



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ECONOMY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

23 MARCH 2020

ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

12:00pm

Present: Dr Caoímhe Archibald (Chairperson)
Ms Sinéad McLaughlin (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Gordon Dunne MBE
Mr Gary Middleton
Mr John Stewart
Ms Claire Sugden

In Attendance: Mr Peter Hall (Assembly Clerk)
Ms Sinead Kelly (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Thomas Manning (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Stewart Dickson
Mr John O'Dowd
Mr Christopher Stalford

The meeting began at 12:04pm in open session

The Chairperson advised Members that the Deputy Chairperson was joining the meeting via live video link.

1. Apologies

As noted above.

2. Declaration of Members Interests

Ms Claire Sugden declared an interest as her husband is a lecturer at Northern Regional College, Coleraine.

3. Chairpersons Business

There were no items of business.

4. Legislative Consent Motion – Coronavirus Bill

Members considered the Legislative Consent Motion on the Coronavirus Bill.

Members discussed the fact that, whilst it was not ideal, the Coronavirus emergency has meant that it is necessary in the circumstances to by-pass the normal timescales and processes for agreeing a Legislative Consent Motion.

Agreed: the Committee agreed to request further information from the Department in relation to the following:

- To ask the Department for further information on the terms of emergency volunteer arrangements in NI.
- To ask the Department for further information on staff in further and higher education who may have fulfilled their contractual hours by the end of the term.
- To ask the Department for further information on what measures are in place to ensure vulnerable students of Further Education colleges receive support.
- To ask the Department for further information regarding the status of employees in the vulnerable category and statutory sick pay.

Agreed: the Committee agreed, in principle, Clauses 7 and 8 and Schedule 6 of the Coronavirus Bill.

Sinead McLaughlin left the meeting at 12:58pm (due to technical issues with a video link)

Gary Middleton left the meeting at 13:03pm

The Committee lost quorum at 13.03pm. The remainder of the meeting agenda fell.

5. Any Other Business

No items of business were received.

6. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 25th March 2020 in Room 29, Parliament Buildings at 10am.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 13.04pm

Dr Caoímhe Archibald
Chairperson
Committee for the Economy

25th March 2020