



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

# Committee for Infrastructure

## Minutes of Proceedings

12 May 2021

**Meeting Location:** Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings

**Present:** Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr David Hilditch MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Andrew Muir MLA

**Present by Video or Teleconference:**

Ms Martina Anderson MLA  
Mr Roy Beggs MLA  
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA  
Mr Keith Buchanan MLA  
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA  
Ms Liz Kimmins MLA

**Apologies:** None

**In Attendance:** Mrs Alison Ross (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Jonathan Lawless (Assistant Assembly Clerk)



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Mr William Kinnear (Clerical Supervisor)

The meeting commenced at 10:04 am in open session

**1. Apologies**

As above.

**2. Chairpersons Business**

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting an update on the current situation in respect of the driving test application system and the releasing of additional test appointments.

**3. Draft Minutes.**

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 5 May 2021.

**4. Matters Arising**

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to Committee for Health in respect of a response to correspondence from the Department for Health that has been outstanding since 7 January 2021.



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## 5. Correspondence

Correspondence from Bus and Coach NI Ltd regarding the new draft guidance for Commercial Bus Service Permits & Transport Integration.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to copy the correspondence to the Department for information and to ask what additional schemes are being brought forward in relation to providing support for the bus and coach sector in the current financial year.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to the Minister to ascertain why some transport paid for by public funds is omitted from the journey planner publication and to ask that she engage with the sector to resolve the issues raised.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from the Department on the new draft guidance for Commercial Bus Service Permits & Transport Integration in the forward work programme.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from Bus and Coach NI Ltd on the new draft guidance for Commercial Bus Service Permits & Transport Integration in the forward work programme.

Response from the Minister for Infrastructure to issues arising from the Committee meeting on 21 April 2021.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to note the response.

Copy of the Construction Employers Federation response to the Strategic Investment Boards call for evidence on a new Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Committee for the Economy regarding participation in meetings with the NI Affairs Committee on the Northern Ireland Protocol.



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**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Response from the Minister for the Economy to Committee correspondence regarding Part B of the CRBSS Scheme for taxi operators.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to note the response.

Copy of the Examiner of Statutory Rules Thirty-Sixth Report of the Session 2020-2021.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to note the report.

Copy of the Examiner of Statutory Rules Thirty-Seventh Report of the Session 2020-2021.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to note the report.

Correspondence from Hannon Coach requesting to meet the Committee in relation to bus service permit applications

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing in the forward work programme.

Correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure regarding a Reserved Matters Application - Lands south of the Copelands Link roundabout at the Comber Bypass.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure regarding a Reserved Matters Application - Land immediately adjacent to and south east of Copelands Link Roundabout at the Comber Bypass.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure regarding a Planning Application - First Broughshane Presbyterian Church Main Street, Broughshane.



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**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Response from The Executive Office to Committee correspondence regarding the Transfer of Functions in relation to Reservoirs.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to note the response.

Response from the Department for Communities to Committee correspondence regarding the Review of the Caravans Act 2011.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to note the response.

Correspondence from the Committee for the Executive Office regarding SR 2021-114 The Departments (Transfer of Functions) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed that it was content with the Statutory Rule.

Department for Infrastructure correspondence regarding the publishing of its Annual Report and Accounts 2020-2021.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Response from Assembly Legal Services to a request for advice into meeting with representatives from taxi operators.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from taxi operators in the forward work programme.

## 6. Departmental Briefing – Un-adopted Roads

The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 10:16 am.

Mr Conor Loughrey, Director of Network Services (*via Starleaf*)



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Mr Lionel Walsh, Network Planning Manager (*via Starleaf*)

The Departmental officials provided the Committee with an oral briefing.

A question and answer session followed.

Mrs Martina Anderson joined the meeting at 10:31 am.

**Agreed:** The officials agreed to provide the Committee with further information in respect of the number of developments started without bonds in place and the number of prosecutions to date for failure to complete works.

**Agreed:** The officials agreed to provide the Committee with details of the oldest site which has not been adopted and the length of time that the adoption has been outstanding.

Mr David Hilditch left the meeting at 10:59 am.

**Agreed:** The officials agreed to provide the Committee with further information on legacy sites.

Mr David Hilditch re-joined the meeting 11:00 am.

The Chairperson thanked the Departmental officials for their attendance.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 11:24 am.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to the Minister highlighting concerns raised by Members.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to table a motion highlighting the issues raised, including understaffing and the lack of adequate work force planning prior to the Northern Ireland Civil Service voluntary exit scheme that has led to this and urging cross departmental working, where possible, to mitigate resource deficiencies.



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## 7. Departmental Briefing – A5 and York Street Interchange

The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 11:33 am.

Mr John Irvine, Director of Major Projects & Procurement (*via Starleaf*)  
Mr Seamus Keenan, PPTO Civil Engineer with the SRI Team - A5 Western  
Transport Corridor (*via Starleaf*)  
Mr Colin Sykes, Network Development and SRI Manager (*via Starleaf*)

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 12:26pm.

## 8. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Draft Forward Work Programme.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme.



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**9. Any Other Business**

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to the Minister to ascertain what engagement she has had with Councils in respect of the Levelling up Fund and the substance of the bid she will be making for this.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to the Minister to ascertain what plans there are for the deployment of traffic attendants to enforce parking and traffic restrictions in the city, town centres and areas of interest for public gatherings.

**10. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting**

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be on Wednesday, 19 May 2021 at 9:30 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:29 pm.

**Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA**  
**Chairperson, Committee for Infrastructure**

**19 May 2021**