



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

# Committee for the Economy

## Minutes of Proceedings

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021

**Meeting Location:** Room 29, Parliament Buildings

**Present:**

Dr Caoímhe Archibald (MLA (Chairperson)

Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA

**Present by Video or Teleconference:**

Mr Gary Middleton MLA

Mr John O'Dowd MLA

Mr Christopher Stalford MLA

**Apologies:**

Ms Sinéad McLaughlin MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

Mr Stewart Dickson MLA

Mr Mervyn Storey MLA

Ms Claire Sugden MLA

**In Attendance:**

Mr Peter Hall (Assembly Clerk)

Mr Thomas Manning (Clerical Officer)



## Northern Ireland Assembly

### **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 10.12am in open session

### **1. Apologies**

As noted above.

### **2. Draft Minutes**

**Agreed:** the Committee agreed the Minutes from 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

### **3. Chairpersons Business**

The Chairperson welcomed Mike Nesbitt MLA to the Committee and thanked John Stewart MLA for his work on the Committee and wished him well for his future endeavours.

The Chairperson informed Members of correspondence from the Speaker to all MLAs regarding Assembly recess and recalls setting out the rules around recalls and other matters and asking that recalls are requested only in exceptional circumstances.



## Northern Ireland Assembly

The Chairperson informed Members of an invitation from the six FE Colleges to an online event 'FE for ME, a Celebration of Further Education in NI' which takes place today from 1-2pm.

The Chairperson informed Members of correspondence from the Clerking and Member Support Office regarding a training session taking place for Members on 'Protecting your Social Media Reputation'.

The Chairperson informed Members of a copy of an oral statement from the Education Minister on the Final Report and Action Plan by the Expert Panel on educational underachievement.

### **4. Report on Legislative Consent Memorandum on UK Government Rating (Coronavirus) and Directors Disqualification (Dissolved Companies) Bill**

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

**Agreed:** for the report to be published on the Committee's webpage and issued to all MLAs prior to the Assembly debate on 28<sup>th</sup> June.

### **5. Departmental Written Briefing - Reforms of Youth Training**

Members considered the Departmental Written Briefing – Reform of Youth Training.

**Agreed:** to write to the Department seeking a response on a number of areas discussed.

**Agreed:** to write to NUS-USI regarding the new approach from September onwards.



## Northern Ireland Assembly

**Agreed:** to issue a letter to employers' groups around their understanding of the new programmes.

### 6. Departmental Written Briefing - Skills Strategy consultation

Members considered the Departmental Written Briefing – Skills Strategy Consultation.

**Agreed:** to arrange a briefing on the consultation responses once it is available in the Autumn.

**Agreed:** The Clerk will design a table / schematic on the suite of plans under the new 10X Strategy and links to ERAP.

### 7. Matters Arising

**Noted:** Members noted a response from the Department regarding the Committee's request for further information on the High Street Voucher Scheme.

**Noted:** Members noted a response from the Executive Office regarding the Committee's request for further information on the issue for manufacturers in relation to Rules of Origin, as well as details of any engagement with the UK Government on the issue.

**Agreed:** to forward to the manufacturing business who raised the issue.

**Noted:** Members noted a response from the Students' Union of Ireland to recent correspondence from the Clerk following the Committee's engagement with the NUS-USI and Students' Unions.

**Noted:** Members noted a written briefing paper from the Ulster University regarding plans for Semester one of the incoming academic year.



## Northern Ireland Assembly

**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from the Competition and Markets Authority regarding work to establish the Office of the Internal Market required by the new Internal Market Act.

**Noted:** Members noted a copy of the Hansard of the 19<sup>th</sup> May Pre-Introductory Briefing on the Parental Bereavement (Leave and Pay) Bill.

**Noted:** Members noted a copy of the Hansard of the 19<sup>th</sup> May briefing on EU Exit.

**Agreed:** to share with the EU Affairs Manager and TEO and AERA Committees.

**Noted:** Members noted a written briefing from the Department regarding June Monitoring.

**Agreed:** to request more detail on why the FTC could not be spent and whether it can be reallocated within the Executive Budget.

**Agreed:** to share the paper with the Finance Committee.

**Noted:** Members noted a response from the Department regarding the Committee's query on whether Further Education courses are taking place for post-primary school children who are taking an FE course as part of their studies.

**Noted:** Members noted a copy of the Trade and Investment element of the 10X Economic Plan.



## Northern Ireland Assembly

### 8. SR 2021/139 The Renewables Obligation (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021

Members considered SR 2021/139 SR 2021/139 The Renewables Obligation (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021.

Question put and agreed:

***“That the Committee for the Economy has considered SR 2021/139 The Renewables Obligation (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021 and recommends that it be affirmed by the Assembly, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules’ report.”***

Mike Nesbitt declared an interest as an owner of a wind turbine.

### 9. Correspondence

Members agreed to deal with agenda item 9 via correspondence due to time constraints.

### 10. Any Other Business

Members discussed the recent announcement of job losses at Thompson Aerospace.

**Agreed:** to write to the Department asking what support is being given and whether she is aware of any further job losses within the company.

**Agreed:** to write to Invest NI asking what support is being given and whether they are aware of any further job losses within the company.



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

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

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021 in Room 30, Parliament Buildings at 10.00am

**The meeting was adjourned at 12.08pm**

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