

# COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**MONDAY 14 DECEMBER 2015  
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

- Present: Mr William Irwin MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Sydney Anderson MLA  
Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson MLA  
Mr Declan McAleer MLA  
Mr Ian McCrea MLA  
Mr Oliver McMullan MLA  
Mr Ian Milne MLA  
Mr Robin Swann MLA
- Apologies: Mr Joe Byrne MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA  
Mr Edwin Poots MLA
- In attendance: Ms Stella McArdle, Committee Clerk  
Ms Lynda Conlon, Assistant Assembly Clerk  
Mr Mark O'Hare, Clerical Supervisor  
Ms Marion Johnson, Clerical Officer  
Mr Jonathan McMillen, Acting Head of Legal Services  
(Agenda Item 2)

*11.07 a.m. The meeting commenced in Closed Session.*

*11.12 a.m. Mr Swann joined the meeting.*

*11.23 a.m. The meeting moved in Open Session.*

### **1. Fisheries Bill: Committee Discussion**

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 11.24 a.m.

Seamus Connor, Chief Fisheries Officer, DCAL  
Liam Devlin, Deputy Principal, Inland Fisheries Group, DCAL  
John Terrington, Fisheries Bill Team, DARD  
Mark McCaughan, Chief Fisheries Officer, DARD  
Paddy Campbell, Sea Fisheries Policy, DARD

EXTRACT

The officials briefed the Committee and this was followed by a question and answer session.

11.29 a.m. *Mrs Dobson joined the meeting.*

11.38 a.m. *The officials left the meeting.*

11.39 a.m. *The meeting moved into Closed Session.*

11.45 a.m. *Mr McCrea joined the meeting.*

11.48 a.m. *The meeting moved into Open Session.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to undertake Committee Stage scrutiny of only Clause 6 (and appropriate technical provisions) of the Fisheries Bill.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure to inform them of the Committee's decision and to ascertain if that Committee wished to undertake the scrutiny of Clauses 10, 11, 12 and 13.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Minister regarding its decision and to offer a joint press statement regarding the decision to proceed with only Clause 6 of the Fisheries Bill and to seek assurances that this mutual decision will be referenced during her Second Stage speech.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to publish the letter from the Minister, dated 14 December 2015, on Committee section of the Assembly website.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to prepare Committee Motions not to move the appropriate clauses at Consideration Stage of the Fisheries Bill.