



Northern Ireland
Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, 27 MAY 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)

The meeting commenced in open session at 10:03 am.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairpersons Business

The Chairperson advised the Members that she and some Committee members joined CBI NI Infrastructure Working Group WebEx on Friday 15 May to discuss a number of issues that currently affect the various sectoral groups. As a result of the discussion the Department were asked to provide an update on the following points raised:

- The review of planning especially with a view to providing for a faster route through planning for major projects seen as critical to NI; and

- Procurement and finance particularly in relation to budget spend on progressing of key infrastructure projects and in respect of issuing new works orders for resurfacing work and summer surface dressing to reinvigorate the pipeline of projects post COVID.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 29 April 2020.

4. Matters Arising

The Chairperson advised Members that during the Committee planning day on 18 March 2020, the Committee received a briefing from Assembly Communications and requested statistical data on the audience figures for the live streaming of Committee meetings. Assembly Communications has responded to advise that this information is not possible to disaggregate at the moment as only the audience for the day is available and not by Committee meeting. However, they have advised that this should be available at some point in the future.

5. Briefing from the Road Haulage Association & the Freight Transport Association – COVID-19 Response & Recovery

The representatives joined the meeting at 10:07 am

Mr Seamus Leheny, Policy Manager, Freight Transport Association
Mr John Martin, Policy Manager, Road Haulage Association

The representatives provided the Committee with an update on freight transport sectors response to and recovery from the COVID-19 Health Crisis.

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

A question and answer session followed.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their briefing.

The representatives left the meeting at 11:21 am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Ministers for Economy, Finance and Infrastructure to urge Ministers to work together to identify what evidence is needed to strengthen the case for a bespoke financial support package for the road haulage and logistics sector. And to work with the RHA and FHA to provide any further evidence required.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Ministers for Economy, Finance and Infrastructure urging them to work together to produce a properly costed financial package that could be used to assist the taxi industry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Finance requesting information on the remaining £59 million still held centrally and apparently set aside for transport; to establish whether this has in fact been ring fenced for transport, or whether can it be reallocated. If so what decisions have been made about its allocation to date.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Finance to establish whether he has flexibility to amend the rules of the furloughing scheme, particularly in relation to the specified three-week period, to allow the road haulage and logistics sector to begin a gradual return to work.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Infrastructure to identify what approaches she has made to DVA, Translink, NI Water and Community Transport in relation to the furloughing of staff; in particular, when this took place and what has been agreed with each organisation.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Infrastructure regarding the provision of additional financial support to Community Transport.

6. Correspondence

Copy correspondence from the Committee for Communities to the Minister for Infrastructure regarding Capital Projects post COVID-19.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Updated Assembly Research and Information Service research paper on Assembly Committees: Coordinated Budget Scrutiny.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the research paper.

Department of Finance Budget 2020-2021 Budget Paper.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the paper.

Department of Finance response to Committee correspondence regarding COVID-19 and New Decade New Approach Funding.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Minister for Infrastructure's Oral Statement providing an update on the Departments COVID-19 Response on 5 May 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the statement.

Copy correspondence from the Committee for the Economy to the Minister for Infrastructure regarding its Energy Strategy Micro Inquiry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure advising of her intention to present a motion to the Assembly for affirmation of the Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycles (Construction and Use) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Department for Infrastructure correspondence providing COVID-19 Emergency Planning Guidance – Pre-Application Community Consultation (PACC) – Temporary Removal of Public Event Requirement.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the CBI inviting the Chairperson to take part in a discussion forum on recovery following COVID-19.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Freight Transport Association regarding Individual Vehicle Approval Inspections by the Driver & Vehicle Agency.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Freight Transport Association regarding a plan for recovery following COVID-19.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Committee for Finance response to Committee correspondence regarding the impact of COVID-19 on the taxi industry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Business Committee response to Committee correspondence regarding the scheduling of debate on SR2020 – 31 Motion to the Assembly for affirmation of The Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycles (Construction and Use) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Department of Finance response to Committee correspondence regarding financial gaps due to austerity measures.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Correspondence from the Freight Transport Association & Manufacturing Northern Ireland regarding the delay in reintroducing Individual Vehicle Approval (IVA) inspections within Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Committee for Justice correspondence regarding the Committee stage of the Domestic Abuse and Family Proceedings Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from Weber Shandwick regarding the alignment of Tax and Duty Regulations for Northern Ireland Airports with the rest of the UK.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Copy correspondence from the Committee for Communities to the Minister for Infrastructure regarding the Solace NI COVID-19 Briefing.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Minister for Infrastructure response to Committee correspondence regarding financial assistance for the taxi industry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Correspondence from the Mineral Products Association (Northern Ireland) Ltd requesting to meet with the Committee.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing in the Forward Work Programme.

Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Assembly EU Affairs Manager providing Government published set of draft legal texts on its approach to the future relationship with the European Union.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Committee for Finance providing In-Year Monitoring and Outturn & Forecast Outturn Guidance.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and include it in the meeting pack for the briefing on 3 June 2020.

Assembly Research and Information Service research paper 2020-21 In-year Monitoring of Public Expenditure – First Round: Supporting Assembly Committees in their Advisory & Scrutiny Roles.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and include it in the meeting pack for the briefing on 3 June 2020.

Minister for Infrastructure response to Committee correspondence regarding the Road Haulage Association and Translink.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Correspondence from the Committee for Finance providing a paper from the Department of Finance to the Committee for Finance on the Budget (No 2) Bill and the Further Vote on Account 2020-21.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and include it in the meeting pack for the briefing on 3 June 2020.

Correspondence from Imtac providing their Statement on Living with COVID-19.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Department for Infrastructure response to Committee correspondence regarding Individual Vehicle Approval (IVA) inspections.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Department for Infrastructure response to Committee correspondence regarding issues arising out of the Committee meeting on 29 April 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response and include the correspondence in the meeting pack for 3 June 2020.

Correspondence from Imtac providing a copy of Putting people first - Report on the Imtac Pedestrian Workshop held on 5th February 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from CBI providing a Note of the WebEx meeting with the CBI Infrastructure Working Group on 15 May 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure providing a copy of her Oral Ministerial Statement: Update on Response to Covid-19 on 26 May 2020.

7. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Draft Forward Work Programme.

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

8. Any Other Business

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Infrastructure generally welcoming the proposal to pedestrianize some streets around city centres and to ensure there is adequate consultation with key stakeholders and residents.

9. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be on Wednesday 3 June 2020 at 10:00 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Committee adjourned at 11:43 am

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

3 June 2020