



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for the Economy

Minutes of Proceedings

7th July 2021

Meeting Location: Room 30, Parliament Buildings

Present:

Dr Caoímhe Archibald (MLA (Chairperson))

Mr Keith Buchanan MLA

Mr Stewart Dickson MLA

Mr Stephen Dunne MLA

Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA

Mr Peter Weir MLA

Present by Video or Teleconference:

Mr John O'Dowd MLA

Ms Claire Sugden MLA

Apologies:

Ms Sinéad McLaughlin MLA (Deputy Chairperson)



Northern Ireland Assembly

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 10.07am in closed session.

1. Departmental Briefing – Update on Current Issues

The officials joined the meeting at 10.08am

Members received a briefing from:

Ms Brenda Burke,	EU Exit & Transition Group, DfE
Mr Tommy O'Reilly,	Economic Strategy Unit, DfE
Mr Dave Vincent	Strategic Investment Board
Mr Paul Grocott	Economic Strategy Unit, DfE

Key issues discussed included: Current issues within the Department.

Agreed: To write to the Minister raising Committee concerns.



Northern Ireland Assembly

The officials left the meeting at 11.40am

The Committee agreed to move into open session at 12.05am

2. Apologies

As noted above.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: the Committee agreed the Minutes from 30th June 2021.

4. Chairpersons Business

The Chairperson welcomed Stephen Dunne MLA to his first Committee meeting and thanked Gary Middleton MLA for his work on the Committee.

The Chairperson informed Members of correspondence from the AERA Committee regarding the joint virtual visit with the Dairy Council on the 8th July at 1.30pm.

The AERA Committee have provided an agenda for the virtual visit including Zoom details, event participants, running order and social media.

The Chairperson informed Members of correspondence from the IS office regarding the Windows 10 update which was completed recently on Members' tablets.

The Chairperson informed Members of correspondence from RenewablesNI requesting a meeting.



Northern Ireland Assembly

Agreed: to schedule a briefing after Summer Recess.

The Chairperson informed Members of a Departmental press release regarding the establishment of the Makers Alliance.

5. Matters Arising

Noted: Members noted a response from the Minister regarding EnerChem's DeCarbonised agricultural footprint proposal.

Agreed: to forward this correspondence to EnerChem.

Noted: Members noted a Departmental response to the Committee's request regarding how it is working with the Universities for contingency plans for the upcoming academic year.

Agreed: to contact HE and FE Colleges regarding what support they need from the Department.

Noted: Members noted a Ministerial response regarding support for the English Language Teaching sector.

Agreed: to forward this to the ELT representatives.

Noted: Members noted a reply from the Department for Communities in relation to a RalSe briefing paper on the High Street Task Force forwarded by the Communities Committee.

Noted: Members noted a response from TEO regarding the EU Settlement Scheme.



Northern Ireland Assembly

Noted: Members noted a response from the FSB regarding the reform of youth training.

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

Noted: Members noted a response from the Department in relation to Members queries on the SL1 The Further Education (Student Support) (Amendment Etc) (EU Exit) Regs (NI) 2021.

Noted: Members noted a copy of John O'Dowd's Private Members Bill on Small Scale Green Energy.

Agreed: to forward a copy of the Bill to the Department asking for a detailed response outlining its views on the policy intent.

Agreed: to request a paper from RalSE to be prepared for consideration after the summer recess.

6. SL1 - The Education (Student Fees (Amounts), Loan Repayment and Support etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021

Members considered SL1 - The Education (Student Fees (Amounts), Loan Repayment and Support etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021.

Agreed: Members agreed to postpone agreement with this SL1 until a response is received from the Department in relation to Committee queries.

7. LCM - Subsidy Control Bill

Members considered the LCM Subsidy Control Bill and support papers.



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Agreed: to consult the relevant stakeholders over the summer recess.

8. Parental Bereavement (Leave and Pay) Bill

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

10. Correspondence

Noted: Members noted correspondence from an individual regarding the change in alcohol licensing laws.

Noted: Members noted a copy of the Utility Regulator's Annual Report 2020-21.

Noted: Members noted the Forty-fourth Report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules 2020 – 2021.

Noted: Members noted a copy of a DfE Analytical Services factsheet on online job-posting trends.

Noted: Members noted a copy of Social Enterprise NI Annual Evaluation Report.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Belfast Food Network regarding the disruption to the supply of organic food as a result of the Protocol.

Agreed: to write to the Minister and the Executive Office to ask what is being done to address the issues raised

.



Northern Ireland
Assembly

11. Any Other Business

There were no items of business.

12. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 8th September 2021 in Room 30, Parliament Buildings at 10.00am.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.27pm

Dr Caoimhe Archibald MLA
Chairperson, Committee for the Economy
7th July 2021