

COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2015
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

- Present: Mr William Irwin MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Joe Byrne MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Sydney Anderson MLA
Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson MLA
Mr Declan McAleer MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Mr Ian McCrea MLA
Mr Oliver McMullan MLA
Mr Ian Milne MLA
Mr Edwin Poots MLA
Mr Robin Swann MLA
- In attendance: Ms Stella McArdle, Committee Clerk
Mr Mark O'Hare, Clerical Supervisor
Ms Marion Johnson, Clerical Officer
Ms Amy Barr, Legislative Studies & Practice Student

1.38 p.m. The meeting commenced in Closed Session.

1.45 p.m. Mr Anderson joined the meeting

1.50 p.m. Mr McAleer joined the meeting

- 1. Rural Needs Bill: Consideration of Key Issues and Evidence**
The Committee discussed the key issues and evidence presented in the Rural Needs Bill.

2.10 p.m. Mr Milne left the meeting.

2.28 p.m. Mr Swann joined the meeting.

2.29 p.m. Mrs Dobson joined the meeting.

2.33 p.m. Mr McAleer left the meeting.

2.42 p.m. The meeting moved into open session.

- 7. Oral Briefing DARD: Rural Needs Bill**

The following officials joined the meeting at 2.46 p.m.

Louise Warde Hunter, Head of Central Policy
Colette McMaster, Assistant Secretary, Director of Food, Farm and Rural Policy
Astrid Stuart, Head of Rural Proofing Branch

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

2.56 p.m. *Mr McCrea joined the meeting.*

2.56 p.m. *Mr Swann left the meeting.*

2.58 p.m. *Mrs Dobson left the meeting.*

2.59 p.m. *Mr Poots joined the meeting.*

3.26 p.m. *Mr Anderson left the meeting.*

3.30 p.m. *Mr Anderson rejoined the meeting.*

3.34 p.m. *Mr Byrne left the meeting.*

3.37 p.m. *Mr Byrne rejoined the meeting.*

3.46 p.m. *Mr McAleer left the meeting.*

3.54 p.m. *Mrs Dobson rejoined the meeting.*

3.55 p.m. *Mr Anderson left the meeting.*

3.55 p.m. *The DARD officials left the meeting.*

3.56 p.m. *Mr McMullan left the meeting.*

Agreed: The Committee agreed the contents of the correspondence received from the Examiner of Statutory Rules on the Delegated Powers in the Bill dated 26 November 2015.