



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE ECONOMY**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**19 FEBRUARY 2020**

**ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

**10:00am**

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

*The meeting began at 10:02 in closed session.*

*The Committee agreed to move to Agenda item 4.*

#### **4. Members' Development**

*The official joined the meeting at 10.03am*

Members received a short presentation from

**Miss Angela Kelly**, Examiner of Statutory Rules, Northern Ireland Assembly, on her role and functions and Procedures for Handling Subordinate Legislation.

*The official left the meeting at 10.40am*

*The official joined the meeting at 10.40am*

Members received a short presentation from

**Mr Aidan Stennett**, Research Officer, Northern Ireland Assembly, on the Research and Information Service (RaISe) and what it can do for the Committee.

*Claire Sugden joined the meeting at 10.44am*

*The official left the meeting at 10.48am*

The Committee began to consider its strategic priorities.

*The meeting commenced in open session at 12.00pm*

*Claire Sugden left the meeting at 12.01am*

*The Committee agreed to move to Agenda item 1.*

##### **1. Apologies**

As noted above.

##### **2. Draft Minutes**

*Agreed:* the Committee agreed the draft Minutes of the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

##### **3. Chairpersons Business**

There were no items of business.

## **5. Departmental Briefing – Update on Careers Service**

*The Officials joined the meeting at 12.01am*

Members received a briefing from

**Mr Jim Wilkinson**, Head of Apprenticeships, Careers and Vocational Education Division, Department for the Economy.

**Ms Frances O’Hara**, Head of Careers Service, Department for the Economy

The key issues discussed included: the careers system in Northern Ireland; Preparing for Success 2015-2020; Work Experience; Working with young people and Partnering with Schools, Careers Advice, the Careers Advisory Forum; and the Quality Assurance framework.

*The officials left the meeting at 12.45pm*

## **6. Matters Arising**

*Noted:* Members noted a response from the Department in relation to the Budget baseline and processes and questioned the officials from the Department.

*Agreed:* Members agreed a draft letter from the Chair to the EU Internal Market Sub-Committee in relation to an inquiry into State Aid and the level Playing Field.

*Noted:* Members noted a response from the Department on the development of the Social Economy.

*Noted:* Members noted a response from the Department on workers’ rights including pay and contracts.

*Noted:* Members noted a response from the Department on what is unique to the Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment (Amendment) (EU) Regulations and why they are legislated for at UK level.

*Noted:* Members noted a response from the Department on consideration of a legacy report on the previous committee.

*Noted:* Members noted a response from the Department in relation to the issues raised in a letter the Committee received from a member of the NIRHI scheme.

*Noted:* Members noted a response from the Department in relation to skills, careers and wider training.

*Noted:* Members noted a response from the Department outlining what consideration been given to the tourism potential of Lough Neagh.

## **7. Correspondence**

*Noted:* Members noted a NIAO report on major high-priority projects that are not meeting their costs and timescale targets.

*Noted:* Members noted the Insolvency Service Annual Report and Account for the year ended 31 March 2019. .

*Noted:* Members noted correspondence from the Small Business Commissioner detailing his plan for late payment practices.

*Agreed:* Members agreed that the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson would meet the Commissioner and provide an update to the Committee.

*Noted:* Members noted an invitation from the House of Lords European Union Select Committee to a working lunch on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

*Agreed:* Members agreed for the Chair and Deputy Chair to attend the lunch.

*Noted:* Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Infrastructure regarding a joint visit to Larne Port.

*Agreed:* Members agreed to attend the joint visit to Larne Port.

*Noted:* Members noted correspondence Professor Tim Blackman, Vice-Chancellor of the Open University.

*Noted:* Members noted a copy of correspondence from the Renewable Heat Association to the Department.

*Noted:* Members noted correspondence Stranmillis University College setting out some of the key challenges for the college.

*Agreed:* Members agreed to include a briefing from Stranmillis University College in the Committee's Forward Work Programme.

*Noted:* Members noted correspondence from the Law Centre informing the Committee of an employment rights in GB post-Brexit event on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

## **8. Any Other Business**

*Agreed:* Members agreed that the Clerk should draft a letter to the Home Secretary for the Committee's consideration and approval, regarding the recently released UK immigration policy following EU exit, and the issues and concerns it raises.

*Agreed:* Members agreed that the Clerk should draft a letter to the Comptroller and Auditor General for the Committee's consideration and approval, regarding issues raised by the BBC *Spotlight* programme on 18.02.20 around funds provided to Wrightbus by Invest NI.

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

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in Room 29, Parliament Buildings at 10am.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1.03pm*

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

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