



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for Infrastructure

Minutes of Proceedings

16 June 2021

Meeting Location: Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings

Present: Mr Jonathan Buckley MLA (Chairperson)
Mr David Hilditch MLA (Deputy-Chairperson)
Mr Roy Beggs MLA
Mr Keith Buchanan MLA

Present by Video or Teleconference:

Ms Martina Anderson MLA
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA
Ms Liz Kimmins MLA
Mr Andrew Muir MLA

Apologies: None.

In Attendance: Mr Vincent Gribbin (Assembly Clerk)
Mrs Alison Ross (Assembly Clerk)



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Mr Jonathan Lawless (Assistant Assembly Clerk)

Mr William Kinnear (Clerical Supervisor)

The meeting commenced at 10:02 am in open session

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairpersons Business

The Committee discussed an informal meeting with the Transport Hub Alternative Group regarding the Belfast Transport Hub and the Boyne Bridge.

Agreed: The Committee noted that current COVID-19 restrictions still prevented arranged Committee visits but that members who wished to visit the site informally as individuals would do so.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister regarding concerns raised by the Transport Hub Alternative Group around the lack of engagement and communication with the group; and to establish what engagement and communication had in fact taken place.

3. Draft Minutes.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9 June 2021.



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4. Matters Arising

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Infrastructure in respect of the independent examination of roads resurfacing issues she referred to in the Chamber on 15 June 2021 to ascertain the Terms of Reference of the examination and to ensure that the Committee is provided with full details.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister in respect of the “Planning for the Future of Transport – Time for Change” to ascertain what role the private sector will play in feeding into the consultation.

Mr Andrew Muir joined the meeting at 10:08 am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department of Health expressing its dissatisfaction with the amount of time it has been waiting for a response to its request for information issued on 10 December 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to put in place a more formal process for dealing with overdue correspondence which includes escalation to call witnesses to meetings to explain the lack of response to correspondence.

5. Correspondence

Response to from the Committee for Finance to a request regarding the timeline for establishment of the Fiscal the Council and its possible role in relation to planning disputes.



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Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Correspondence from Bus and Coach NI Ltd regarding Planning for the Future of Transport – Time for Change.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure regarding the Extension of Non-Executive Member Appointments for the Board of Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company (NITHC).

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Committee for Communities regarding a High Street Task Force for Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Assembly Research and Information Service paper on Gender Budgeting and Gender Inequalities in Northern Irish Education.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the paper.

Copy of the Examiner of Statutory Rules Forty-first Report of the session 2020 – 2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the report.

Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Assembly EU Affairs Officer providing a copy of Cabinet Office correspondence regarding the Common Frameworks.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Northern West Taxi Proprietor Group regarding issues facing the taxi industry.



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Agreed: The Committee agreed to note and include the correspondence in the meeting pack for 23 June 2021 for the taxi operator briefing.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite the North West Taxi Proprietor Group to join the briefing on 23 June 2021.

Response from the Minister for Infrastructure to issues arising from the Committee meeting on 26 May 2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

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

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

- SL1 - The Waiting Restrictions and Urban Clearways (John Street and Kevlin Road, Omagh) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021
- SL1 - The Road Races (Garron Point Hill Climb) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021
- SL1 - The Parking Places on Roads and Waiting Restrictions (Cookstown) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021

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

7. SL1 - The Water and Sewerage Services (Electronic Communications) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021

The Committee considered the SL1 - The Water and Sewerage Services (Electronic Communications) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021.



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

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for further information on the method of communication that will be used to contact customers; specifically, whether it will be done electronically or through a hybrid system of electronic and paper correspondence.

8. Subordinate Legislation - SRs - Not Subject to Assembly Proceedings

The Committee considered the following SR's not subject to any Assembly proceedings.

- SR 2021-145 The Road Races (Cairncastle Hill Climb) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021
- SR 2021-146 The Road Traffic (Amendment) (2016 Act) (Commencement No.3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021
- SR 2021-149 The Parking Places (Greencastle Street, Kilkeel) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021
- SR 2021-150 The One-Way Traffic (Belfast) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021
- SR 2021-157 The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Ballymena) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021
- SR 2021-158 The Control of Traffic (Londonderry) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021
- SR 2021-159 The Parking Places (Disabled Persons' Vehicles) (Amendment No. 4) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the Statutory Rules.



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9. SR 2021-125 The Common, Markethill Road, Newtownhamilton (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021

The Committee considered a correction slip in relation to SR 2021-125 The Common, Markethill Road, Newtownhamilton (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correction slip.

10. SR 2021-148 The Low Road, Newry (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021

The Committee considered SR 2021-148 The Low Road, Newry (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021. The purpose of the rule is to abandon an area of 548 square metres of former road at U5344 Low Road, Newry starting at a point 12 metres south of its former junction with Forkhill Road and extending for 78 metres in a southerly direction.

Agreed: That the Committee for Infrastructure has considered SR 2021-148 The Low Road, Newry (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the rule.

Ms Liz Kimmins joined the meeting at 10:19 am.

11. SR 2021-153 The Trunk Road T2 (Ballynahinch Bypass) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021

The Committee considered SR 2021-153 The Trunk Road T2 (Ballynahinch Bypass) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021. The Order provides that 3395 metres of new and upgraded road shall become trunk road and be part of the Belfast to Newcastle Trunk Road T2.



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Agreed: That the Committee for Infrastructure has considered SR 2021-153 The Trunk Road T2 (Ballynahinch Bypass) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the rule.

12. Committee Inquiry into the Decarbonisation of Road Transport in Northern Ireland - Briefing from RalSe – Survey findings

The Assembly researchers joined the meeting at 10:20 am.

Mr Dan Hull, Assembly Research and Information Service
Mr Daryl Hughes, Assembly Research and Information Service (*via Starleaf*)

The Assembly researchers provided the Committee with an oral briefing.

A question and answer session followed.

Mr Andrew Muir left the meeting at 10:35 am.

Mrs Dolores Kelly joined the meeting at 10:46 am.

Agreed: The researchers agreed to provide the Committee with further information on the mapping of charging points.

Agreed: The researchers agreed to provide the Committee with a comparative analysis of public attitudes to charging points in other jurisdictions.

Agreed: The researchers agreed to provide the Committee with further information on individual's intention to buy electric and ultra-low emission vehicles as their next vehicle in other jurisdictions.

Agreed: The researchers agreed to provide further information on a free-to-charge network in relation to a paid-for network; how this works in



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other jurisdictions; and how these other jurisdictions have transferred from free-to-charge to paid-for networks in those regions.

The Chairperson thanked the Assembly researchers for their attendance.

The Assembly researchers left the meeting at 11:01 am.

13. Departmental Briefing – Driver & Vehicle Agency - MOT's & Driving Tests

The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 11:01 am.

Mr Jeremy Logan, Chief Executive, Driver and Vehicle Agency
Mr Pat Delaney, Director of Operations, Driver and Vehicle Agency
Mr Mike Beare, Director of Business Improvement and Corporate Services,
Driver and Vehicle Agency

The Departmental officials provided the Committee with an oral briefing.

A question and answer session followed.

Agreed: The officials agreed to provide the Committee with details of the average waiting times for both driving tests and MOT's across the network.

Agreed: The officials agreed to revisit communication procedures in order to identify whether any further opportunities exist to improve awareness with their customers.

Agreed: The officials agreed to provide the Committee with further details in relation to when the facility for PSV checking for Northern Ireland trailers will become available.

The Departmental officials remained for the next briefing.



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14. Departmental Briefing –DVA Lift Action Plan & Public Accounts Committee Report

A question and answer session followed.

The Chairperson thanked the Departmental officials for their attendance.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 12:57 pm.

Mr Cathal Boylan left the meeting at 12:57 pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to keep a watching brief on the outstanding number of theory tests and driving tests to be completed.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing on DVA enforcement after the summer recess

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ascertain whether there is any intention to extend taxi operating hours.

15. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Draft Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme.



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16. Any Other Business

None.

17. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be on Wednesday, 23 June 2021 at 10:00 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 pm.

Mr Jonathan Buckley MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Infrastructure

23 June 2021