



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for the Economy

Minutes of Proceedings

24th March 2021

Meeting Location: Room 30, Parliament Buildings

Present:

Dr Caoímhe Archibald (MLA (Chairperson))

Present by Video or Teleconference:

Ms Sinéad McLaughlin MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

Mr Stewart Dickson MLA

Mr John O'Dowd MLA

Mr John Stewart MLA

Ms Claire Sugden MLA

Apologies:

Mr Gordon Dunne MBE MLA

Mr Gary Middleton MLA

Mr Christopher Stalford MLA

In Attendance:

Mr Peter Hall (Assembly Clerk)

Mr Thomas Manning (Clerical Officer)



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In Attendance by Video or Teleconference:

Ms Sinead Kelly (Assistant Assembly Clerk)

Ms Jean Barkley (Assistant Assembly Clerk)

Mr Michael Greer (Clerical Supervisor)

The meeting commenced at 12.06pm in open session

1. Apologies

As noted above.

2. Chairpersons Business

The Chairperson informed Members that the Clerk had meet with representatives from the independent wedding venue sector regarding how the current restrictions have impacted on that sector.

Agreed: to write to the Minister and Executive to raise the sector's issues and seek support for these venues

The Chairperson informed Members of a response from the Minister regarding an update on the college lecturers' industrial dispute.

Clare Sugden declared an interest as her husband is employed as a college lecturer.

3. Matters Arising

Noted: Members noted a response from UK Finance to the Committee's letter regarding bank closures in Northern Ireland.



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4. Departmental Briefing - Update on the Energy Strategy

The Officials joined the meeting at 12.11pm

Members received a briefing from:

Richard Rodgers, Head of Energy Group, Department for the Economy

Thomas Byrne, Director of Sustainable Energy Division, Department for the Economy

Key issues discussed included: the publication of an Options Paper in relation to the development of the Energy Strategy by the Department of the Economy.

The Officials left the meeting at 12.48pm

5. Any Other Business

There were no items of business.

6. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 14th April 2021 in Room 30, Parliament Buildings at 10am.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.50pm



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Dr Caoímhe Archibald MLA
Chairperson, Committee for the Economy
14th April 2021