



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE ECONOMY**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**23 JANUARY 2017**

**Room 29, Parliament Buildings, 9.30am**

**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)  
Mr Michael Greer (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mr Craig Mealey (Clerical Officer)

**Apologies:**

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

*Deputy Chairperson, Steve Aiken, in the Chair*

*The meeting began in closed session at 9:40am*

### **1. Evidence Session with Examiner of Statutory Rules**

*The official joined the meeting at 9:40am*

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

*The official left the meeting at 9:57am*

*The Committee moved to open session at 9:57am*

### **2. Apologies**

As noted above.

### **3. Draft Minutes**

*Agreed:* the Committee agreed the draft Minutes of the meetings held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

*The Committee moved to Agenda Item 7*

### **7. SR 2017/7 The Education (Student Support) (No.2) (Amendment) and Education (Student Loan) (Repayment) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017**

Member considered SR 2017/7 The Education (Student Support) (No.2) (Amendment) and Education (Student Loan) (Repayment) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017.

*Question put and agreed:*

*“That the Committee for the Economy has considered SR 2017/7 The Education (Student Support) (No.2) (Amendment) and Education (Student Loan) (Repayment) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017.and has no objection to the rule.”*

*The Committee moved to Agenda Item 4*

#### **4. Chairperson's Business**

The Chairperson advised Members to leave their tablets to the Committee Office by Wednesday in order that staff can return the tablets to the IS office. Otherwise each Member should return their tablet to the IS office by Wednesday.

The Chairperson advised Members that should correspondence be received after today's meeting by the Committee Office, a standard letter will be issued advising that the Assembly has been dissolved.

*Agreed:* that the Deputy Chairperson will sign off the Minutes of today's meeting as it is the last meeting scheduled before dissolution.

#### **5. Departmental Evidence session on SR 2017/000 Draft Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017**

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

Members received a briefing from Dr. Andrew McCormick, Permanent Secretary, Department for the Economy, Mr. Stephen McMurray, Renewable Heat Incentive Taskforce Leader, Department for the Economy, and Mr. Shane Murphy, Economist, 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 processes involved to mitigate costs of the scheme.

*Noted:* Members again noted SR 2017/000 Draft Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017.

*Alan Chambers joined the meeting at 10:20am*

*The officials left the meeting at 11:10am*

#### **6. Matters Arising**

*Noted:* Members noted correspondence from Ofcom in regards to further information the Committee had requested at the evidence session held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

*Noted:* Members noted correspondence from Reprieve regarding an Invest NI paper which the Committee had forwarded to it and that Reprieve has been advised by the Clerk that the Minister will remain in post until the day before

the election, should Reprieve wish to contact the Department directly.

*Members moved to Agenda Item 8, Agenda Item 7 having been considered earlier in the meeting*

## **8. Correspondence**

*Noted:* Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Justice regarding SL1 The Postal Administration Rules which that Committee is considering.

*Noted:* Members noted correspondence from The Consumer Council regarding its draft Forward Work Programme 2017-18.

## **9. Any Other Business**

There were no additional items of business.

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

This is the final meeting of the Committee scheduled before dissolution on 2th January 2017.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11:18am*

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

**23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017**