



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for the Economy

Minutes of Proceedings

23rd June 2021

Meeting Location: Room 29, Parliament Buildings

Present:

Dr Caoímhe Archibald (MLA (Chairperson)

Ms Sinéad McLaughlin MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

Mr Stewart Dickson MLA

Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA

Mr Peter Weir MLA

Present by Video or Teleconference:

Mr John O'Dowd MLA

Ms Claire Sugden MLA

Apologies:

Mr Keith Buchanan MLA

Mr Gary Middleton MLA



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In Attendance: Mr Peter Hall (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Thomas Manning (Clerical Officer)

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 10.05am in closed session.

5. Matters Arising

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Minister regarding a Departmental issue.

Agreed: to write to the Minister regarding the issue raised.

The Committee agreed to move to Open Session at 10.21am

1. Apologies

As noted above.



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2. Draft Minutes

Agreed: the Committee agreed the Minutes from 16th June 2021.

Noted: the Committee noted the Minutes of the Concurrent meeting from 16th June 2021

Agreed: the Committee agreed the draft record of decision from 9th June 2021.

Agreed: the Committee agreed a revised copy of the Minutes of the Concurrent meeting from 16th June 2021.

3. Chairpersons Business

The Chairperson expressed her condolences to the family of the former Committee Member Gordon Dunne MLA after his death earlier in the week.

Agreed: to write to Mr Dunne's widow passing on the condolences of the Committee.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Keith Buchanan MLA and Mr Peter Weir MLA to the Committee and thanked Mr Mervyn Storey MLA and Mr Christopher Stalford MLA for their contribution to the work of the Committee.

Members agreed to deal with the remaining Agenda Item 3 items by correspondence due to time constraints.

The Committee agreed to move to Agenda Item 7 to ensure items were dealt with whilst the Committee was quorate.



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7. SL1 - The Further Education (Student Support) (Amendment etc) (EU Exit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021

Members considered SL1 - The Further Education (Student Support) (Amendment etc) (EU Exit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021.

Agreed: Members indicated that they are content with the policy implications of the proposed legislation.

Agreed: to write to the Department seeking clarification on a number of issues.

8. SL1 - Industrial Training Levy (Construction Industry) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021

Members considered SL1 - Industrial Training Levy (Construction Industry) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021

Agreed: Members indicated that they are content with the policy implications of the proposed legislation.



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9. SR 2021/165 The Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020 (Coronavirus) (Amendment of Certain Relevant Periods) (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021

Members considered SR 2021/165 The Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020 (Coronavirus) (Amendment of Certain Relevant Periods) (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021.

Question put and agreed:

“That the Committee for the Economy has considered the SR 2021/165 The Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020 (Coronavirus) (Amendment of Certain Relevant Periods) (No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021, and recommends that it be confirmed by the Assembly, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules’ report.”

The Committee agreed to return to Agenda Item 4.

4. Department for the Economy, Tourism NI & Tourism Ireland Briefing - Tourism Recovery

The officials joined the meeting at 10.32am

Members received a briefing from:

Ms Geraldine Fee,	Tourism Policy, DfE
Mr John McGrillen,	Chief Executive, Tourism NI
Mr Niall Gibbons,	Chief Executive, Tourism Ireland

Key issues discussed included: the impact Covid-19 has had on the sector, the financial support provided by the Executive over the past year, the Tourism Recovery Action plan and its aims, the actions undertaken by



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businesses in the sector so they can reopen safely and the ongoing support need to ensure the sector survives the recovery period.

Agreed: to write to the Department seeking an update on the Tourism Voucher Scheme

The officials left the meeting at 12.07pm

5. Matters Arising

Members agreed to deal with Agenda Item 5 by correspondence due to time constraints.

6. Parental Bereavement (Leave and Pay) Bill

Members considered an update on the Parental Bereavement (Leave and Pay) Bill.

10. Correspondence

The Committee agreed to deal with Agenda Item 10 via correspondence due to time constraints.

11. Any Other Business

Members discussed the issue of funding for students that have previously been excluded from the Student Hardship Fund.

Agreed: to write to the Minister seeking an update on the issue.



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12. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting

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

13. Research and Information Service (RaISe) Briefing - Higher Education Funding Models

Members agreed to defer Agenda Item 13 due to time constraints.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.12pm

**Dr Caoímhe Archibald MLA
Chairperson, Committee for the Economy
30th June 2021**