



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for the Economy

Minutes of Proceedings

9th June 2021

Meeting Location: Room 30, Parliament Buildings

Present:

Dr Caoímhe Archibald (MLA (Chairperson))

Mr Stewart Dickson MLA

Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA

Present by Video or Teleconference:

Ms Sinéad McLaughlin MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

Mr Gary Middleton MLA

Mr John O'Dowd 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)



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 10.02am in open session

1. Apologies

As noted above.

2. Draft Minutes

Agreed: the Committee agreed the Minutes from 2nd June 2021.

Agreed: the Committee agreed the Record of Decisions from 2nd June 2021.

3. Chairpersons Business

The Chairperson informed Members of correspondence from the Executive Office Committee regarding the concurrent meeting on the High Street Task Force scheduled for the 16th June 2021 at 2pm.



Northern Ireland
Assembly

4. Briefing from Belfast Met & Hospitality and Tourism Skills Network - Tourism and Hospitality Hub

The witnesses joined the meeting at 10.07am

Members received a briefing from:

Ms Louise Warde Hunter,	Principal and Chief Executive, Belfast Met
Ms Fiona Dempsey,	Curriculum Head, Belfast Met
Ms Roisin McKee,	Project Director, HATS
Mr Ciaran O'Neill,	Network Chair, HATS

Key issues discussed included: the significant challenges facing those providing key tourism services during the recovery from Covid-19, the need for skills training to ensure the right people for the right job, what the sector needs to do to ensure it is seen as an attractive longer term career choice and the role of Belfast Met to deliver skills programmes across all levels of the sector.

Agreed: to write to the Minister regarding the issues raised in the briefing paper.

Agreed: to write to the Education Minister regarding the issues raised during the briefing.

Agreed: to arrange an informal meeting with the Careers Advice Service officials.

The witnesses left the meeting at 11.34am



Northern Ireland
Assembly

5. Departmental Briefing - Vocational Qualifications Examinations & Youth Training Reform

The officials joined the meeting at 11.36am

Members received a briefing from:

Mr Clement Athanasiou,	Director, Apprenticeships, Careers & Vocational Education Division, DfE
Mr Rory Muldrew,	Head of Vocational Education Policy Branch, DfE
Ms Donna Blaney,	Vocational Qualifications – Examinations, DfE
Mr David Broadhurst,	Head of FE Policy, DfE
Mr David Crosbie,	Director, Apprenticeships, Careers & Vocational Education Division, DfE
Ms Kathryn McCamley,	Youth Training Reform, DfE
Mr George Sampson,	Youth Training Reform, DfE

Key issues discussed included: the assessment and award of vocational qualifications due to Covid-19, the plans for this year and for the coming academic year and Youth Training Reform.

Agreed: to write to the Department further information on the campaign to advertise the programmes at all levels once this is available.

The officials left the meeting at 12.29pm



6. Matters Arising

Noted: Members noted a copy of this Committee's response issued to the Committee for Finance in relation to its call for contributions on the remit of the Independent Fiscal Council.

Agreed: for this response to be issues to the Committee for Finance.

Noted: Members noted a copy of an email issued to Members on 4th June 2021 by the Clerk regarding UK Government funding applications.

Agreed: to write to the Prime Minister regarding the ESF allocations

Agreed: to write to the NIO on allocation and request a briefing

Agreed: to write to the Department seeking clarity around the reduction in funding.

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

Agreed: to seek the views of Businesses regarding the current situation with the Protocol

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Infrastructure regarding support for the bus and coach industry.

Agreed: to write to the Infrastructure Committee regarding recruitment of taxi drivers.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Finance Committee regarding the monthly forecast outturn data for March 2021.

Agreed: to write to the Department to seek clarity on the issue.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Assembly's EU Affairs Manager regarding the opening of the Competition and Markets Authority's consultation on its UK Internal market functions.



Northern Ireland Assembly

Agreed: to write to the Department to ask what input it is having to the consultation.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Assembly's EU Affairs Manager regarding the Recognition of Professional Qualifications Bill.

Noted: Members noted a response from the Department for Communities regarding St John's Ambulance and their delay in submitting their annual accounts to Companies House.

Agreed: to forward this response onto St John's Ambulance.

Noted: Members noted a response from the Students' Union of Ireland, Scotland and Wales 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.

Agreed: to write to the Department asking if it is working with the Universities for contingency plans for the upcoming academic year and whether any guidance is being developed for students in terms of entering into rental agreements for the incoming academic year.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Communities regarding a copy of a RalSE briefing on the High Street Task Force.

Agreed: to share a copy with the TEO & Finance Committee's.

7. Parental Bereavement (Leave and Pay) Bill

Members considered the Parental Bereavement (Leave and Pay) Bill and a motion to extend the Committee Stage.



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Question put and agreed on the motion:

“That, in accordance with Standing Order 33(4), the period referred to in Standing Order 33(2) be extended to 15 November 2021, in relation to the Committee Stage of the Parental Bereavement (Leave and Pay) Bill (NIA Bill 22/17-22)”

8. SL1 - Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020 (Coronavirus) (Amendment of Certain Relevant Periods) (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021

Members agreed to defer Agenda Item 8 until next week due to time constraints.

9. SR 2021/140 The Insolvency (Amendment) (2016 Act) (Consequential Amendments and Revocation) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021

Members considered SR 2021/140 The Insolvency (Amendment) (2016 Act) (Consequential Amendments and Revocation) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021.

Question put and agreed:

“That the Committee for the Economy has considered SR 2021/140 The Insolvency (Amendment) (2016 Act) (Consequential Amendments and Revocation) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021 has no objection to the Rule, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules’ report.”

10. Correspondence

Members agreed to deal with Agenda Item 10 via correspondence.



Northern Ireland
Assembly

11. Any Other Business

Members discussed the current situation within the local aviation sector.

Agreed: to arrange an informal meeting with representatives from the sector.

Members discussed the current issues around the shipping of goods into Northern Ireland.

Agreed: to seek the views from Manufacturing NI and Logistics NI on the current issues around shipping of goods.

12. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 16th June 2021 in Room 30, Parliament Buildings at 10.00am

The meeting was adjourned at 13.10pm

Dr Caoímhe Archibald MLA
Chairperson, Committee for the Economy
16th June 2021