



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for Infrastructure

Minutes of Proceedings

9 June 2021

Meeting Location: Room 29, Parliament Buildings

Present: Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA (Chairperson)
Mr David Hilditch MLA (Deputy-Chairperson)
Mr Keith Buchanan MLA

Present by Video or Teleconference:

Ms Martina Anderson MLA
Mr Roy Beggs MLA
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA
Ms Liz Kimmins MLA
Mr Andrew Muir MLA

Apologies: None

In Attendance: Mr Vincent Gribbin (Assembly Clerk)



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Mr Jonathan Lawless (Assistant Assembly Clerk)

Mr William Kinnear (Clerical Supervisor)

The meeting commenced at 10:09 am in open session

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairpersons Business

The Committee congratulated the Chairperson on her appointment as Minister of Education and thanked her for her Chairing of the Committee.

3. Draft Minutes.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 2 June 2021.

4. Matters Arising

Agreed: The Committee agreed that Committee staff would review the outstanding correspondence.



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5. Correspondence

Correspondence from Investing Strategy for Northern Ireland providing a copy of the Department for Infrastructure's Investing Activity Report – May 2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Examiner of Statutory Rules Fortieth Report of the Session 2020-2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the report.

Correspondence from the Committee for Communities regarding concerns from the Transport Hub Alternatives Group (THAG) about the Boyne Bridge.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to advise the Committee for Communities that it has arranged an informal meeting with the Transport Hub Alternatives Group (THAG).

Correspondence from the Public Accounts Committee providing a copy of its Report on the Driver Vehicle Agency 2019-2020 NIA 101/77-22.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from the Department on the issues raised in the report at its meeting next week.

Response from Bus & Coach NI Ltd providing additional information on the contribution of the bus and coach sector to the Travel & Tourism Industry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Request from Newry Business Improvement District (BID) to brief the Committee on the unjust Controlled Parking Zones that only apply in Lisburn, Newry & Belfast.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing in the forward work programme.

Mr Keith Buchanan joined the meeting at 10:17 am.



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Response from the Minister for Infrastructure to issues arising from the Committee for Infrastructure meeting on 19 May 2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Correspondence from the Examiner for Statutory Rules providing an interim report on SR 2021-125, SR 2021-126 & SR 2021-127.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Department for Infrastructure correspondence regarding recruitment competition for the Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

6. Subordinate Legislation - SL1s - Not Subject to Assembly Proceedings

The Committee considered the following SL1's not subject to any Assembly proceedings.

- SL1 - The Loading Bays on Roads (Amendment No. 2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021
- SL1 - The Parking Places (Disabled Persons' Vehicles) (Amendment No. 5) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021
- SL1 - The Parking Places (Disabled Persons' Vehicles) (Amendment No. 6) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021
- SL1 - The Waiting Restrictions (Draperstown) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021
- SL1 - The One-Way Traffic (Belfast) (Amendment No. 2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021
- SL1 - The Waiting Restrictions (Newtownhamilton) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021



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Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the proposals for the Statutory Rules.

7. Subordinate Legislation - SRs - Not Subject to Assembly Proceedings

The Committee considered the following SR's not subject to any Assembly proceedings.

- SR 2021-142 The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Newtownabbey) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021
- SR 2021-143 The Private Accesses on the Trunk Road T4 ("the A1 Junctions Phase 2 – Loughbrickland to Hillsborough") (Stopping-Up) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021
- SR 2021-144 The Waiting Restrictions (Maghera) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the Statutory Rules.

8. Departmental Briefing – Budget - June Monitoring

The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 10:21 am.

Mr Declan McGeown, Deputy Secretary - Resources, Governance and EU Group
Ms Susan Anderson, Director of Finance
Mr Conor Loughrey, Director of Network Services (Roads) (*via Starleaf*)

The Departmental officials provided the Committee with an oral briefing.



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A question and answer session followed.

Mr David Hilditch joined the meeting at 10:38 am.

Agreed: The officials agreed to provide the Committee with details of the £4.9m bid for the A6 for estimated increased costs of compensation, what percentage increase this represents how was the original estimate made and the reasons for the required increase.

Agreed: The officials agreed to provide the Committee with details on how the rural roads maintenance allocation has been divided between the different council areas, details of the ongoing legal issue relating to repairs contracts and the impact this is having on the repair of rural roads in the west of Northern Ireland, what the timescale is for delivery and an explanation of the types of repairs contracts and their limitations.

Agreed: The officials agreed to provide the Committee with further information on the pressures faced by community transport following the allocation of £700,000 from COVID monies and how the allocation for community transport will be divided between organisations.

Agreed: The officials agreed to provide the Committee with a breakdown of the £20 million for the blue/green fund and how this money is to be spent and given that it is already June, what plans there are to ensure it is spent within this financial year.

Agreed: The officials agreed to provide the Committee with further information regarding electric charging points and discussions with ESB.

Mr Andrew Muir declared an interest in respect of his step-father being a Quality Manager for the A6 project.

Agreed: The officials agreed to provide the Committee with details of strategies in place to address resource pressures to maximise Capital spending.

Agreed: The officials agreed to confirm if the Department was still subject to European Regulations in relation to contract provision.



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Agreed: The officials agreed to provide further information on what the budget allocation for rail infrastructure safety maintenance work is needed for.

Agreed: The officials agreed to provide the Committee with details of the current backlog figure for resurfacing and why there is a maintenance and training backlog.

Agreed: The officials agreed to provide details on what restrictions have led to the DVA being unable to work to full capacity going forward to enable it end the backlog and to recoup loss of income.

The Chairperson thanked the Departmental officials for their attendance.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 11:17 am.

9. Departmental Briefing – Commercial Bus Service Permits & Transport Integration

The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 11:18 pm.

Ms Jackie Robinson, Director Public Transport Division
Mr Stuart Gilmore, Head of Public Transport Regulation Branch

The Departmental officials provided the Committee with an oral briefing.

Mrs Dolores Kelly joined the meeting at 11:22 am.

A question and answer session followed.

Agreed: The officials agreed to provide the Committee with further information in relation to the suspension of the 3 month waiting period in regard to taxi drivers licensing to enable the taxi industry to recover due to the numbers of drivers who have left the industry.



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Agreed: The officials agreed to provide the Committee with clarity around the additional information requested for the journey planner due to the technical update.

The Chairperson thanked the Departmental officials for their attendance.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 12.26 pm.

10. Forward Work Programme

Members were reminded of the informal meeting with the Transport Hub Alternatives Group to take place on 10 June at 10.00am by Starleaf.

The Committee considered the Draft Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme.

11. Any Other Business

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Infrastructure to request details of what plans she has to undertake a review of how the regulation the taxi industry is undertaken to establish what can be done to assist in post-Covid recovery.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for the Economy for information on what further action will be taken to support the Taxi Industry.



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Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Infrastructure urging her to work with her counterpart in Dublin to resolve the current issue faced by hauliers with respect to converting qualifications as Transport Managers.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Driver and Vehicle Agency to request further information in advance of next week's briefing, regarding the enforcement section in respect of the Taxi Industry and possible breaches of its Code of Conduct.

12. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be on Wednesday, 16 June 2021 at 10:00 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 pm.

Mr Jonathan Buckley MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Infrastructure

16 June 2021