



Northern Ireland
Assembly

**COMMITTEE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2020

THE SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA (Chairperson)
Ms Martina Anderson MLA (Via Starleaf)
Mr Roy Beggs MLA
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Mr Keith Buchanan MLA
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA (Via Starleaf)
Ms Liz Kimmins MLA
Mr Andrew Muir MLA

Apologies: None

In Attendance: Mrs Alison Ross (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Vincent Gribbin (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Johnny Lawless (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr William Kinnear (Clerical Officer0)

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

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairpersons Business

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the weekly Brexit Agenda, issued by the Assembly would be emailed to Members when available.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Assembly Committee and Member Support Office advising that the Committee will meet in Room 29 every 3 weeks with a finish time of 12 noon.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Infrastructure to ascertain if there have been any changes to the Department's October Monitoring submission and, if so, to request a copy of that revised submission.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 21 October 2020.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Correspondence

Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding issues arising from its meeting on 7 October 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Public Accounts Committee Report on Major Capital Projects.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the Report.

Assembly Research and Information Service research paper on Electric Vehicle Waste.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing on the research paper into its Forward Work Programme.

Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Assembly EU Affairs Officer providing details on upcoming Brexit Business 26 - 30 October 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Department for Infrastructure - Investing Activity Report - October 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the report.

Correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure regarding the decision on Section 26 Regionally Significant Planning Application for Doraville Wind Farm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding issues arising from the Committee meeting on 14 October 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Correspondence from Community Transport Association providing a copy of the Rural Community Transport Partnerships Report - Community Transport During Coronavirus.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing into its Forward Work Programme.

Correspondence from Friends of Knock Iveagh proving a copy of correspondence to Department of Infrastructure Re - Planning issues.

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

Correspondence from an individual regarding the effect of new Covid-19 restrictions on Driving Tests.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from Regency Cabs Antrim regarding Covid-19 Financial assistance small Taxi companies.

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

Assembly Research and Information Service research paper on Water and Sewerage Company Business Models in GB and Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing on the research into its Forward Work Programme.

Correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure giving notice of her intention to make an oral statement on the North South Ministerial Council Transport Sector Meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Assembly EU Affairs Officer providing details on upcoming Brexit Business 2-6 November 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Response from the Utility Regulator to Committee request for further information following the briefing.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure advising on an extension to Term for Warrenpoint Harbour Authority Non-Executive Members.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from Mr Richard Mezza regarding additional issues regarding the Advanced Driving Instructor Test.

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

Correspondence from the Examiner of Statutory Rules regarding SR2020-208 The Planning (Development Management) (Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Committee and Member Support Office regarding the rotation of Committee meetings and rooms.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to the proposed schedule.

Correspondence from Ace Cabs and Couriers regarding financial support for the taxi sector.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and forward it to the Department to address the issues raised at the briefing scheduled for 18 November 2020.

Correspondence from FonaCab regarding financial support for the taxi sector.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and forward it to the Department to address the issues raised at the briefing scheduled for 18 November 2020.

Correspondence from Eastside Taxis Ltd regarding financial support for the taxi sector.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and forward it to the Department to address the issues raised at the briefing scheduled for 18 November 2020.

Department for Infrastructure response to Committee correspondence regarding petroleum licensing applications.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

6. Subordinate Legislation – SL1’s – Not Subject to Assembly proceedings

The Committee considered the following proposals for Statutory Rules not subject to any Assembly proceedings.

- SL1 - The Roads (Speed Limit) (No. 2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020
- SL1 – The Roads (Speed Limit) (No. 3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020
- SL1 - The Roads (Speed Limit) (No. 4) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020
- SL1 - The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Dromore) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it is content to note the proposals for the Statutory Rules.

7. SL1 - The Seagoe Industrial Estate, Craigavon (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee considered SL1 - The Seagoe Industrial Estate, Craigavon (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020.

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

8. SL1 - The Killyvalley Road, Garvagh (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee considered SL1 - The Killyvalley Road, Garvagh (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020.

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

9. SL1 - The Port Services (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee considered The Port Services (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020.

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

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 16.

16. SL1 - Taxi Driver Regulations: Proposed Taxi Driver Support Scheme

The Committee considered Taxi Driver Regulations: Proposed Taxi Driver Support Scheme.

The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 10:16 am.

Dr Chris Hughes, Director of Safe and Accessible Travel
Ms Beverley Cowan, Head of Driving Policy
Mr Donald Starrit, Safe and Accessible Travel

Mr Andrew Muir joined the meeting at 10:25 am.

The representatives provided the Committee with an oral briefing.

A question and answer session followed.

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

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

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 17.

17. SL1 - Passenger Transport Regulations: Proposed Private Bus and Coach Support Scheme

The Committee considered Passenger Transport Regulations: Proposed Private Bus and Coach Support Scheme.

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

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 11:09 am.

Ms Liz Kimmins left the meeting at 11:09 am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister requesting clarification on how the Schemes impact on wedding car drivers, further information on the engagement that the Department held with the sectors and for detailed information on how the Department settled on a figure of £1,500 for Taxi Drivers.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Road Haulage and Logistics sectors asking them what engagement they had with the Department regarding Covid mitigation scheme and what they were led to expect from these discussions.

Agreed: The officials agreed to provide details of what the criteria are for Coach firms to be eligible for the scheme.

Ms Liz Kimmins rejoined the meeting at 11:11 am

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 10.

10. Departmental Briefing – Permitted Development Rights

The representatives joined the meeting at 11:13 am.

Mr Angus Kerr, Chief Planner & Director of Regional Planning
Ms Irene Kennedy, Head of Planning Policy Legislation Branch (Via Starleaf)
Mr David Doherty, Planning Policy Legislation Branch

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 11:51 am.

11. SL1 - The Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee considered The Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020.

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

12. Departmental Briefing – Driver and Vehicle Agency – MOT’s, Lifts and Driving Tests

The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 11:53 am.

Ms Julie Thompson, Deputy Secretary, Planning, Safety and Transport Policy Group
Mr Jeremy Logan, Chief Executive, DVA

The Departmental officials provided the Committee with an oral briefing.

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

A question and answer session followed.

Agreed: The officials agreed to provide a breakdown of the funding in relation to enforcement.

Mr Andrew Muir left the meeting at 12:55 pm.

The Chairperson thanked the Departmental officials for their attendance.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 12:59 am

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department seeking further information on the following issues:

- The monthly numbers of theory tests carried out and estimates going forward.
- Financial details of the Goods Vehicle levy and on its enforcement.
- A complete picture of the volume of Driver Testing and MOTs pre and post Covid 19 and a full breakdown of the waiting lists and how many may be waiting for tests but are unable to apply based on previous years.
- Information on the testing of driving instructors.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a further briefing from DVA in its Forward Work Programme prior to Christmas recess.

13. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Draft Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme.

14. Any Other Business

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department seeking any further update on the procurement of gritting vehicles.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to contact the Department to establish whether the proposed briefing on the funding package for coach and taxi sectors scheduled for 18

November could provide any further information not contained in today's briefing from officials.

15. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be on Wednesday, 11 November 2020 at 9:30 am in the Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Committee adjourned at 1:03 pm

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

11 November 2020