



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**THURSDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2015**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, MID ULSTER COUNCIL, MAGHERAFELT**

Present: Ms Anna Lo MLA (Chairperson)  
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA  
Ms Claire Hanna MLA  
Mr Alban Maginness MLA  
Mr Barry McElduff MLA  
Mr Ian Milne MLA  
Mrs Sandra Overend MLA  
Mr George Robinson 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 Paul Girvan MLA  
Mr William Irwin MLA

The meeting opened in public session at 10.02am.

**1. Apologies.**

The apologies are noted above.

**2. Chairpersons Business**

The Committee noted a programme for the visit to Mid Ulster Council.

The Chairperson thanked Mid Ulster Council for hosting the Committee meeting.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Northern Ireland Retail Consortium regarding the introduction of a Deposit Return Scheme in Northern Ireland.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite the Northern Ireland Retail Consortium to an informal meeting.*

*Mrs Overend joined the meeting at 10.04am.*

### **3. Minutes**

The minutes from the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were agreed.

### **4. Matters arising**

The Committee noted a response from the Department about the Departmental policy on anaerobic digesters in a village setting.

*Mr Robinson joined the meeting at 10.05am.*

*Ms Hanna joined the meeting at 10.06am.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to request an oral briefing from officials on this policy and on the progress of the Department's review of its renewable energy policy.*

The Chairperson welcomed Ms Hanna to the Committee.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Mr Colum Eastwood thanking him for his contribution to the Committee.*

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department providing a copy of its discussion document on the future of environmental governance in Northern Ireland.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to request an oral briefing on the synopsis of responses to the discussion document.*

The Committee noted a letter from the Department notifying it of DEFRA's intention to make the Waste Batteries and Accumulators (Amendment) Regulations 2015.

The Committee noted a response from the Department regarding the cost of producing wind energy.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the response to the member of the public who raised this issue.*

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department regarding a correction made to the Statutory Rule on The Road Traffic (Fixed Penalty) (Offences) (Amendment) Order, to correct an inaccurate footnote reference.

The Committee noted a response from the Department for Regional Development regarding the timing of its consultation on bus lanes and the impact on the taxi reform programme.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department of the Environment and the Department for Regional Development urging them to work together on the implementation of the taxi reform programme.*

**5. Annual update on Strategic Waste Infrastructure Programme – Written briefing.**

The Committee noted a written briefing paper from the Department providing an update on Strategic Waste Infrastructure Programme.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to take oral evidence on the programme.*

**6. SL1 - The Passenger and Goods Vehicles (Recording Equipment) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.**

The Committee considered the Passenger and Goods Vehicles (Recording Equipment) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for the Department to proceed with the proposed statutory rule.*

**7. Scrap Metal Dealers Bill - Briefing from the British Metals Recycling Association.**

The Committee was briefed by:

Mr Ian Hetherington	Director General, British Metal Recycling Association
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*Mr Milne left the meeting at 11.20am.*

Mr Hetherington agreed to provide the Committee with a breakdown on the type of scrap metal that is recycled here.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to hold an additional Committee meeting to consider responses to its call for evidence on the Bill on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to hold an additional meeting at 2pm on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December to consider written submissions on the Scrap Metal Dealers Bill. The Committee noted that officials from the Department of Justice have been invited to give evidence on that date, subject to their availability.*

*Mr Milne rejoined the meeting at 11.26am.*

**8. Correspondence**

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department providing a discussion paper on proposals for a Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask the Department for an oral briefing on the synopsis of responses to the discussion paper when this becomes available.*

The Committee noted correspondence from the Finance and Personnel Committee regarding the timing of the November Monitoring round.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister providing a copy of the NI Executive Brussels Office Report for the period July to October 2015.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister seeking its European priorities for the year ahead and areas of EU activity that they may wish their successor committee to consider.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Committee Clerk should draft a response outlining the Committee's European priorities for its consideration at a future meeting.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a briefing on European issues before the Assembly dissolves, subject to availability on the Committee's forward work programme.*

The Committee noted correspondence about the setback distance for single wind turbines and how wind farms are defined.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for clarification on this matter.*

The Committee noted the Investing Activity Report for November 2015.

## **9. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted its Forward Work Programme.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to postpone the oral briefing on the Report on air pollution from residential combustion of solid fuels until the New Year when the final report will have been agreed.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite officials to provide an oral briefing on the Strategic Waste Infrastructure Programme at its meeting on 10 December 2015*

## **10. Any Other Business**

The Committee discussed a pre-consultation document issued by the Department regarding a Climate Change Bill in March 2013.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask the Department to provide it with a synopsis of responses received to this pre-consultation.*

## **11. Date, Time and Place of next meeting.**

The Committee noted that its next meeting will be held at 10.00am on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015 in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.35pm.*

**Anna Lo, MLA**  
**Chairperson, Committee for the Environment**  
**10 December 2015**