



Northern Ireland
Assembly

**COMMITTEE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 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)
Mrs Alison Ross (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Vincent Gribbin (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Johnny Lawless (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Bill Kinnear (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced in open session at 10:08 am.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairpersons Business

The Chairperson welcomed Ms Martina Anderson MLA to the Committee.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12 February 2020.

4. Matters Arising

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting an update on the Interim Report which was to be provided to the Minister in respect of the lifts in the MOT Centres.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting information on the consistency of the process and advice given when dealing with customers of MOT Centres by telephone or written correspondence.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting an update on the new emissions tests for diesel vehicles and the Hydebank facility.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for clarity on the legal requirements for the frequency of MOT tests under the EU Directive.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting an update on the JustPark App in regard to issues being experienced by members of the public.

5. Correspondence

Correspondence from BS Holdings to NI Water regarding technology that would lend itself to enhancing the energy provider status of NI Water

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and include in the meeting pack for the NI Water briefing session.

Correspondence from Kerr's Tyres regarding road safety and the issue of bi annual MOT's for cars.

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

Correspondence from the Public Accounts Committee regarding a Northern Ireland Audit Office report on Major Capital Projects

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and agreed to schedule a briefing from the Northern Ireland Audit Office when the Public Accounts Committee has considered the Government response in a Memorandum of Understanding.

Correspondence from the Construction Employers Federation congratulating the Chairperson on her appointment and to request to meet.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and that the Chairperson and any interested Committee Members would meet representatives of the Construction Employers Federation.

Copy correspondence to the Speakers Office from the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, The Executive Office including a statement on the Executives Legislative Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed note the correspondence.

Departmental correspondence regarding the appointment of the Interim Chair to the Board of the Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company.

Agreed: The Committee agreed note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Construction Industry Training Board providing a copy of their Annual Report 2018/2019

Agreed: The Committee agreed note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the House of Lords European Union Committee inviting the Chairperson and other Committee Members to a meeting and a working lunch.

Agreed: The Committee agreed note the correspondence.

Ministerial response to Committee correspondence regarding The Motorcycles (Protective Headgear) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to ascertain what work has been carried out in relation to making the wearing of safety helmets on quad bikes compulsory in Northern Ireland on farms and private land.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for the Economy to ascertain what work has been carried out by the Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland in relation to making the wearing of safety helmets on quad bikes compulsory in Northern Ireland on farms and private land.

6. Subordinate Legislation – SL1 The Motorways Traffic (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee considered SL1 The Motorways Traffic (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020.

The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 10:27 am

Mrs Deirdre Gallagher, Head of Transport Legislation Branch
Mr Colin Sykes, Head of Network Maintenance (Eastern)
Mr Basil Hassard, Strategic Road Improvement Team (Eastern)

The officials provided the Committee with a briefing on the SL1.

The oral evidence was followed by a question and answer session.

Mr Andrew Muir declared an interest as a former employee of Translink.

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

The Chairperson thanked the officials for their attendance.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 10:37 am

7. Departmental Briefing – Budget

The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 10:38 am

Mr John McGrath, Deputy Secretary of Transport & Resources
Mr Gary Boyd, Acting Director of Finance
Mr Terry Deehan, Head of Financial Planning & Management

The officials provided the Committee with a briefing on the Budget.

The oral evidence was followed by a question and answer session.

Andrew Muir declared an interest as a former Councillor for North Down Borough Council.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request comparable tables on concessionary fares in Northern Ireland and other jurisdictions.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for a breakdown of how it intends to spend its additional funding received from the January Monitoring Round and the extra allocation from the Minister for Finance 2019-20 Public Expenditure: Further Allocations.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ascertain if the underfunding for Translink by the Department may be in breach of contract under the Public Service Agreement.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 12:00 pm.

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

The Chairperson thanked the officials for their attendance.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to postpone Agenda Item 9 and reschedule it for 26 February.

8. Departmental Briefing – Water & Drainage Policy & Living with Water Programme

The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 12:01 pm

Ms Linda MacHugh, Director of Water and Drainage Policy
Mr Simon Richardson, Director of Living With Water Programme
Mr Damian Curran, Head of Shareholder Unit

The officials provided the Committee with a briefing on Water & Drainage Policy & Living with Water Programme.

The oral evidence was followed by a question and answer session.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for Environment, Agriculture & Rural Affairs requesting an up to date position on the illegal dumping site at Mobuoy.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 1:15 pm.

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

The Chairperson thanked the officials for their attendance.

9. Departmental Briefing – Regional Planning & Strategic Planning

The Committee agreed to postpone the briefing on Regional Planning & Strategic Planning and reschedule it for Wednesday 26 February 2020.

10. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Draft Forward Work Programme.

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

11. Any Other Business

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for an update of the review of the legislation SR 2017-34 (C.3) The Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) (2010 Act) (Commencement No.1) Order (Northern Ireland) 2017 which is causing concerns for people complying with this statutory rule.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs to ascertain the reasons behind the error in failing to transfer functions in regards to reservoirs to the Department for Infrastructure.

12. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

The Committee noted that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 26 February 2020, at 10:00 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Committee adjourned at 1:19 pm

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

26 February 2020