



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

**COMMITTEE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE  
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**WEDNESDAY, 27 JANUARY 2021**

**SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr David Hilditch MLA (Deputy-Chairperson)  
Ms Martina Anderson MLA (*via Starleaf*)  
Mr Roy Beggs MLA (*via Starleaf*)  
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA  
Mr Keith Buchanan MLA  
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA (*via Starleaf*)  
Ms Liz Kimmins MLA (*via Starleaf*)  
Mr Andrew Muir MLA (*via Starleaf*)

Apologies: None

In Attendance: Mrs Cathie White (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Jonathan Lawless (Clerical Supervisor) (*via Starleaf*)  
Mr William Kinnear (Clerical Officer)

*The meeting commenced in open session at 10:00 am.*

**1. Apologies**

As above.

**2. Chairpersons Business**

The Committee considered a paper from the Clerking and Member Support (CAMS) Office regarding how Committees can prevent the spread of Covid-19 at Committee Meetings.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to continue with Hybrid meetings and keep the format of the proceedings under review.

### **3. Draft Minutes**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20 January 2021 as amended.

### **4. Matters Arising**

The Committee considered the actions arising from the briefing from the Northern Ireland Retail Consortium, Logistics UK & the Road Haulage Association.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the Hansard of the briefing to Northern Ireland Ports for comment on the issues raised.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the ports asking for clarification on what facilities are available for drivers at each of the ports.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to share the Hansard of the briefing of the 20 January 2021 with the Northern Ireland Retail Consortium, Logistics UK & the Road Haulage Association with the Committees for Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs; the Economy and the Executive office for information.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs, the Minister for the Economy and the Executive Office highlighting the issues raised by the haulage and retail sectors regarding the impact on trade to Northern Ireland.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Michael Gove and HMRC highlighting the issues raised by the haulage and retail sectors regarding the impact on trade to Northern Ireland.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting an explanation why road works projects cannot be delivered using money that remains unspent in this year's Budget.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ascertain whether it intended to put forward any proposals to the Minister for Finance to make use of the surplus COVID funding available to Departments.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting information on the maintenance and upkeep of electric vehicle charging points, why are so many broken and what is the strategy for maintenance and upkeep in the future.

### **5. Correspondence**

Copy of correspondence from The Executive Office to the Committee for the Executive Office regarding scrutiny of Common Frameworks

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and consider it at the meeting dealing with Common Frameworks.

Copy of correspondence from the Committee for Finance to the Minister for Infrastructure and Minister for Finance regarding the January Monitoring round.

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

Response from the House of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement to Committee correspondence regarding Common Frameworks.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and consider it at the meeting dealing with Common Frameworks.

Correspondence from Renewable NI providing a copy of the KPMG Report - Economic Review of Small Scale Wind in Northern Ireland.

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

Correspondence from the Speaker's Office regarding a Public Petition regarding 'a 40 Mile per Hour Speed Zone on the A48 for the Cotton Community'.

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

Copy of the Examiner of Statutory Rules Twentieth Report of Session 2020 – 2021.

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

Response from the Welsh Parliament's Climate Change Environment and Rural Affairs Committee to Committee correspondence regarding the Draft Hazardous Substances (Planning) Common Framework.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and consider it at the meeting dealing with Common Frameworks.

Response from the Taxi Operator Group to Committee correspondence regarding the number of taxi drivers who availed of the insurance holiday.

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

Response from Warrenpoint Harbour to Committee correspondence following the briefing from the retail and logistics sector.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the response and forward a copy of the Hansard of the session when available.

Copy correspondence from the Committee for Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs to the UK Government and Fújstu regarding operational and practical issues arising from EU Exit.

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

Correspondence from the Committee for Finance regarding the Draft Budget 2021-2022.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and schedule a briefing from the Department at next week's meeting.

## **6. SR 2021-11 The Alexandra Square, Lurgan (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021**

The Committee considered SR 2021-11 The Alexandra Square, Lurgan (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021. The purpose of the rule is to abandon an area of former road at Alexandra Square car park, Lurgan.

*Agreed:* The Committee considered SR 2021-11 The Alexandra Square, Lurgan (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021, and, subject to the Examiner of Rules, has no objection to the rule.

## **7. Briefing from Bus & Coach NI Ltd and Coach Operators Northern Ireland - Financial Assistance for Coach and Bus Operators - COVID-19**

*The representatives joined the meeting at 10:29 am.*

Mrs Karen Magill, Chief Executive, Bus & Coach NI Ltd (*via Starleaf*)  
Mr Niall McKeever, Chairman, Bus & Coach NI Ltd (*via Starleaf*)  
Mr Edwin Henry, Chief Executive, Coach Operators Northern Ireland (*via Starleaf*)  
Mr John Jeffers, Chairman, Coach Operators Northern Ireland (*via Starleaf*)

The representatives provided the Committee with an oral briefing.

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

A question and answer session followed.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their attendance.

*The representatives left the meeting at 11:55 am.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting data on the current coach and bus support scheme including the number of applications received, broken down into those eligible and ineligible and the reasons for ineligibility.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department for an explanation why the Department requested £5 million for the Bus & Coach operators support scheme rather than £12 million and how much has been allocated to date.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department seeking information on when the first Bus & Coach operators support scheme will be concluded and all applications and payments processed.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting the rationale for the £100,000 cap on the scheme.

- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ascertain what lessons the Department has learned from the first scheme to improve on any future schemes.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ascertain what action it is taking to ensure that those operators who are not members of one of the trade organisations are kept informed of developments and invited to participate in the formulation of the criteria for any new scheme.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request further information on how the 40% decrease in turnover/income criterion for the scheme was decided and how is it being applied.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from the Department on the first and any future schemes for bus and coach operators.

## **8. Departmental Briefing – Brexit**

*The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 12:02 pm.*

Ms Linda MacHugh, Acting Deputy Secretary, Resources, Governance and EU Group (*via Starleaf*)

Mr Ciaran Crosbie, Head of Brexit Planning (*via Starleaf*)

Mr Graeme Banks, Gateways and EU Relations (*via Starleaf*)

Dr Chris Hughes, Director of Safe and Accessible Travel (*via Starleaf*)

The Departmental officials provided the Committee with an oral briefing.

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

A question and answer session followed.

*Mr Cathal Boylan left the meeting at 12:29 pm.*

The Chairperson thanked the Departmental officials for their attendance.

*Mr Andrew Muir left the meeting at 12:48 pm.*

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

## **9. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee considered the Draft Forward Work Programme.

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

## **10. Any Other Business**

None.

## **11. Date, Time and Place of next meeting**

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be on Wednesday, 3 February 2021 at 9:30 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

*The Committee adjourned at 12:59 pm*

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

**3 February 2021**