



Committee for Infrastructure

Minutes of Proceedings

10 March 2021

Meeting Location: Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings

Present:

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

Present by Video or Teleconference:

- Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA

Apologies: None

In Attendance:

- Ms Alison Ross (Assembly Clerk)
- Mr Vincent Gribbin (Assembly Clerk)
- Mr Jonathan Lawless (Assistant Assembly Clerk)



Mr William Kinnear (Clerical Supervisor)

The meeting commenced at 10:01 am in open session

1. Apologies

None.

2. Chairpersons Business

The Committee considered a Clerk's memo regarding the joint meeting with the Committee for the Economy and the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs with Trader Support Services and HMRC.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the order for questions.

Dolores Kelly joined the meeting at 10:04 am.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3 March 2021.

Liz Kimmins joined the meeting at 10:06 am.



4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Correspondence

Committee for Finance response to Committee request for information on monies returned during monitoring rounds.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Correspondence from Investing Strategy for Northern Ireland providing a copy of the Department for Infrastructure's Investing Activity Report for February 2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Correspondence from the Department for Finance regarding the Supplementary Estimate 2020-2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Department for Infrastructure correspondence confirming the extension to the term of Non-Executive Board Members of the Drainage Council.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Copy correspondence from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds to the Minister for Finance regarding the establishment of a green recovery plan.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Copy of the Examiner of Statutory Rules Twenty-Eighth Report of the Session 2020-2021.



Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the report.

Correspondence from Diane Olphert regarding issues concerning road worthiness of vehicles and the booking of MOT's.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister raising concerns regarding the impact of the closure of MOT centres on the work of repair garages. The Committee requests that the Department provides a plan for the resumption of MOTs and for engaging with the public to ensure that vehicle owners are aware that it is their responsibility to keep their car in a safe and road worthy condition. The Committee also requests the data for the numbers of vehicles being tested and how the Department is prioritising those vehicles that are in need of an MOT.

Correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure regarding extension to the term of Non-Executive Members of the Board of Warrenpoint Harbour.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to the correspondence.

Response from Minister for Infrastructure to issues arising from the Committee meeting on 17 February 2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from Departmental officials on un-adopted roads.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting information on its workforce strategy given its issues with staff numbers.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting an overview of the Union Connectivity Review.

Copy correspondence from the Minister for the Economy to the Committee for Finance regarding Covid-19 Business support schemes.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to the correspondence.



Response from Minister for Infrastructure to issues arising from the Committee meeting on 24 February 2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department highlighting its disappointment that the infrastructure bids submitted by the Sea Ports did not proceed.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department highlighting its disappointment at the lack of recent engagement with the bus and coach sectors.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department highlighting its disappointment at the response to the Committees on financial assistance for Taxi Operators and to request a fuller explanation.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the taxi operators requesting what information they received from the Department.

Correspondence from the Examiner of Statutory Rules regarding SR 2021-33 The Taxi Driver (Coronavirus, Financial Assistance) Regulations (Northern Ireland) Order 2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to the correspondence.

6. Subordinate Legislation - SL1s - Not Subject to Assembly Proceedings

The Committee considered the following SL1 not subject to any Assembly proceedings.

- SL1 - The Parking Places, Loading Bays and Waiting Restrictions (Coleraine) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021
- SL1 - The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Carrickfergus) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021



Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the proposals for the Statutory Rules.

7. SR 2021-49 The Ballyboley Road, Larne (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021

The Committee considered the SR 2021-49 The Ballyboley Road, Larne (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021. The purpose of the Rule is to abandon an area of 2650 square metres of Ballyboley Road, Larne.

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2021-49 The Ballyboley Road, Larne (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021, and, subject to the Examiner of Rules has no objection to the rule.

8. Committee Inquiry into the Decarbonisation of Road Transport in Northern Ireland - Consideration of Draft Ecar Survey

The Committee considered a draft survey for publication in relation to Ecar's for the Committee Inquiry into the Decarbonisation of Road Transport in Northern Ireland

Agreed: The Committee agreed to publish the survey as amended.

9. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Draft Forward Work Programme.



Agreed: The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme.

10. Any Other Business

None.

11. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be on Wednesday, 14 April 2021 at 10:00 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting moved into closed session at 10:25 am.

12. Departmental Briefing - Reservoirs

The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 10:25 am.

Mr Jonathan McKee, Director of Rivers

Mr Quinton Campbell, Deputy Principal in the Reservoirs Authority

Mr Shaun Donnelly, Head of Business Support, DfI Roads and Rivers (*via Starleaf*)

Mr Mark Stranaghan, Head of Flooding & Drainage Policy

The Departmental officials provided the Committee with an oral briefing.



A question and answer session followed.

The Chairperson thanked the Departmental officials for their attendance.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 11:57 am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to The Executive Office for information on when the Transfer of Functions Order will be enacted and to request that this is expedited given the short period of time before the end of the current mandate.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am.

Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Infrastructure

14 April 2021