.

Long Title

“Question: That the Committee is content with the Long Title of the Bill, put and agreed to”.

Officials left the meeting at 10.42am.

[Extract]