



Northern Ireland
Assembly

**COMMITTEE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2020

THE SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA (Chairperson)
Mr David Hilditch MLA (Deputy-Chairperson).
Ms Martina Anderson MLA
Mr Roy Beggs MLA
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Mr Keith Buchanan MLA
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA
Ms Liz Kimmins MLA
Mr Andrew Muir MLA

Apologies: None.

In Attendance: Mrs Cathie White (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Johnny Lawless (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Bill Kinnear (Clerical Officer)

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

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairpersons Business

Agreed: The Committee agreed to send a copy of the Departmental response, dated 27 May 2020, to Committee questions raised following the CBI Infrastructure Working Group Webex to CBI for information.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3 June 2020.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Departmental Briefing – June Monitoring and Covid-19 Reprioritisation Exercise

The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 10:07 am

Mr John McGrath, Deputy Secretary of Transport & Resources
Ms Julie Thompson, Deputy Secretary of Planning, Water & DVA
Dr Andrew Murray, Deputy Secretary of Roads and Rivers

The Departmental officials provided the Committee with an update on the June Monitoring and Covid-19 Reprioritisation Exercise.

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

A question and answer session followed

Mr Muir declared an interest as a former employee for Translink and Councillor of Ards and North Down Borough Council

The Chairperson thanked the Departmental officials for their briefing.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 11:53 am.

Ms Liz Kimmins left the meeting at 11:54 am.

Agreed: Departmental officials agreed to provide the Committee with an update on the current position of the work in relation to the A5.

Mr Andrew Muir declared that his step-father is the Quality Manager on the A6 project.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from the Minister on current issues on 8 July 2020.

6. Correspondence

Correspondence from Investing Strategy for Northern Ireland providing a copy of the Department for Infrastructure's Investing Activity Report for May 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Department for Infrastructure correspondence regarding an extension to the Chair appointment to the Board of Warrenpoint Harbour.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from Pivotal providing a copy of their report COVID-19 Northern Ireland – Moving out of Lockdown.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Assembly EU Affairs Manager providing a copy of the Ireland/Northern Ireland Protocol – Lords EU Committee Report

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Department for Infrastructure response to Committee correspondence regarding financial support for the Community Transport Sector.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Copy correspondence from the Committee for Finance to the Minister for Infrastructure regarding financial support for businesses adversely affected by COVID-19.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Minister of Finance response to Committee correspondence regarding the job retention scheme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note and forward the correspondence to the Road Haulage Association and Freight Transport Association for information.

Copy correspondence from the Committee for the Economy to the Minister for Infrastructure regarding the North/South Interconnector.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Committee for Finance providing a copy of the Department for Finance's response relating to the Budget (No. 2) Bill 2020 background paper.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Minister of Finance response to Committee correspondence regarding financial support for the road haulage industry, taxi sector and transport sector.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and to reconsider when responses are received from the Minister for Infrastructure and Minister for the Economy.

Ministerial for Infrastructure response to Committee correspondence regarding the Translink deficit.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Ministerial for Infrastructure urgent written statement on the Department's Budget position.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the written statement.

Mr Cathal Boylan left the meeting at 11:56 am

7. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Draft Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the forward work programme as amended.

8. Any Other Business

Ms Liz Kimmins re-joined the meeting at 11:56 am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Ministers for Infrastructure, Finance and Economy requesting an update on the status of the funding package agreed for ferry operators.

Mr Cathal Boylan re-joined the meeting at 11:57 am

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Infrastructure requesting a response to an issue raised in the press regarding a conflict of interest relating to an organisation allegedly carrying out work for Dalradian and the Department for Infrastructure.

9. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be on Wednesday 17 June 2020 at 10:00 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Committee adjourned at 11:59 am

Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Infrastructure

17 June 2020