



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

**COMMITTEE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE  
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**WEDNESDAY, 13 JANUARY 2021**

**ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr David Hilditch MLA (Deputy-Chairperson)  
Ms Martina Anderson MLA (*via Starleaf*)  
Mr Roy Beggs MLA  
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA  
Mr Keith Buchanan MLA  
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA (*via Starleaf*)  
Ms Liz Kimmins MLA  
Mr Andrew Muir MLA (*via Starleaf*)

Apologies: None

In Attendance: Mrs Cathie White (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr William Kinnear (Clerical Officer)

*The meeting commenced in open session at 9:40 am.*

**1. Apologies**

As above.

**2. Chairpersons Business**

The Chairperson advised the Committee that she and the Deputy Chairperson met with the Minister and her officials on 23 December 2020 to discuss the cancellation of briefings and the financial package for Taxi drivers.

The Chairperson advised the Committee that she and the Deputy Chairperson met with the Minister and her officials on 12 January 2021 to discuss the Department's forward work programme.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed reschedule the strategic planning meeting to a future date.

### **3. Draft Minutes**

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

### **4. Matters Arising**

None.

### **5. Correspondence**

Response from the Minister for Infrastructure to Committee correspondence regarding issues arising from the Committee meeting on 2 December 2020.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from the Department in closed session in relation to the Reservoirs Report.

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

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed note the report.

Correspondence from the Committee for the Executive Office regarding Committee scrutiny of Common Frameworks.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure providing Notification of consultation on the Draft Flood Risk Management Plan 2021-2027.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed note the correspondence.

Response from the House of Commons, Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee to Committee correspondence regarding the Hazardous Substances (Planning) Common Framework.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed note the correspondence and agreed it will be considered at a future meeting dealing with Common Frameworks.

Copy correspondence from the Committee for the Economy to The Executive Office regarding contingencies for the ending of Covid financial support schemes.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed note the correspondence.

Response from the Committee for Communities to Committee correspondence regarding funding the Community Transport Sector.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure regarding Public Transport Provision – Further Response to Covid.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed note the correspondence.

Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland providing the Department for Infrastructure – Investing Strategy Activity Report – December 2020.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed note the report.

Correspondence from the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs regarding the Youth Climate Association Northern Ireland – Climate Act NI.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed note the correspondence and agreed to forward to the Department for Information and comment.

Response from the Minister for Infrastructure to Committee correspondence regarding issues arising from the Committee meeting on 9 December 2020.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed write to the Department requesting a copy of the submission to the Union Connectivity Review when available.

Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People providing a Statement on Children’s Rights in Northern Ireland II (SOCRNI 2) 2020.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed note the correspondence.

Department for Infrastructure correspondence regarding the appointment of Councillors to the Drainage Council for Northern Ireland.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed note the correspondence.

Response from the Minister for Infrastructure to Committee correspondence regarding issues arising from the Committee meeting on 16 December 2020.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed note the response.

Correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure regarding Public Transport Provision – Further Response to Covid.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed note the correspondence.

Copy correspondence from the Minister for Finance to the Committee for Finance providing and update on Public Expenditure Draft Budget 2021-22.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed note the correspondence.

Response from the Department for the Economy to Committee correspondence regarding financial assistance for taxi operators.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed note the response.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from Bus and Coach Operators.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from the Road Haulage association, Logistics UK and the Northern Ireland Retail Consortium in relation to difficulties being faced by the haulage sector.

Response from the House of Lords Common Frameworks Scrutiny Committee to Committee correspondence regarding the Common Frameworks.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Children's Law Centre providing the Northern Ireland NGO Stakeholder Report to inform the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's List of Issues Prior to Reporting.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed note the correspondence.

Response from the Department for the Economy to Committee correspondence regarding EU Directive 2019/944 (the Recast Electricity Directive).

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed note the correspondence.

Copy of the Pivotal Report New Decade, New Approach – one year on.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed note the report.

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

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed note the report.

## **6. Subordinate Legislation - SL1s - Not Subject to Assembly Proceedings**

- The Committee considered the following SL1's not subject to any Assembly proceedings.
  - SL1 - The Parking Places (Disabled Persons' Vehicles) (Amendment) Order 2021
  - SL1 - The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Belfast) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021
  - SL1 - The Loading Bays on Roads (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021
  - SL1 - The Parking Places (Disabled Persons' Vehicles) (Amendment No. 2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it was content with the proposals for the Statutory Rules.

## **7. Subordinate Legislation - SRs - Subject to Assembly Proceedings**

- The Committee considered the following SR not subject to Assembly proceedings.
  - SR 2020-313 The Parking Places on Roads and Waiting Restrictions (Newry) (Amendment No. 2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the Statutory Rule.

## **8. SR 2020-334 The Road Traffic Offenders (Northern Ireland) (Amendment) Order 2020**

The SR 2020-334 The Road Traffic Offenders (Northern Ireland) (Amendment) Order 2020. The purpose of this Statutory Rule is to amend Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Road Traffic Offenders (Northern Ireland) Order 1996, to increase the number of obligatory penalty points attributable to an offence under Article 56A(b) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 from three to six points.

*Agreed:* The Committee considered SR 2020-334 The Road Traffic Offenders (Northern Ireland) (Amendment) Order 2020, and, subject to the Examiner of Rules has no objection to the rule.

## **9. SR 2020-336 The Road Traffic (Fixed Penalty) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020**

The Committee considered SR 2020-336 The Road Traffic (Fixed Penalty) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020. The purpose of the Statutory Rule is to amend the Road Traffic (Fixed Penalty) Order (Northern Ireland) 2007 (S.R. 2007 No. 319) to increase the fixed penalty amount for an offence under Article 56A(b) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 from £60 to £200.

*Agreed:* The Committee considered SR 2020-336 The Road Traffic (Fixed Penalty) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020, and, subject to the Examiner of Rules has no objection to the rule.

## **10. SR 2020-338 The Regulation (EC) No 1370/2007 (Public Service Obligations in Transport) (Amendment) (EU Exit) (Northern Ireland) (Revocation) Regulations 2020**

The Committee considered SR 2020-338 The Regulation (EC) No 1370/2007 (Public Service Obligations in Transport) (Amendment) (EU Exit) (Northern Ireland) (Revocation) Regulations 2020. The purpose of the Rule is to revoke S.R. 2020/252 arising from the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union.

*Mr Roy Beggs registered his objection to the statutory rule.*

*Agreed:* The Committee considered SR 2020-338 The Regulation (EC) No 1370/2007 (Public Service Obligations in Transport) (Amendment) (EU Exit) (Northern Ireland) (Revocation) Regulations 2020, and, subject to the Examiner of Rules has no objection to the rule.

## 11. Departmental Briefing - Monitoring Rounds - January Monitoring Round

*The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 10:00 am.*

Ms Linda MacHugh, Acting Deputy Secretary, Resources, Governance and EU Group,  
Ms Susan Anderson, Director of Finance  
Mr Terry Deehan, Head of Financial Planning & Management (*via Starleaf*)

The Departmental officials provided the Committee with an oral briefing.

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

A question and answer session followed.

*Agreed:* The Departmental officials agreed to provide the Committee with further details on the anomaly of £2m allocation received in October monitoring for structural maintenance and the easement of £1m in the January Monitoring.

*Mr Andrew Muir declared an interest as a former employee of Translink.*

*Agreed:* The Departmental officials agreed to provide the Committee with details of the lack of capacity within the Department and/or contractors which leads to money being surrendered while work is needed on roads across Northern Ireland.

*Agreed:* The Departmental officials agreed to provide the Committee with reasons why so many applications to the road safety grant scheme were rejected and given the scheme was capped at £100k, why the Department did not bid for further funding for the scheme.

*Agreed:* The Departmental officials agreed to provide the Committee with an update on progress with street lighting column renewal including the number street lighting columns remaining which are over 40 years old.

*Agreed:* The Departmental officials agreed to provide the Committee with details of the costs for the purchase of chemicals needed by NI Water, the cost for transporting the chemicals and the impact of Brexit on these costs.

*Agreed:* The Departmental officials agreed to provide the Committee with an update on the current level of personal protective equipment being held by the Department.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Infrastructure to request a timeline for her response to the Public Inquiry report on the A5.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from Departmental officials on the winter service and structural maintenance.

*Agreed:* The Departmental officials agreed to provide the Committee with the number of posts being funded for critical staff recruitment.

*Agreed:* The Departmental officials agreed to provide the Committee with information on the Department's New Decade New Approach commitments and the Department's proposals for how they should be funded.

The Chairperson thanked the Departmental officials for their attendance.

*The Departmental officials left the meeting at 11:19 am.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting an update in relation to the working conditions of roads maintenance employees in light of Covid restrictions and guidelines regarding handwashing etc.

## **12. Departmental Briefing - Taxi Financial Assistance Scheme**

*The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 11:23 am.*

Ms Julie Thompson, Deputy Secretary, Planning, Safety & Transport Policy Group  
Mrs Beverley Cowan, Head of Driving Policy Branch (*via Starleaf*)

The Departmental officials provided the Committee with an oral briefing.

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 12:38 pm.*

## **13. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee considered the Draft Forward Work Programme.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme as amended.

## **14. Any Other Business**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for an update on her discussions with the Republic of Ireland regarding the extension of the rail network.

## **15. Date, Time and Place of next meeting**

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be on Wednesday, 20 January 2021 at 10:00 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*The Committee adjourned at 12:40 pm*

**Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA**  
**Chairperson, Committee for Infrastructure**

**20 January 2021**