



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2015

SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Ms Anna Lo MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Colum Eastwood MLA
Mr Alban Maginness MLA
Mr Barry McElduff MLA
Mr Gary Middleton MLA
Mr Ian Milne MLA
Mrs Sandra Overend 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)

Apologies: Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Ian McCrea MLA

The meeting opened in public session at 10.04am.

Mr Maginness left the meeting at 10.07am.

6. Environmental Better Regulation Bill

Mr McElduff rejoined the meeting at 10.28am

Mr Milne joined the meeting at 10.29am.

The Committee noted the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules on the delegated powers memorandum on the Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department regarding issues raised by the Examiner.

Following a recent development session on effective scrutiny of legislation, the Committee considered a summary report on areas which that the Committee might wish to follow up with the Department.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for clarification on certain aspects of the Bill.

The Committee noted that its motion to extend the Committee Stage of the Bill has been scheduled for Monday 28th September.

Oral briefing - Briefing from Northern Ireland Environment Link

The Committee was briefed by:

Dr Stephen McCabe Senior Policy Officer, NIEL

Mr Jim Haughey MBE Chairman, Ulster Angling Federation Ltd

Lord Morrow made a declaration of interest that he is a member of an angling club.

7. Environmental Better Regulation Bill

Oral briefing - Briefing from Northern Ireland Local Government Association

Mr Eastwood left the meeting at 11.37am.

The Committee was briefed by:

Ms Karen Smyth Head of Policy, NILGA

Alderman Mervyn Rea NILGA Waste Management Spokesman,
NILGA

Mr Paul McCullough Principal Environmental Health Officer, Armagh
City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough
Council

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for clarification on the following issues: what impact any independent environment protection agency might have on the outworkings of the Environmental Better Regulation Bill; clarification on certain phrases used in the Bill; an overview of what regulations might be made under the Bill; what the financial implications to Councils are; and what regulatory functions could be removed from Councils.