



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE  
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2016**

**THE SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr William Humphrey (Chairperson)  
  
Mr George Robinson MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Alex Easton MLA  
Mr Declan McAleer MLA  
Mr Eamonn McCann MLA  
Mr Fra McCann MLA  
Mr Justin McNulty MLA  
Mrs Jenny Palmer MLA

In Attendance: Mrs Cathie White (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Vincent Gribbin (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Johnny Lawless (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mr Ryan Jordan (Clerical Assistant)

Apologies: Ms Kellie Armstrong MLA  
Mr Paul Girvan MLA  
Mr Daniel McCrossan MLA

*10:00 am The meeting opened in public session.*

**1. Apologies**

Apologies are detailed above.

## 2. Chairpersons Business

- The Chairperson advised Members that he, Mr George Robinson MLA, Mr Fra McCann MLA and the Committee Clerk met with representatives from SONI, at their request, to discuss the North South Interconnector Project.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule a Committee meeting and visit at SONI in its forward work programme.

*10:01 am Mr Fra McCann joined the meeting.*

- The Chairperson asked Members to indicate if they intend to attend the Committee meeting and visit to Waterways Ireland, Enniskillen on 19 October 2016. The following Members indicated that they will attend:

Mr William Humphrey (Chairperson)  
Mr George Robinson MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Alex Easton MLA  
Mr Declan McAleer MLA  
Mr Eamonn McCann MLA  
Mr Fra McCann MLA  
Mrs Jenny Palmer MLA

## 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2016

*Agreed:* The minutes of the meeting on 14 September 2016 were agreed.

## 4. Matters Arising

None.

## 5. Correspondence

- Correspondence from the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs regarding Water Utility Compliance 2014 -2015.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from an individual regarding a meeting with the former Committee for Regional Development.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed write to the Department requesting that it follows up on the previous Committee for Regional Development's request.

- Correspondence from Crash Services regarding the Northern Ireland Road Safety Awards 2016.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Independent Retail Trade Association requesting to brief the Committee on its response to the Programme for Government consultation.

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

- Correspondence from the Committee for Finance regarding the Budget 2017-2020.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure providing a Notice of Intention to make an Oral Statement to the Assembly on Inland Waterways.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Committee for the Executive Office regarding the Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-21: Consultation Analysis and Inspiring Impact NI report.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from an individual regarding an issue with a water course and the responsibility of Rivers Agency, Lisburn in respect of their responsibility under the Drainage Northern Ireland Order 1973.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and to provide the individual with the details of MLAs from his constituency.

- Invitation to a Global Outcomes Summit.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

## **6. SL1 - Proposals to Cease the Requirement On NI Water to Install Water Meters at New Domestic Connections**

The Committee considered Proposals to Cease the Requirement On NI Water to Install Water Meters at New Domestic Connections.

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

## **7. Subordinate Legislation – SR’s Not Subject to Assembly Proceedings**

- The Committee considered the following SR which is not subject to any Assembly proceedings.
  - SR 2016-319 The Road Races (Down Rally) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016.

## **8. Departmental Briefing – Departmental Business Plan**

*10:07 am The Departmental officials joined the meeting.*

The Committee was briefed by Mr Peter May, Permanent Secretary, Mr John McGrath, Deputy Secretary, Ms Fiona McCandless, Deputy Secretary and Mr Pat Doherty, Director of Engineering.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*Agreed:* The Departmental officials agreed to provide the Committee with the number of staff currently processing Blue Badge applications.

*Agreed:* The Departmental officials agreed to provide the Committee with details of the number of applications being processed on a daily basis.

*10:54 am Mr Justin McNulty joined the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Departmental officials agreed to provide the Committee with details of the cost of employing agency staff across the Department.

*11:02 am The Departmental officials left the meeting.*

## **9. Departmental Briefing - Consultation on the Proposals for New Seatbelt Regulations - Summary of Responses**

*11:02 am The officials joined the meeting.*

The Committee was briefed by Mr Donald Starritt and Mrs Maura Magee, Road Safety and Vehicle Regulation Division.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*Agreed:* The Departmental officials agreed to provide the Committee with information on whether transport Unions were included in the consultation.

*11:31 am The officials left the meeting.*

## **10. Draft Forward Work Programme**

The Committee considered the draft Forward Work Programme for Autumn 2016.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the revised Forward Work Programme.

## **11. Any Other Business**

Justin McNulty indicated that he would attend the meeting and visit to Waterways Ireland, Enniskillen.

## **12. Date, time and place of next meeting**

The Committee noted that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday, 21 September 2016 at 10:00 am in The Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*11:40 am The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.*

**Mr William Humphrey MLA**  
**Chairperson, Committee for Infrastructure**

**28 September 2016**