



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for the Economy

Minutes of Proceedings

12th May 2021

Meeting Location: Room 29, Parliament Buildings

Present:

Dr Caoímhe Archibald (MLA (Chairperson))

Present by Video or Teleconference:

Ms Sinéad McLaughlin MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

Mr Stewart Dickson MLA

Mr Gary Middleton MLA

Mr John O'Dowd MLA

Mr John Stewart MLA

Mr Mervyn Storey MLA

Mr Christopher Stalford MLA

Ms Claire Sugden MLA

Apologies:

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 09.35am in open session

1. Apologies

As noted above.

2. Draft Minutes

Agreed: the Committee agreed the Minutes from 5th May 2021.

3. Chairpersons Business

The Chairperson updated Members on the informal meeting with the Regional Colleges that was held last week.

Agreed: to arrange an informal meeting with the CCEA to discuss the issues raised.

The Chairperson informed Members of a follow up paper from UK Finance highlighting an overview of the key activities undertaken by them to ensure Access to Cash.



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The Chairperson informed Members of correspondence from the Committee for Finance regarding scrutiny of the NI Protocol.

The Chairperson informed Members of correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure regarding the latest figures on planning consultations.

4. Ministerial Briefing – Economic Recovery Action Plan

The Minister joined the meeting at 09.43am

Members received a briefing from:

Mrs Diane Dodds MLA,	Minister for the Economy, DfE
Ms Michelle Scott,	Business Interventions Division, DfE
Mr Paul Grocott,	Economic Strategy Group, DfE
Mr Victor Dukelow,	EU Exit Preparation and Transition Group, DfE

Key issues discussed included: the Economic Recovery Action Plan, the launch of the Department's 10x Economy Vision for a Decade, lessons to be learnt from previous strategies, the need for inclusivity and support for all sectors and ensuring Northern Ireland adopts to world changes so we can compete on a global stage.

The Minister left the meeting at 11.20am



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5. Matters Arising

Noted: Members noted a response from the Department regarding support for travel agents during Covid-19

Noted: Members noted a response from the Department to the request from the Finance Committee for details of payments under the Limited Companies Directors' Support Scheme and the Large Tourism and Hospitality Business Support Scheme.

Noted: Members noted a response from the DAERA DALO regarding the correspondence from the Fermanagh Beekeepers Association on bee imports.

Agreed: to forward this response to the original correspondent.

Noted: Members noted a briefing paper from the English Language Teaching Sector regarding issues the sector faces.

Noted: Members noted a copy of the Hansard of the Departmental Budget Briefing, held on the 28th April.

6. Correspondence

Noted: Members noted a Departmental paper outlining the results of the consultation on the Mandatory Retirement age of Devolved Judicial Office Holders.

Agreed: to note the outcome of the consultation and to indicate the Committee's support for the approach.

Noted: Members noted a copy of correspondence from the Department for Communities to the Committee for Communities regarding the review of the Caravans Act 2011.



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Noted: Members noted a copy of Renewable Energy Ireland's Renewable Heat Plan.

Agreed: to forward to the Department for information.

Noted: Members noted a copy of the thirty-sixth Report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules.

Noted: Members noted a copy of the thirty-seventh Report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from an individual regarding the Customs Intermediary Grant Scheme.

Agreed: to write to the Department to ask for a response on the issues raised.

7. Any Other Business

There were no items of business.

8. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 19th May 2021 in Room 30, Parliament Buildings at 10.00am.

The Committee agreed to move into closed session at 11.32am

9. Parental Bereavement (Leave and Pay) Bill

Members discussed the Parental Bereavement (Leave and Pay) Bill.



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Agreed: to write to the Department seeking a pre-introductory briefing on the bill.

The meeting was adjourned at 11.38am

Dr Caoímhe Archibald MLA
Chairperson, Committee for the Economy
19th May 2021