



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE ECONOMY**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**5 FEBRUARY 2020**

**ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

**10:00am**

Present: Dr Caoímhe Archibald (Chairperson)  
Ms Sinéad McLaughlin (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Alan Chambers  
Mr Gordon Dunne MBE  
Mr Gary Middleton  
Mr John O'Dowd  
Mr Christopher Stalford  
Ms Claire Sugden

In Attendance: Mr Peter Hall (Assembly Clerk)  
Ms Sinead Kelly (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Ms Claire Milliken (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Michael Greer (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mr Thomas Manning (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Stewart Dickson

*The meeting began at 10:06am in open session*

**1. Apologies**

As noted above.

## **2. Draft Minutes**

*Agreed:* the Committee agreed the draft Minutes of the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

## **3. Chairpersons Business**

There were no items of business.

## **4. Ministerial Briefing: Departmental Priorities**

*The Minister joined the meeting at 10.08am*

Members received a briefing from:

**Mrs Diane Dodds**, Minister for the Economy

**Mr Mike Brennan**, Permanent Secretary, Department for the Economy

The key issues discussed included the UK Exit from the EU, the new Economic Strategy; Skills and Further Education, the 14-19 Strategy; the Ulster University Greater Belfast development, the expansion of its Magee campus; Tourism; Climate Change; the new Energy Strategy; Project Stratum and Parental Bereavement leave.

*Claire Sugden joined the meeting at 10:09am*

*Christopher Stalford left the meeting at 11:05am*

*Christopher Stalford joined the meeting at 11:13am*

*Gordon Dunne left the meeting at 11:24am*

*Gordon Dunne joined the meeting at 11:28am*

*The Minister left the meeting at 11.52pm*

## **5. Departmental Briefing: EU Exit Group**

*The Official joined the meeting at 11.52am*

Members received a briefing from:

**Mr Paul Grocott**, EU Exit Preparation and Transition Group, DfE

**Dr Mary McIvor**, EU Exit Preparation and Transition Group, DfE

**Ms Giulia Ni Dhulchaointigh**, EU Exit Preparation and Transition Group, DfE

**Mr Victor Dukelow**, EU Exit Preparation and Transition Group, DfE

The key issues discussed included UK Government commitments; Trade, International Trade; the Department's Readiness for 2021; Future Funding programmes; Immigration and Wage Level and Customs Declarations.

*Gary Middleton left the meeting at 11:57am*

*Gary Middleton joined the meeting at 11:58am*

*Christopher Stalford left the meeting at 12:11pm*

*Christopher Stalford joined the meeting at 12:19pm*

*The Officials left the meeting at 12.44pm*

## **6. Matters Arising**

There were no items of business.

## **7. SR 2020/15 The Transfer of Undertakings and Service Provision Change (Protection of Employment) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020**

SR 2020/15 The Transfer of Undertakings and Service Provision Change (Protection of Employment) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020

*Question put and agreed:*

*“That the Committee for the Economy has considered The Transfer of Undertakings and Service Provision Change (Protection of Employment) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 and has no objection to the Rule, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules’ report.”*

## **8. Draft Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020**

Members considered correspondence from the Minister advising that the Department for Transport has drafted regulations during the Assembly suspension as part of the planning process for leaving the EU. The regulations would address deficiencies arising from the withdrawal of the UK from the EU.

*Agreed: Members noted the correspondence from the Minister and agreed to write to the Department to clarify what is unique to these regulations that means they are legislated for at a UK level.*

*Alan Chambers left the meeting at 12:48pm*

*Alan Chambers joined the meeting at 12:50pm*

## **9. Correspondence**

*Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Chief Executive of Catalyst Inc inviting the Economy Minister to visit their workspace.*

*Noted: Members noted correspondence from Trade NI regarding an event held yesterday in the Long Gallery.*

*Noted: Members noted correspondence from Titanic Belfast inviting them to an event that took place this morning regarding its seven-year economic plan.*

*Noted: Members noted an invitation from the Institute for Government to information sessions on Brexit this afternoon and repeated tomorrow.*

*Noted: Members noted correspondence from a member of the public regarding Ulster University's new Belfast campus.*

*Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs suggesting a joint visit to Belfast and/or Larne ports to explore and understand the need for enhancement of facilities and capacity in the context of EU Exit.*

*Agreed: Members agreed to arrange a joint visit before summer recess.*

*Agreed: Members considered correspondence from the Renewable Heat Association regarding the RHI scheme and agreed to consider a meeting.*

*Noted: Members noted correspondence from an individual who participated in the RHI scheme regarding the impact on their business.*

*Agreed: Members agreed to share this correspondence with the Department.*

## **10. Forward Work Programme**

Members considered the revised draft Forward Work Programme.

*Agreed: the Committee agreed to the Forward Work Programme.*

## **11. Any Other Business**

There were no items of business.

## **12. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in Invest NI offices. Bedford Street at 10am.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1:05pm*

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**Dr Caoímhe Archibald**  
**Chairperson**  
**Committee for the Economy**

**5<sup>th</sup> February 2020**