



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

# Committee for the Economy

## Minutes of Proceedings

26<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**Meeting Location:** Room 30, Parliament Buildings

**Present:**

Dr Caoímhe Archibald (MLA (Chairperson)

Mr Stewart Dickson MLA

**Present by Video or Teleconference:**

Ms Sinéad McLaughlin MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

Mr Gary Middleton MLA

Mr John O'Dowd MLA

Mr John Stewart MLA

Mr Christopher Stalford MLA

Ms Claire Sugden MLA

**Apologies:**

Mr Mervyn Storey 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 10.04am in open session

### **1. Apologies**

As noted above.

### **2. Draft Minutes**

**Agreed:** the Committee agreed the Minutes from 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

### **3. Chairpersons Business**

The Chairperson informed Members of a presentation summarising last week's informal meeting with EnerChem Solutions regarding their agri-waste power generation solution.

**Agreed:** to write to the Economy, Finance, and AERA Ministers to advocate for an impartial study to be funded.

**Agreed:** to write to Invest NI to advocate for an impartial study to be funded.



#### **4. Departmental Briefing – Review of Level 4 and 5 provision in HE and FE**

The officials joined the meeting at 10.07am

Members received a briefing from:

**Mr Jamie Warnock,** Director of Strategic Policy, DfE

**Ms Elaine Dolan,** Economic Strategy Unit, DfE

Key issues discussed included: the importance of selling to learners the real benefits of level 4&5 FE and HE qualifications, the need for focus on student support within all qualifications and the importance of quality careers advice.

**Agreed:** to write to the Minister highlighting concerns around Green Jobs

The officials left the meeting at 11.23am

#### **5. Briefing from NI Tourism Alliance (NITA) - Tourism Recovery**

The witness joined the meeting at 11.24am

Members received a briefing from:

**Dr Joanne Stuart,** CEO, NI Tourism Alliance

Key issues discussed included: the reopening of the Tourism sector and the further reopening of sectors on the 21<sup>st</sup> June, the high level of demand for the industry from the home market, the challenges of attracting people back to work in the sector, the impact the current Covid-19 restriction will have on



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operating within the sector and the confusion around travelling within the Common Travel Area.

**Agreed:** to write to the Health Minister regarding a number of issues that were raised.

**Agreed:** to write to the Chancellor around the ending of the Furlough Scheme.

**Agreed:** to write to the Finance & Economy minister seeking support for those sectors that will require time to rebound.

**Agreed:** to arrange an oral briefing from Roisin McKee, Skills and Hospitality Network.

**Agreed:** to arrange an oral briefing from Belfast Met Hospitality and Tourism Hub.

The witness left the meeting at 12.15pm

### 6. Matters Arising

**Noted:** Members noted a response from the Committee for Justice regarding work around the exercise of judicial reviews.

**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from the Executive Office Committee requesting a list of stakeholders relevant to Covid-19 recovery and the High Street Task Force.

**Agreed:** to forward a list of stakeholders to TEO Committee.

**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance on the Independent Fiscal Council for NI.

**Agreed:** for the Clerk to draft a response to the call for evidence for approval by the Committee.



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**Noted:** Members noted a response from TEO regarding the Economic Recovery Action Plan.

**Noted:** Members noted a response from the Minister for Health regarding Covid-19 testing in workplaces.

**Noted:** Members noted responses from Deloitte and the Labour Relations Agency respectively, regarding the LCM on Company Director Disqualification Legislation.

**Noted:** Members noted a copy of a Court of Appeal judgement forwarded by RHANI in relation to Judicial Review proceedings regarding the Northern Ireland (Regional Rates and Energy) act 2019.

**Noted:** Members noted a response from the Minister regarding the Committee's request that she meets with NUS-USI.

**Noted:** Members noted a response the Minister regarding the recognition of pilots licences post EU Exit.

**Agreed:** to forward this response to the pilot who raised the matter.

**Noted:** Members noted a copy of a paper from the Skills Advisory Group providing an update to the Committee.

**Noted:** Members noted a response from the FSB on the Legislative Consent Memorandum in regarding the Company Director Disqualification Bill.



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**7. SR 2021/000 The Administration (Restrictions on Disposal etc. to Connected Persons) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021**

Members considered SR 2021/000 The Administration (Restrictions on Disposal etc. to Connected Persons) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021

Question put and agreed:

***“That the Committee for the Economy has considered SR 2021/000 The Administration (Restrictions on Disposal etc. to Connected Persons) Regulations (Northern Ireland) and recommends that it be affirmed by the Assembly, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules’ report.”***

**8. The Rating (Coronavirus) and Directors Disqualification (Dissolved Companies) Bill**

Members considered the Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Rating (Coronavirus) and Directors Disqualification (Dissolved Companies) Bill.

**Agreed:** to consider the Committee draft report at next week’s meeting.

**9. Correspondence**

**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from the TEO Committee requesting information on any work that has been carried out the Committee in relation to the impact of the Ireland/Northern Ireland Protocol on Northern Ireland Businesses.

**Agreed:** for the Clerk to compile and forward this information to the TEO Committee.



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**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from the Finance Committee on the UK Internal Market Act.

**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from the House of Lords European Affairs Sub-Committee on the Protocol to the Department for Work and Pensions regarding EM 7007/21 Commission Delegated Regulation.

**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from the House of Lords European Affairs Sub-Committee on the Protocol to Penny Mordaunt MP, Paymaster General, regarding a proposal for a directive of the EU Parliament and of the Council on the Resilience of Critical Entities. General.

**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from Ballantine Building Solutions with a request for a meeting.

**Agreed:** to schedule an informal meeting.

**Noted:** Members noted the Annual Accounts of InterTradeIreland.

**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from an individual regarding difficulties experienced by businesses as a result of the protocol.

**Noted:** Members noted a copy of the CBI Covid19 Working Group notes from its meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

**Noted:** Members noted a copy of the Brussels Report from the NI Executive Office in Brussels.

**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from the NI Hotels Federation to the Executive Office regarding the need for a derogation on buffet and carvery service in hospitality establishments.

**Agreed:** to forward to the Department to ask if they are aware of the matter and what discussions have taken place at the Executive on the rules around this issue.

**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from the Minister to caravan owner regarding the payment of site fees and a notice to remove a caravan.



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**Noted:** Members noted a copy of a CBI paper on resetting the direction of the Economy.

**Agreed:** to schedule an oral briefing from the CBI on the Forward Work Programme.

### **10. Any Other Business**

There were no items of business.

### **11. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 in Room 29, Parliament Buildings at 10.00am

**The meeting was adjourned at 12.34pm**

**Dr Caoímhe Archibald MLA**  
**Chairperson, Committee for the Economy**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021**