



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

3 OCTOBER 2013

ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS 10.00AM.

Present: Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson)
Mr Phil Flanagan (Deputy Chairperson)
Mt Steven Agnew
Mr Sydney Anderson
Mr Sammy Douglas
Mr Gordon Dunne
Mr Alban Maginness
Ms Sandra Overend

In Attendance: Mr Jim McManus (Assembly Clerk)
Ms Stephanie Mallon (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Nathan McVeigh (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Jacqueline Holt (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Paul Frew
Ms Sue Ramsey

The meeting began at 10.10am in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

The Chairperson informed members that Alban Maginness was leaving the Committee and thanked him for his contribution.

2. Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 26 September 2013.

Agreed: The Committee agreed a minor amendment to the draft minutes.

Members agreed to move to agenda item 5

5. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson informed members that the Committee has received an invitation to hold a meeting at the Northern Ireland Science Park.

Agreed: the Committee is content to hold a meeting at the Northern Ireland Science Park when scheduling allows.

6. Matters Arising

Members considered a proposal for research regarding sub-regional economic data.

Agreed: the Committee is content with the proposals subject to amendments.

Members considered a response from Enterprise NI to Committee queries regarding grants.

Agreed: to forward the paper to Assembly Research to inform its research paper.

Members noted an invitation from AES to visit the Ballylumford power station.

Agreed: to include AES Ballylumford in the list of future visits.

7. Proposed changes to the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation – Ground mounted solar PV above 250kW - Consultation

Members considered a consultation from the Department regarding proposed changes to the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation – Ground mounted solar PV above 250kW.

Agreed: to receive a summary of consultation responses when they are available.

8. Draft Northern Ireland Innovation Strategy 2013-2025 – Consultation

Members considered a consultation from the Department regarding the Draft Northern Ireland Innovation Strategy 2013-2025.

Agreed: to receive an oral briefing on the draft strategy following the consultation along with a summary of consultation responses.

9. End of Session Report 2012-2013

Members considered the draft Committee End of Session Report 2012-2013.

Agreed: the report was agreed.

Agreed: to publish the report on the Committee pages of the Assembly website and to publicise the report to key Committee stakeholders.

10. October Monitoring Round - Written Briefing from DETI

Members considered a written briefing from the Department regarding the October Monitoring Round.

Agreed: to receive papers for Monitoring Rounds from the Department in time to be considered at two scheduled Committee meetings prior to the deadline for submission to DFP.

Agreed: to ask the Department for clarification and further explanation on the £17.1m Capital for the purchase of the equity of Bedford Street Developments Limited.

11. Draft Northern Ireland Tourist Board Operating Plan 2013-2014 - Written Briefing from DETI

Members noted a written briefing from the Department regarding the draft Northern Ireland Tourist Board Operating Plan 2013-2014.

12. NI and RoI Marketing Strategy 2013-2014 - Written Briefing from DETI

Members noted a written briefing from the Department regarding the NI and RoI Marketing Strategy 2013-2014.

13. Power NI: tariff methodology – Assembly Research Paper

Members considered an Assembly Research Paper regarding Power NI tariff methodology.

Agreed: to include the research in the Electricity Policy Review.

14. Correspondence

Members noted the following items of correspondence for action

- i. From the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the Northern Ireland Investment Conference on 10th and 11th October.

Agreed: to ask the Department to forward the agenda for the conference and details of opportunities for participation by Committee Members as soon as possible.

- ii. From the Committee for OFMDFM regarding Delivering Social Change Signature Projects.

Agreed: to forward to the Department asking it to put forward officials for participation and recommend stakeholders for attendance.

- iii. From NIPSA regarding the proposed closure of Exploris.

Agreed: Committee to undertake a visit and meeting at Exploris.

Agreed: to inform NIPSA of the actions taken by the Committee.

- iv. From the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development regarding the review into Farm Safety welcoming a written submission from the Committee.

Agreed: to forward to the Committee for Finance and Personnel, the papers and Hansard from the Committee's briefing on Farm Safety from the Health and Safety Executive.

Members noted the following items of correspondence

- ii. From the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding banking issues.

15. Forward Work Programme

Members considered the Committee Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: to invite the Assembly and Business Trust members to the proposed visit to Dublin.

3. Electricity Policy Review - Oral Briefing from Consumer Council

Representatives joined the meeting at 10.54am

Alban Maginness left the meeting at 10.54am

Members received an oral briefing from Aodhan O'Donnell, Interim Chief Executive and Richard Williams, Senior Consumer Affairs Officer, Energy.

Key issues discussed included: security of supply and the cost to consumers.

The Chairperson left the meeting at 11.25am

The deputy Chairperson took the chair at 11.25am

Sydney Anderson left the meeting at 11.54am

Representatives left the meeting at 11.57am

Agreed: to discuss the decision and timetabling of the appointment of a permanent Chief Executive at a forthcoming briefing on the Consumer Council Review.

4. Electricity Policy Review - Oral Briefing from Invest NI

Representatives joined the meeting at 11.59am

Members received an oral briefing from Olive Hill, Director of Innovation and Technology and David Bell, Manager, Sustainable Development.

Key issues discussed included: security of supply and large energy users.

Sammy Douglas left the meeting at 12.14pm

Representatives left the meeting at 12.14pm

16. Any other business

None

17. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **10 October at 10.00am** in **Room 30 Parliament Buildings**.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12.31pm

Mr Patsy McGlone
Chairperson
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

10 October 2013