



Northern Ireland
Assembly

**COMMITTEE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY, 17 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)

**This Member attended the meeting via telephone conferencing.*

The meeting commenced in open session at 10:02 am.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairpersons Business

None.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10 June 2020.

4. Matters Arising

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department regarding the significant delay in responding to the Committee's correspondence of 3 April 2020.

5. Briefing from Mineral Products Association (Northern Ireland) – COVID-19 Response & Recovery

The representatives joined the meeting at 10:04 am

Mr Simon McDowell, Chairman, Mineral Products Association (Northern Ireland)
Mr Gordon Best, Regional Director, Mineral Products Association (Northern Ireland)

The representatives provided the Committee with briefing on their response to and recovery from COVID-19.

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

A question and answer session followed.

Mr Andrew Muir declared an interest as a former employee of Translink and councillor in Ards and North Down Borough Council. Mr Muir also declared his step-father is Quality Manager on the A6 project.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their briefing.

The representatives left the meeting at 11:45 am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request an update in relation to its progress with the Review of Old Mineral Planning Permissions (ROMP's).

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request an update on the shared expert service governing waste and minerals planning.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write the Committee for Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs to request an update on the shared expert service governing waste and minerals planning.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ascertain its view on a specialised construction project delivery unit.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ascertain its view on establishing a Northern Ireland Minerals Forum.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department of Finance requesting information on the broader spend across Departments and their arms-length bodies.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to NILGA & SOLACE to request information regarding how Councils are using their enforcement powers in respect of regulating quarries.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a research paper on specialised construction project delivery units in other jurisdictions.

6. Correspondence

Department for Infrastructure correspondence regarding the publication of Northern Ireland Water's Water Resource and Supply Resilience Plan.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Department for Infrastructure correspondence regarding the exemption from use of seatbelts by Ambulance Personnel.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Copy of the Examiner of Statutory Rules Twelfth Report of the session 2019-2020

SR 2020-64 The Taxis Licensing (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee had previously agreed this rule at its meeting on 29th April 2020 subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules Report. The Examiner of Statutory Rules has now reported and noted a breach of the 21 Day Rule. The Examiner of Statutory rules is content with the explanation provided by the Department for the delay.

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2020-64 The Taxis Licensing (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020, and had no objection to the rule.

SR 2020-72 The Planning (Development Management) (Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee had previously agreed this rule at its meeting on 29th April 2020 subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules Report. The Examiner of Statutory Rules has now reported and noted a breach of the 21 Day Rule. The Examiner of Statutory rules is content with the explanation provided by the Department for the delay.

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2020-72 The Planning (Development Management) (Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020, and had no objection to the rule.

Department for Infrastructure correspondence notifying of the extension of Appointments to the Drainage Council for Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from Mr Paul Wilson regarding the budget allocated for the change of speed limits outside schools.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and forward it to the Department for comment.

Correspondence from the Committee for Finance regarding financial support for Road Haulage, Taxi Industry and Transport Sector.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Committee for Finance expressing its views in response to the question asked in its correspondence.

Department for Infrastructure response to Committee correspondence regarding the issues arising from the Committee meeting on 27 May 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Infrastructure and Minister for the Economy to express the seriousness of the financial situation facing the haulage sector.

7. SR 2020-99 The Drumnagoon Road and Kernan Hill Road, Portadown (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee considered SR 2020-99 The Drumnagoon Road and Kernan Hill Road, Portadown (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020. The purpose of the rule is to abandon 2 areas of road totalling 1336.6 square metres at Drumnagoon Road and Kernan Hill Road, Portadown, after the completion of such works as the Department considers necessary.

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2020-99 The Drumnagoon Road and Kernan Hill Road, Portadown (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020, and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules' report, had no objection to the rule.

8. SR 2020-100 The Footpath at Mowhan Road and Bunker Hill, Markethill (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee considered SR 2020-100 The Footpath at Mowhan Road and Bunker Hill, Markethill (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020. The purpose of the rule is to abandon 189 square metres of footpath at Mowhan Road, Markethill commencing at its junction with Mowhan Road and extending for 70 metres in an easterly direction towards No. 41 Bunker Hill, after completion of such works as the Department considers necessary to provide alternative facilities.

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2020-100 The Footpath at Mowhan Road and Bunker Hill, Markethill (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020, and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules' report, had no objection to the rule.

9. SR 2020-101 The Kernan Road, Portadown (Footpath) (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee considered SR 2020-101 The Kernan Road, Portadown (Footpath) (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020. The purpose of the rule is to abandon 149.52 square metres of road comprising a footpath located at Kernan Road, Portadown commencing at its junction with the footway on the north side of Kernan Gardens, adjacent to No. 109, and extending for a distance of 87 metres in a north-westerly direction, after completion of such works as the Department considers necessary to provide alternative facilities.

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2020-101 The Kernan Road, Portadown (Footpath) (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020, and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules' report, had no objection to the rule.

10. SR 2020-102 The Craigs Road, Carrickfergus (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee considered SR 2020-102 The Craigs Road, Carrickfergus (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020. The purpose of the rule is to abandon 80 square metres of footpath at Craigs Road, Carrickfergus commencing at a point 3 metres north of its junction with Prince Andrew Way, Carrickfergus to the rear of No. 7 Broadlands Park and extending for a distance of 40 metres in a north-easterly direction along the side boundary of No. 123 Craigs Road, after completion of such works as the Department considers necessary to provide alternative facilities.

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2020-102 The Craigs Road, Carrickfergus (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020, and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules' report, had no objection to the rule.

11. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Draft Forward Work Programme.

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

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request a written briefing paper on the Road Safety Strategy.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request a written briefing paper on Brexit related issues.

12. Any Other Business

- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Infrastructure and the Minister for the Economy to ascertain what support is intended to be made available to private coach and bus hire companies.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department for Infrastructure requesting a more detailed breakdown on its capital spend.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department for Infrastructure requesting an update on the York Street Interchange project.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department regarding correspondence from Paul Wilson seeking clarification on whether the primary target is the number of schools to benefit from the scheme or the total money spent.

13. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be on Wednesday 24 June 2020 at 10:00 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Committee adjourned at 12:01 pm

Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Infrastructure

24 June 2020