



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE ECONOMY**

**RECORD OF DECISIONS**

**10 MARCH 2021**

**This Record of Decisions was made under:**

**Assembly Standing Order 115. Temporary provision for statutory committees**

(1) This Standing Order contains temporary provisions relating to committees established under Standing Order 48, and supersedes paragraphs (3) - (6) of Standing Order 46 and paragraphs (5) and (7) of Standing Order 49.

(8) A committee may agree to make decisions (including a decision not to meet) without meeting.

**The Committee for the Economy agreed that decisions on business items not addressed, due to time constraints, at its meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 would be dealt with via email correspondence.**

(9) This paragraph applies where a committee has agreed, or proposes to make, a decision without meeting:

a) Before a decision is to be taken, the chairperson must:

(i) inform members of the subject matter of the decision;

(ii) provide members with such supporting information as the chairperson considers relevant;

(iii) allow a reasonable time for members to consider the subject matter and supporting information; and

seek consensus among members on the decision.

**This Record of Decisions is made with reference to paragraphs (9) and (12) above and below.**

(12) A general record of the proceedings of a committee shall be maintained by the Committee Clerk.

## **AGREEMENT WAS RECEIVED BY CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

Dr Caoímhe Archibald (Chairperson)  
Ms Sinéad McLaughlin (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Paul Givan  
Mr John O'Dowd  
Mr Christopher Stalford  
Mr John Stewart  
Mr Stewart Dickson  
Ms Claire Sugden

### **7. Matters Arising**

Noted: Members noted a response from the Department regarding support for Exam Invigilators.

Agreed: to forward to the original correspondent.

Noted: Members noted a departmental response regarding Excluded NI's proposals for use of the Covid-19 underspend.

Agreed: to forward to the original correspondent.

Noted: Members noted a departmental response with respect to what advice structures are available to businesses for support and advice on new trading requirements and procedures (other than the Trader Support Service).

Noted: Members noted responses from Tourism Ireland and Tourism NI regarding their budgets and additional information provided by the Department to clarify points made by Tourism Ireland in relation to the NI contribution to its budget.

Noted: Members noted a Departmental press release regarding an update on alternative awarding arrangements for vocational qualifications and Essential Skills in Summer 2021.

Noted: Members noted a response from the Minister of State, Robin Walker MP, regarding GB to NI plant movements.

Agreed: to forward the response to Hillmount Garden Centre.

Noted: Members noted a response from the Committee for The Executive Office in relation to engagement by the Executive with the EU Commission.

Noted: Members noted a response from QUB regarding support for students throughout the pandemic.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from Hospitality Ulster, requesting to brief the Committee.

Agreed: to arrange an oral briefing with Hospitality Ulster.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Minister regarding the Climate and Energy (Revocation) (EU Exit) Regulations 2021.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Student Governor of the South Eastern Regional College calling for the Covid Disruption Grant to be extended to all FE students in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: to share the Minister's responses thus far with the correspondent.

#### **9. SI – The Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Motor Fuel Emissions (Miscellaneous Amendments (EU Exit) Regulations 2021**

Noted: Members considered correspondence from the Minister regarding legislative amendments to be made by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy through the Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Motor Fuel Emissions (Miscellaneous Amendments (EU Exit) Regulations 2021. Members noted that Executive level support is required.

#### **11. Correspondence**

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Clerk to the Committee for Finance regarding a response from the Minister for the Economy providing an update to the Committee on the Covid-19 Business Support Schemes and a further request from the Finance Committee for more information.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the NI Take Away Association calling for support and inclusion in the Covid Restrictions Support Scheme.

Agreed: to forward to the Department for a response.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from a Whistle-blower regarding a Freedom of Information request to Ulster University.

Agreed: to note only as the Committee is not a competent authority with respect to dealing with 'whistle-blowing' complaints.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from an individual regarding an Insolvency Service Complaint.

Agreed: to forward the papers to the Department highlighting that the Committee expects that the process of review will be completed without undue delay.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the CBI, following its meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, in relation to its Covid19 Emergency Working Group meeting.

Noted: Members noted the Twenty-eighth Report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules 2020 – 2021.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Department's Consumer Affairs Branch regarding the laying of the Triennial Weights and Measures Report on 5<sup>th</sup> March.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Retail Sector Group of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions requesting a meeting with the Chair.

Agreed: for an informal meeting to be arranged with the ICTU Retail Sector Group.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from an individual regarding the need for financial support for vehicle repair businesses.

*ENDS*

*Approved by the Chairperson via correspondence*

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

**Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021**