



Northern Ireland
Assembly

**COMMITTEE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY, 8 JULY 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

None.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 1 July 2020.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Ministerial Briefing – COVID-19 Update & Current Issues

The Minister and Departmental official joined the meeting at 10:04 am

Ms Nichola Mallon, Minister for Infrastructure

Mrs Katrina Godfrey, Permanent secretary, Department for Infrastructure

The Minister and Departmental official provided the Committee with an update by way of a question and answer session.

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

Mr Andrew Muir declared an interest as a former employee of Translink and as a councillor in Ards and North Down Borough Council.

The Chairperson thanked the Minister and Departmental official for their briefing.

The Minister and Departmental official left the meeting at 11:11 am.

Mr David Hilditch left the meeting at 11:11 am.

6. Subordinate Legislation – SR's – Not Subject to Assembly Proceedings

- The Committee considered the following SR not subject to any Assembly proceedings.
 - SR 2020-131 The Drought (Altnahinch Impounding Reservoir) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020.

Mr David Hilditch re-joined the meeting at 11:12 am.

- SR 2020-132 The Drought (Blacksprings Emergency Abstraction) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020.

Mr Andrew Muir left the meeting at 11:13 am.

- SR 2020-133 The Drought (Spelga Impounding Reservoir) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the Statutory Rules.

7. SL1 - The Motor Vehicle Testing (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020

Mr Andrew Muir re-joined the meeting 11:15 am.

The Committee considered the SL1 - The Motor Vehicle Testing (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020.

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

8. SL1 - The Goods Vehicles (Testing) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee considered the SL1 - The Goods Vehicles (Testing) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020.

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

The Committee agreed to suspend at 11:16 am.

The Committee resumed at 11:19 am.

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

In Attendance: Mrs Cathie White (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Johnny Lawless (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Bill Kinnear (Clerical Officer)

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 13.

In attendance from the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) to answer questions on Statutory Rules:

*Mr Stephen Hughes, Head of Traffic and Engineering Policy Branch;
Mr Brian McCarron, Lands Branch (Roads – Southern);
Mrs Deirdre Gallagher, Head of Transport Legislation Branch
Mr Trevor McClay, Head of Network Maintenance (Roads - Eastern)*

The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 11:19 am.

13. SL1 - The Whitla Street, Belfast (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee considered The Whitla Street, Belfast (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020.

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

14. SL1 - The Railway Avenue, Newry (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee considered The Railway Avenue, Newry (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020.

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

15. SL1 - The Ormeau Road, Belfast (Footway) (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee considered The Ormeau Road, Belfast (Footway) (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020.

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

16. SL1 - The Motorways Traffic (Amendment No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee considered The Motorways Traffic (Amendment No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020.

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

17. SL1 - The Footpath to the rear of Albert Street, Quadrant Place and Cullingtree Road, Belfast (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee considered The Footpath to the rear of Albert Street, Quadrant Place and Cullingtree Road, Belfast (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020.

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

18. SL1 - The Back Street at Duncairn Gardens, Belfast (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee considered The Back Street at Duncairn Gardens, Belfast (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020.

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

19. SL1 - The A29 New Road and B30 Newry Road, Silverbridge (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee considered The A29 New Road and B30 Newry Road, Silverbridge (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020.

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

20. Subordinate Legislation – SL1’s Not Subject to Assembly Procedure

The Committee considered the SL1’s listed below which are not subject to any Assembly proceedings.

- The Parking Places on Roads and Waiting Restrictions (Newry) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020
- The Parking Places on Roads and Waiting Restrictions (Magherafelt) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020
- The Parking Places, Loading Bay and Waiting Restrictions (Portstewart) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020
- The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Newtownards) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020
- The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Newtownabbey) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020
- The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Kilkeel) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020
- The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Ballyclare) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020
- The Roads (Speed Limit) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020

Agreed: The Committee were content with the proposals for the Statutory Rules.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ascertain the exact location of the speed limits for the Moneymore Road, Loughbrickland and Derrytrasna Road, Lurgan referred to in The Roads (Speed Limit) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 11:34 am.

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 9.

9. Correspondence

Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Assembly EU Affairs Manager regarding the creation of ‘common frameworks’.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Copy of the Examiner of Statutory Rules Fourteenth Report of the Session 2019-2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the report.

Copy correspondence from the Committee for Communities to the Minister for Infrastructure regarding Implications for High Streets Post Covid-19.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from The Association of Old Motor Vehicles Clubs regarding an MOT Test exemption for vehicles being 40 years and older.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note that this correspondence was dealt with at the Committee meeting on 1 July 2020.

Correspondence from Investing Strategy for Northern Ireland providing the Department for Infrastructure's Investing Activity Report – June 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Minister for Infrastructure correspondence regarding the transposition of Directive (EU) 2018/645 into GB and NI Law – Amendments to Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) Regulations.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Copy correspondence from the Committee for Finance to the Department for Infrastructure regarding a Financial Support for Road Haulage, Taxi Industry and Transport Sector.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from Belfast Chamber of Commerce requesting to brief the Committee on its 'Building Belfast Back Better' Policy Paper.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and consider it at the Committee Strategic Planning Day.

Correspondence from Pivotal requesting to brief the Committee on its report Covid-19 in Northern Ireland - A New Economic Vision and request to brief Committee.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and consider it at the Committee Strategic Planning Day.

Ministerial for Infrastructure response to Committee correspondence regarding issues arising from Committee for Infrastructure Meeting 17 June 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from Departmental officials on Brexit following summer recess.

Assembly Research and Information Service Briefing Paper - Delivering Major Infrastructure Projects: Specialised project delivery bodies.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the briefing paper.

Correspondence from NILGA providing additional information following the briefing from MPANI – Council Enforcement Powers.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for the Economy to request an update on the activities of the Department for the Economy Regional Minerals Working Group and to ascertain whether consideration has been given to establishing a Northern Ireland Minerals Forum.

Response from SOLACE to Committee correspondence following the briefing from MPANI – Council Enforcement Powers.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Committee for Finance regarding the Review of Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs) in accordance with the New Decade, New Approach document.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Copy of the Examiner of Statutory Rules Fifteenth Report of the Session 2019-2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the report.

Minister for Infrastructure correspondence regarding the online renewal service for driver licenses.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

10. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Draft Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the forward work programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for Infrastructure to request an update on the timescales for the publication of the Terms of Reference for the review of the 2011 Planning Act; and to seek clarity on why there is a lack of consistency in what constitutes breaking ground in different council areas.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for Infrastructure requesting a list of the quays in Lough Neagh maintained by The Rivers Agency and how often they dredge each quay.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for Infrastructure to ascertain if the equipment used to dredge the quays is owned by Rivers Agency or hired under contract.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule an oral briefing from the Police Service of Northern Ireland on road safety.

11. Any Other Business

None.

12. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be on Wednesday 16 September 2020 at 10:00 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Committee adjourned at 11:45 am

Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Infrastructure

16 September 2020