



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE  
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**WEDNESDAY, 8 JUNE 2016**

**THE SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

**Present:** Mr William Humphrey (Chairperson)

Mr William Irwin MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

Ms Kellie Armstrong MLA

Mr Alex Easton MLA

Mr Paul Girvan 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 Darren Weir (Clerical Officer)

**Apologies:** 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 the Committee that correspondence had been received from the Minister for Infrastructure advising that he has rescheduled his Question Time slot in the Assembly from 21 June to 27 June 2016.

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

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write a letter of condolence to a member of Committee staff.

## **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2016**

*Agreed:* The minutes of the meeting on 1 June 2016 were agreed.

## **4. SR 2016/135 The Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

*Agreed:* That the Committee for Infrastructure has considered 2016/135 The Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules Report, has no objection to the rule.

## **5. SR 2016/140 The Taxi Licensing (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

*Agreed:* That the Committee for Infrastructure has considered SR 2016/140 The Taxi Licensing (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules Report, has no objection to the rule.

## **6. SR 2016/148 The Taxis (Taximeters, Devices and Maximum Fares) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

*Agreed:* That the Committee for Infrastructure has considered SR 2016/148 The Taxis (Taximeters, Devices and Maximum Fares) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules Report, has no objection to the rule.

## **7. SR 2016/160 The Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) (Amendment) Regulations 2016**

*10:10 am Mr Eamonn McCann joined the meeting.*

*Agreed:* That the Committee for Infrastructure has considered SR 2016/160 The

Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules Report, has no objection to the rule.

**8. SR 2016/169 The River Road, Dunmurry (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016**

*Agreed:* That the Committee for Infrastructure has considered SR 2016/169 The River Road, Dunmurry (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 and has no objection to the rule.

**9. SR 2016/173 The Disabled Persons (Badges for Motor Vehicles) (Amendment No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

*10:12 am Mr William Irwin joined the meeting.*

*Agreed:* That the Committee for Infrastructure has considered SR 2016/173 The Disabled Persons (Badges for Motor Vehicles) (Amendment No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and has no objection to the rule.

**10. SR 2016/181 The Road Traffic (Fixed Penalty) (Offences) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016**

*Agreed:* That the Committee for Infrastructure has considered SR 2016/181 The Road Traffic (Fixed Penalty) (Offences) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules Report, has no objection to the rule.

**11. SR 2016/182 The Road Traffic (Fixed Penalty) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016**

*Agreed:* That the Committee for Infrastructure has considered SR 2016/182 The Road Traffic (Fixed Penalty) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules Report, has no objection to the rule.

**12. SR 2016/185 The Thorburn Road, Belfast (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016**

*Agreed:* That the Committee for Infrastructure has considered SR 2016/185 The Thorburn Road, Belfast (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules Report, has no objection to the rule

**13. SR 2016/194 The Penalty Fares (Increase) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016**

*Agreed:* That the Committee for Infrastructure has considered SR 2016/194 The Penalty Fares (Increase) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules Report, has no objection to the rule.

**14. SR 2016/209 The Road Races (Drumhorc Hill Climb) Order (NI) 2016**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note Statutory Rule 2016/209.

**15. SR 2016/210 The Road Races (Spamount Hill Climb) Order (NI) 2016**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note Statutory Rule 2016/210.

**16. SR 2016/214 The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Belfast) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note Statutory Rule 2016/214.

**17. SR 2016/231 The Road Races (Mourne Rally) Order (NI) 2016**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note Statutory Rule 2016/231.

**18. SR 2016/232 The Road Races (Cairncastle Hill Climb) Order (NI) 2016**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note Statutory Rule 2016/232.

**19. Ministerial Briefing – First Day Brief**

*10:16 am The Minister and Departmental officials joined the meeting.*

The Committee was briefed Mr Chris Hazzard, Minister for Infrastructure, Mr Peter May, Permanent Secretary, Dr Andrew Murray, Deputy Secretary, Roads and Rivers and Ms Fiona McCandless, Deputy Secretary, Planning, Water and DVA.

*10:19 am Mr Paul Girvan joined the meeting.*

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*Agreed:* The Minister agreed to provide the Committee with details regarding the claims made against the Department in respect of damage caused to vehicles by unmaintained roads broken down by constituency, if available.

*Agreed:* The Minister agreed that officials will brief the Committee on all summary of responses to policy consultations that the Department carries out.

*11:15 am The Minister and Departmental officials left the meeting.*

## **20. Departmental Briefing – Roads and Rivers**

*11:16 am The Departmental officials joined the meeting.*

The Committee was briefed Dr Andrew Murray, Deputy Secretary, Roads and Rivers, Mr Pat Doherty, Director of Engineering and Mr Ciaran de Burca, Director of Transport Projects Division.

*11:26 am Mr William Humphrey left the meeting.*

*11:27 am Mr William Irwin took the Chair.*

*11:30 am Mr William Humphrey re-joined the meeting*

*11:30 am Mr William Humphrey resumed the Chair.*

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*12:30 pm Mr Paul Girvan left the meeting.*

*12:42 pm The Departmental officials left the meeting.*

## **21. Correspondence**

- Invitation from the National Flood Forum to a Workshop and Discussion forum on Flooding in Northern Ireland.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to request that the Committee researcher attends the forum and reports back to the Committee.

- Invitation from the Northern Ireland Assembly Business Trust to take part in an event providing an insight into new Assembly Committees.

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

- Invitation from the Centre for Cross Border Studies to attend a briefing on “A study of Cross Border Flows within the Agri-Food Industry.”

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

### **23. Draft Forward Work Programme**

The Committee considered the draft Forward Work Programme for the period before summer recess.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it was content to schedule these briefings.

### **24. Any Other Business**

The Chairperson referred to comments by the Minister in relation to the Woodburn drilling debate on Monday 6 June 2016.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Minister requesting clarification on his comments in the Assembly Debate on 6 June 2016 on Woodburn Forest during which he said that he proposed “to remove permitted development rights for oil and gas exploration” and that “exploration for oil and gas will require the submission of a planning application and will be subject to the full rigours of the planning process, including environmental impact assessments (EIA) and public consultation”.

The Chairperson advised Members that Mr William Irwin MLA was leaving the Committee and wished him well.

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

The Committee noted that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday, 15 June 2016 at 10:00 am in The Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*12:45 pm The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.*

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

**15 June 2016**