



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

9 FEBRUARY 2016

ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, 10:00am

Present:	Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson) Mr Conor Murphy (Deputy Chairperson) Mr Steven Agnew Mr Gordon Dunne Ms Megan Fearon Mr Paul Givan Mr William Humphrey Mr David McIlveen Mr Máirtín Ó Muilleoir
In Attendance:	Mr Jim McManus (Assembly Clerk) Ms Angela McParland (Assistant Assembly Clerk) Mr Michael Greer (Clerical Supervisor) Ms Briege Mullan (Clerical Officer)
Apologies:	None

The meeting began at 10:27am

1. Apologies

Apologies as noted above.

2. Draft Minutes of Meeting 2nd February 2016

Agreed: the Committee agreed the draft minutes of 2nd February 2016.

3. Chairperson's Business

The Committee considered a draft revised Agenda which included an oral briefing from the Permanent Secretary and officials on the closure of the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme.

Agreed: to include the oral briefing on the Agenda.

The Committee considered correspondence in relation to broadband issues experienced regarding TalkTalk.

Agreed: to write to Ofcom to establish if it is aware of an ongoing pattern of issues.

The Committee considered a request by the Permanent Secretary for a meeting on 22nd February with the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson to provide an update in regards to the restructuring of the Department.

Agreed: that the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson attend.

The Committee considered a request from Tourism Ireland to provide a revised copy of a written briefing to the Committee for consideration at next week's meeting rather than the original paper which has already been received by the Committee Office.

Agreed: to receive the updated version next week.

The Chairperson informed members that representatives from NIPSA were consulting outside of the meeting with HSENI officials in an attempt to resolve outstanding issues regarding proposals for the Replacement of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007.

Agreed: to deal with other business first to provide time for the two parties to consult.

6. Matters Arising

No matters arising were discussed.

7. Written Briefing from Cerberus: Issues raised by Bell & Company

Members noted correspondence from Cerberus in response to the Committee's request for a briefing to address issues raised by Bell and Company.

Agreed: to consider the correspondence again at next week's meeting, when the Committee will decide on its approach to dealing with the matter.

Agreed: to forward a copy of the correspondence to the Committee for Finance and Personnel.

Adrian Cochrane-Watson joined the meeting at 10:34am

8. Consultation: Early Closure of the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation to Onshore Wind

Members considered correspondence regarding the Early Closure of the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation to Onshore Wind.

Paul Givan joined the meeting at 10:37am

Agreed: to raise the issue with the Permanent Secretary at the later briefing.

9. The Prince's Trust Manifesto

Members agreed to discuss the matter later in the meeting.

10. Correspondence

Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure regarding the Commonwealth Youth Games 2021 bid.

Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding the Budget Bill 2016 and Spring Supplementary Estimates 2015-16.

11. Any Other Business

There were no additional items of business.

12. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Tuesday 16th February 2016 at 10.00am, Room 29.

4. Oral Briefing from Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance (NIPSA) and the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU): Proposals for the Replacement of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The representatives joined the meeting at 10:41am

Members were informed by Ms Geraldine Alexander, Assistant Secretary, NIPSA and Ms Clare Moore, Union Services Officer, Northern Ireland Committee, ICTU, that following consultation with HSENI officials they were content they had agreed a way forward and therefore did not wish to proceed with the oral briefing.

Agreed: not to hear further from NIPSA on this issue.

The representatives left the meeting at 10:42am

5. Oral Briefing from the Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland: Proposals for the Replacement of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

The representatives joined the meeting at 10:42am

Members were informed by Mr Keith Morrison, Chief Executive, HSENI that, following consultation with NIPSA and ICTU representatives, he was content for the Committee not to proceed with the oral briefing.

Agreed: the Committee remains content with the policy proposals of the SL1 at this time.

The representatives left the meeting at 10:43am

The Chairperson suspended the meeting at 10:43am

The meeting resumed at 11:21am with the following Members present:

Patsy McGlone

Conor Murphy

Steven Agnew

Gordon Dunne

William Humphrey

David McIlveen

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir

13. Oral Briefing from DETI: Closure of the Domestic and Non Domestic Renewables Heat Incentive (RHI) Schemes

The officials joined the meeting at 11:21am

Members received a briefing from Dr Andrew McCormick, Permanent Secretary, DETI, Mr Chris Stewart, Head of Policy Group, DETI, Mr John Mills, Head of Energy Division, DETI, and Mr Stuart Wightman, Principal, Energy Efficiency Branch, DETI.

Key issues discussed included the Closure of the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) Scheme and the impact the closure will have on individuals and companies that have already invested in the technology.

Adrian Cochrane-Watson returned to the meeting at 11:38am

Megan Fearon returned to the meeting at 11:47am

Paul Givan returned to the meeting at 12:16pm

Megan Fearon left the meeting at 13:06pm

Agreed: to receive a written briefing from the Department outlining how the current scenario came about and detailing the issues that led to it. To also provide details of the internal audit and review of how the scheme has been handled.

Agreed: to note the SR 2016 The Renewable Heat Incentive Schemes (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.

The representatives left the meeting at 13:15pm

Steven Agnew left the meeting at 13:16pm

William Humphrey left the meeting at 13:17pm

9. The Prince's Trust Manifesto

Members considered the Prince's Trust Manifesto.

Agreed: to write to the Chairman acknowledging their good work.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 13:19pm

Mr Patsy McGlone
Chairperson
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

16th February 2016