



Committee for Infrastructure

Minutes of Proceedings

24 February 2021

Meeting Location: Room 29, Parliament Buildings

Present: Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA (Chairperson)
Mr David Hilditch MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Keith Buchanan MLA

Present by Video or Teleconference:

Ms Martina Anderson MLA
Mr Roy Beggs MLA
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA
Ms Liz Kimmins MLA
Mr Andrew Muir MLA

Apologies: None

In Attendance: Ms Alison Ross (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Jonathan Lawless (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr William Kinnear (Clerical Supervisor)



The meeting commenced at 9:33 am in open session

1. Apologies

None.

2. Chairpersons Business

None.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17 February 2021.

4. Amended Minutes of 16 December 2020

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16 December 2020.

5. Matters Arising

None.



6. Correspondence

Correspondence from Bus and Coach NI Ltd. regarding financial assistance for the bus and coach industry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Copy of the Examiner of Statutory Rules Twenty-Fourth Report of the Session 2020-2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the report.

Response from the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to Committee correspondence following a briefing from the retail and logistics sectors.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Copy correspondence from the Committee for Communities to the Minister for Infrastructure regarding Casement Park Redevelopment.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Correspondence from the Committee for the Economy regarding the joint briefing with Trade Support Services and HMRC.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Clerks for the Committees holding the Joint Briefing would liaise to develop protocol for the briefing.

Response from the Minister for the Economy to Committee correspondence regarding the impact of EU Exit on retail and haulage sectors.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Correspondence from the Public Accounts Committee regarding its forward work programme.



Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Speakers Office to Chairperson of Infrastructure Committee regarding Adoption of Ravensbrea Waste Water Treatment Plant Garrison.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Response from the Minister for Infrastructure to issues arising from the Committee meeting on 3 February 2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for the detail of the criteria used in the application process for the Road Safety Grant Scheme, for information on why so many applicants failed to meet the criteria and whether feedback had been provided to unsuccessful applicants.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for further information on what the capacity pressures are that are preventing the Department from more effectively using the Monitoring Round to fund road maintenance projects.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department seeking clarification on the origin of the £4.5 million of Departmental funds that the Committee had been informed was internally re-allocated to roads maintenance at the briefing on 10 February 2021.

Mr Beggs declared an interest as the treasurer of the Carrick Road Safety Partnership

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for a breakdown of how the £4.75 m currently being invested by councils under the COVID-19 Revitalisation Programme is being spent on Blue/Green projects.

Mrs Kelly declared an interest as the Chairperson of the Partnership Committee of the NI Policing Board



Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule update briefings on the progress of the A1 Junctions Phase 2 Road Improvement scheme in the Forward Work Programme.

Correspondence from a member of the public regarding periodic training for taxi drivers.

Agreed: The Committee agree write to the Department seeking clarification on the correct terminology on insurance documents that establish that the holder is insured in the appropriate Taxi Driver category.

Correspondence from Bus and Coach NI Ltd. regarding the second financial assistance scheme for the bus and coach industry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure regarding a Ministerial Statement to the Assembly on The NSMC Inland Waterways on 23 February 2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and schedule a briefing from Waterways Ireland in its Forward Work Programme.

Correspondence from Warrenpoint Harbour offering to host a Committee meeting when suitable to do so.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note and schedule a visit in its Forward Work Programme.

Response from Bus and Coach NI Ltd. to Departmental correspondence regarding the second financial assistance scheme for the bus and coach industry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.



7. Departmental Briefing – SL1 - Further Financial Assistance for Bus and Coach Operators due to Coronavirus

The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 9:52 am.

Mrs Julie Thompson, Deputy Secretary, Planning, Safety & Transport Policy Group (*via Starleaf*)

Mr Philip Gallagher, Freight Policy and Passenger Transport (*via Starleaf*)

The Departmental officials provided the Committee with an oral briefing.

Mr David Hilditch joined the meeting at 9:57 am.

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

A question and answer session followed.

The Chairperson thanked the Departmental officials for their attendance.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 11:16 am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister requesting that she consider the concerns of the Bus and Coach sector regarding the second Covid Relief scheme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister asking what other options she has considered, including issuing a Ministerial direction, in respect of issuing the scheme given the concerns and hardship faced by the sector.

The Committee considered SL1 - Further Financial Assistance for Bus and Coach Operators due to Coronavirus.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the proposal for the Statutory Rule.



8. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Draft Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme.

9. Any Other Business

None.

10. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be on Wednesday, 3 March 2021 at 10:00 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 am.

Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Infrastructure

3 March 2021