



Northern Ireland
Assembly

**COMMITTEE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY, 3 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)

The meeting commenced in open session at 10:04 am.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairpersons Business

None

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 27 May 2020.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Briefing from Translink – COVID-19 Response & Recovery

The representative joined the meeting at 10:05 am

Mr Chris Conway, Chief Executive, Translink

Mr Conway provided the Committee with an update on Translink's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 Health Crisis.

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

A question and answer session followed.

Agreed: Translink agreed to provide the Committee with the percentage of savings made to its salaries bill as a result of the reduction in service.

Agreed: Translink agreed to provide clarity and evidence on a statement made by a Translink staff member regarding stop and search powers on its cross border services.

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

The Chairperson thanked Mr Conway for his briefing.

Mr Conway left the meeting at 11:25 am.

Ms Liz Kimmins left the meeting at 11:25 am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Infrastructure and the Minister for Finance requesting clarity on the estimated £130 million deficit for Translink.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Translink to request a copy of the guidance he reviewed when considering the furloughing of staff.

Ms Liz Kimmins re-joined the meeting at 11:26 am.

6. Correspondence

Department for Infrastructure response to questions raised from the CBI infrastructure Working Group.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Infrastructure requesting a breakdown of the processing of planning applications by Council area and what difference COVID-19 has made to the work stream.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Infrastructure requesting an update on the Planning Portal Project.

Correspondence from a member of the public raising concerns regarding the return/reinstatement of Driving Licenses which were removed due to medical issues.

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

Copy correspondence from the Mineral Products Association (Northern Ireland) Ltd to the PAC Chief Commissioner to express grave concern regarding the Planning Appeals Commission.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from a member of the public raising concerns regarding financial support for the taxi industry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Assembly EU Affairs Manager providing the Implementing Brexit – The Northern Ireland Protocol.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Assembly EU Affairs Manager providing the UK-EU Future Relationship Negotiations – Transport.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Committee for the Economy providing a Department for the Economy response to correspondence regarding financial pressures on the logistics sector.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

7. SR 2020-88 The Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee considered SR 2020-88 The Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020. The purpose of the Rule is to amend the Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993 (“the 1993

Regulations”) by inserting an exemption from the requirement to wear a seat belt for ambulance personnel when they are providing emergency treatment to patients in ambulances.

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2020-88 The Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020, and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules’ report, had no objection to the rule.

8. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Draft Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the forward work programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider the Forward Work Programme at its meeting on 10 June 2020.

9. Any Other Business

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Infrastructure to request clarity regarding what step of the COVID-19 recovery plan can driving instructors return to work.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Infrastructure to ascertain the reasons why motorcycle driving tests are not able to continue.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Infrastructure requesting what detailed planning has the Department taken to provide protection for driving examiners.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Infrastructure requesting information on what guidance has been issued and what discussions have taken place with unions in respect of the development of guidance to ensure the protection of staff and service users from COVID-19.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for Infrastructure requesting updated figures on road safety showing the impact of COVID-19.

10. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

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

The Committee adjourned at 11:36 am

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

10 June 2020