



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ECONOMY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

18 JANUARY 2017

Room 29, Parliament Buildings, 10:00am

Present:

Mr Steve Aiken OBE (Deputy Chairperson)
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)
Mr Brendan Corr (Bursary Student)

Apologies:

Mr Conor Murphy (Chairperson)
Ms Caoimhe Archibald
Mr Tom Buchanan
Mr Alex Maskey

Deputy Chairperson, Steve Aiken, in the Chair

The meeting began at 10:05am in open session

1. Apologies

As noted above.

2. Draft Minutes

Agreed: the Committee agreed the draft Minutes of the meeting on 16th January 2017.

3. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson advised Members that, during Agenda Item 6, Members will consider whether to hold additional meetings over the next number of days in relation to SR 2017/000 Draft Renewables Heat Incentive Scheme (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017.

The Chairperson advised Members that the energy seminar and show cases for Colleges NI and the Open University scheduled for next week have now been cancelled due to the dissolution of the Assembly from Thursday 26th January 2016.

4. Evidence session with IntertradeIreland (ITI)

The representatives joined the meeting at 10:10am

The Chairperson declared an interest as the former Chief Executive for the British Irish Chamber of Commerce

Members received a briefing from Mr Thomas Hunter-McGowan, Chief Executive, InterTradeIreland, Mr Greg Bradley, Managing Director, BLK BOX Fitness, Mr. Miles Canning, Design Engineer, BLK BOX Fitness, and Mr Eamon Fitzgerald, Managing Director, E&C Fitzgerald.

The key issues discussed included the Fusion programme, other ITI programmes including the Acumen and Elevate programmes, exporting and innovation by ITI clients, progression of ITI clients to Invest NI, cross border trade, UK wide trade and international trade, ITI funding and the UK departure from the European Union.

BLK BOX Fitness representatives left the meeting at 11:12am

ITI and E&C FitzGerald representatives left the meeting at 11:30am

Mervyn Storey joined the meeting at 10:11am
Sinéad Bradley joined the meeting at 10:36am

5. Evidence session with Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) – Workplace Safety

The representatives joined the meeting at 11:31am

Members received a briefing from Mr. Keith Morrison, Chief Executive, HSENI, Mr. Bryan Monson, Deputy Chief Executive, HSENI, Ms. Nicola Monson, Deputy Chief Executive, HSENI and Mr. Louis Burns, Acting Deputy Chief Executive, HSENI.

The key issues discussed included ensuring effective training and information on farm and construction site safety and the role of HSENI in developing future health and safety regulations following the departure from the European Union.

Agreed: officials agreed to forward to the Committee a paper providing further information on the role of HSENI in developing future health and safety regulations following the departure from the European Union.

Gordon Dunne left the meeting at 12:08pm
Stephen Farry left the meeting at 12:17pm

The representatives left the meeting at 12:18pm

6. SR 2017/000 Draft Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017

Members considered that the plenary debate on SR 2017/000 Draft Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 is to be continued next week.

Agreed: to commission legal advice from Assembly Legal Services regarding the process which led to the laying of the Department's statutory rule seeking to mitigate the cost over-run of the RHI scheme.

Agreed: that the Committee will meet on Thursday 19th January to receive the briefing from Legal Services should it be available; and to undertake an evidence session with the Renewable Heat Association.

Agreed: that the Committee will meet on Monday 23rd January to receive an update from the Examiner of Statutory Rules and hold an update evidence session with the Minister and the Permanent Secretary.

Stephen Farry returned to the meeting at 12:20pm

7. Matters Arising

Noted: Members noted a correction slip in relation to SR 2015/325 The Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

Noted: Members noted the First Special Report of Session 2016-17 of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee.

8. Legislative Consent Memorandum – Digital Economy Bill

Noted: Members noted the Legislative Consent Memorandum – Digital Economy Bill.

9. Correspondence

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in relation to the Consumer Council's public consultation on its draft forward work programme 2017-18.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from Asthma Research in Northern Ireland informing Members that the event 'Asthma Research in Northern Ireland: Delivering the Next Breakthrough' has been cancelled.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Consumer Council highlighting the publishing of their Annual Enquiry & Complaints Report 2015-2016.

Noted: Members noted correspondence informing the Committee of the launch of the Tourism Northern Ireland Awards 2017 and its call for entries.

Agreed: Members agreed that the Chairperson attend the NI Chinese New Year Showcase 2017 hosted by the Consulate General of the Peoples Republic of China on Wednesday 25th January 2017 in the Ulster Hall.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Executive Committee concerning representation of women and minorities on the boards of public bodies.

10. Any Other Business

There were no additional items of business.

11. Date, Time and Place of Next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Thursday 19th January 2017 at 3.00pm in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:45am

Mr Steve Aiken OBE
Deputy Chairperson
Committee for the Economy

23rd January 2017