



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE ECONOMY**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**16 JANUARY 2017**

**Room 30, Parliament Buildings, 9:30am**

**Present:**

Mr Steve Aiken OBE (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Tom Buchanan  
Ms Sinéad Bradley  
Mr Alan Chambers  
Mr Gordon Dunne MBE  
Mr Stephen Farry  
Mr Gordon Lyons  
Mr Mervyn Storey

**In Attendance:**

Mr Peter Hall (Assembly Clerk)  
Ms Angela McParland (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Ms Sinead Kelly (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Michael Greer (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mr Craig Mealey (Clerical Officer)

**Apologies:**

Mr Conor Murphy (Chairperson)  
Ms Caoímhe Archibald  
Mr Alex Maskey

*Deputy Chairperson, Steve Aiken, in the Chair*  
*The Committee began in closed session at 9.35am*

## **1. Oral Briefing by the Examiner of Statutory Rules**

*The official joined the meeting at 9.35am*

Members undertook a question and answer session with the Examiner of Statutory Rules.

*The Committee moved to open session at 9.53am.*

## **2. Apologies**

As noted above.

## **3. Draft Minutes of Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

*Agreed:* the Committee agreed the draft minutes of the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

*The Committee moved to closed session, to await the witnesses for Agenda Item 4, at 9.55am*

*The Committee moved to open session at 9.59am*

## **4. Evidence Session with Minister: SR 2017/000 Draft Renewables Heat Incentive Scheme (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017**

*The officials joined the meeting at 9:59am*

*Mervyn Storey declared an interest by being associated with a church which has availed of the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme*

Members received a briefing from Simon Hamilton, Minister, Department for the Economy, and Dr Andrew McCormick, Permanent Secretary, Department for the Economy.

The key issues discussed included the SR 2017/000 Draft Renewables Heat Incentive Scheme (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017, management of the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme, the process of developing policy to mitigate costs of the scheme and lessons learned in communicating in an appropriate and timely manner with the Committee.

*The officials left the meeting at 11.38am*

*Agreed:* the Committee agreed to note the SR 2017/000 Draft Renewables Heat Incentive Scheme (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 as there had been no time for Members to scrutinise the SR.

## **5. Any Other Business**

There were no additional items of business.

## **6. Date, Time and Place of Next meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 10.00am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11:40am*

---

**Mr Steve Aiken MLA OBE**  
**Deputy Chairperson**  
**Committee for the Economy**

**18<sup>th</sup> January 2017**