



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

7 NOVEMBER 2013

ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS 10.00AM.

Present:

Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson)
Mr Phil Flanagan (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Sydney Anderson
Mr Sammy Douglas
Mr Gordon Dunne
Mr Paul Frew
Mr Fearghal McKinney
Ms Maeve McLaughlin
Mr Mitchel McLaughlin
Ms Sandra Overend

In Attendance:

Mr Jim McManus (Assembly Clerk)
Ms Stephanie Mallon (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Nathan McVeigh (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Noreen Hayward (Clerical Officer)
Mrs Sharon Young (Clerical Officer)

Apologies:

The meeting began at 10.07am in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 17 October 2013, 23 October 2013 and 24 October 2013

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft minutes of 17 October 2013.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft minutes of 23 October 2013.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft minutes of 24 October 2013 subject to an amendment.

3. European electricity price comparisons and Electricity Security of Supply – Update from Assembly Research

Representative joined the meeting at 10.11am

Members were briefed by Aidan Stennett, Researcher.

Key issues discussed included: security of supply and the variance in cost of domestic and commercial electricity across Europe.

Paul Frew joined the meeting at 10.21am

The representative left the meeting at 10.37am

5. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson informed members that, resulting from consideration by the Committee, the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson are scheduled to meet with the Fermanagh Trust on 20 November and an invitation had been extended to the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson from Bryson House to meet on the same day.

Agreed: the Committee is content for the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson to visit the Bryson House centre in Enniskillen on 20 November.

The Chairperson informed members that he had been invited to attend a corporate carol service in St Anne's Cathedral on Thursday 12 December but he is unable to attend.

The Chairperson informed members that a visit to Dublin had been scheduled for 5 December regarding Innovation, Research and Development.

The Chairperson informed members that a meeting has been arranged with the Minister at 4pm on Tuesday 12 November.

The Chairperson informed members that the Clerk has been liaising with Assembly Research on the Committee's decision to appoint an independent economic advisor to provide advice to the Committee on an on-going basis and the Clerk has advised that the most appropriate means of securing such advice is through the appointment of a Specialist Advisor to the Committee.

Agreed: that the Clerk would draft Terms of Reference and Person Specification for a Specialist Advisor to provide independent economic advice to the Committee until the end of the current session.

Agreed: that the Committee would consider the Terms of Reference and Person Specification at next week's meeting.

4. Oral Briefing from the Green Investment Bank

Representatives joined the meeting at 10.45am

Members received an oral briefing from Shaun Kingsbury, CEO and Oliver Griffiths, Head of Government Affairs and Policy.

Key issues discussed included: opportunities for businesses and statutory organisations to seek investment in projects which should boost use of green energy while reducing costs.

Fearghal McKinney joined the meeting at 10.46am

Phil Flanagan joined the meeting at 11.14am

Representatives left the meeting at 11.43am

Paul Frew left the meeting at 11.50am

Agreed: that the Committee is content to issue the press release in relation to this briefing.

Agreed: to send a copy of the Official Report to the Assembly Commission and Committees to highlight opportunities for Green Investment Bank investment support in projects which boost green energy use and reduce costs.

Agreed: to write to the Committee for Education, the Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety and the Committee for Regional Development regarding specific opportunities to improve the public estate through the Green Investment Bank

Agreed: to write to Action Renewables, Bryson House and the Energy Savings Trust regarding the work of the Green Investment Bank.

6. Matters Arising

Members considered the Department's response to the Committee's queries on the Tourism Development Scheme.

Agreed: that the Committee would be kept informed as Letters of Offer are issued and decisions made.

Agreed: to ask the Department if the projects in the Tourism Development Scheme do not need Ministerial approval, then why is the Museum of Free Derry project sitting with the Minister.

Members considered a response from the Department regarding the work being done in making businesses aware of the exemptions listed under the CHP Quality Assurance Programme.

Agreed: to ask the Department for information on the level of uptake by businesses.

Members considered a request from the Committee for the Environment for a copy of the Official Report for the meeting held in Exploris at which the Committee for the Environment Chairperson, Anna Lo, and Deputy Chairperson, Pam Brown, were in attendance.

Agreed: to inform the Committees represented when Hansard has been published.

Paul Frew returned to the meeting at 11.58am

The Chairperson informed members that a response to the request for a virtual meeting with the Commissioner on roaming charges has been received.

Agreed: that the Committee will receive a briefing from a senior official.

7. Update on report from the Committee visit to Brussels – Written Briefing

Members considered an update on the report from the Committee visit to Brussels.

Agreed: that the summary of responses is published on the Committee pages of the Assembly website and the link is emailed to all relevant committees.

Agreed: to check if the Barroso Report is published online and if not to encourage the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister to publish it online.

Agreed: to write to OFMDFM underling in the value of tangible links to outcomes, and impacts in reporting the work of the Desk Officers.

Agreed: to invite officials to brief the Committee.

Sandra Overend left the meeting at 12.07pm

8. Northern Ireland Economic Strategy Annual Monitoring Report – Written Briefing from DETI

Members considered a written briefing from the Department regarding the Northern Ireland Economic Strategy Annual Monitoring Report.

Agreed: to ask the Department, based on the information listed in Annex A of the report, why the percentage of people accessing Broadband services has fallen.

9. Selective Financial Assistance Evaluation 2004/05 – 2010/11 – Written Briefing from DETI

Members considered a written briefing from the Department regarding Selective Financial Assistance Evaluation 2004/05 – 2010/11.

Agreed: to ask the Department for further information on regional imbalance, the support being offered to micro and small businesses by Invest NI through SFA and the potential for claw-back of finances in instances where an investor leaves.

Agreed: the Committee are content to consider this again next week when the Invest NI CEO briefs the Committee on the organisation's half-year results.

10. Prompt Payment Quarterly Update – Written Briefing from DETI

Members noted a written briefing from the Department regarding Prompt Payment Quarterly Update.

Agreed: to commend the Department and its NDBPs for recognising that prompt payment is needed to help businesses and acting accordingly.

11. Correspondence

Members noted the following items of correspondence for action

- i. Members noted correspondence from the OFMDFM Committee regarding Joint Ministerial Council.
- ii. Members noted correspondence from OFMDFM Committee regarding EU Priorities.
- iii. Members noted correspondence from the Simon Community regarding the Homeless not Voiceless launch event.
- iv. From Glenfield Renewables regarding proposed changes to legislation for small-scale solar PV generation.

Agreed: to forward to the Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for comment.

Agreed: to schedule a briefing from Glenfield Renewables at next week's meeting.

- v. Members considered correspondence from RMI Petrol Retailers Association.

Agreed: to write asking for more information on the benefits, anticipated by RMI, of removing the dye from off-road diesel.

- vi. From CBI regarding the Northern Ireland Infrastructure report.

Agreed: to schedule a briefing from CBI at a future meeting.

- vii. From the Consumer Council regarding consumer representation in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: to forward to the Department for comment.

- viii. From a member of the public regarding the Consumer Council review.

Agreed: to forward to the Department for comment.

Members noted the following items of correspondence

- ix. From the Consumer Council regarding air passenger duty.

- x. From the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure regarding Exploris.

12. Forward Work Programme

Members noted the Forward Work Programme.

13. Any other business

None

14. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **14 November** at **10.00am** in **Room 29, Parliament Buildings.**

The meeting went in to closed session at 12.30pm

15. Electricity Policy Review – Closed session

Members discussed the Committee's Electricity Policy Review.

Agreed: to consider the key issues and findings of the review at next week's meeting.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12.31pm

Mr Patsy McGlone
Chairperson
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

14 November 2013