



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**28 NOVEMBER 2013
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS 10.00AM.**

- Present:
- Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson)
 - Mr Phil Flanagan (Deputy Chairperson)
 - Mr Steven Agnew
 - 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)
 - Ms Angela McParland (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
 - Mr Nathan McVeigh (Clerical Supervisor)
 - Ms Jacqueline Holt (Clerical Officer)
- Apologies: None

The meeting began at 10.18am in public session.

The Chairperson informed the Committee that Stephanie Mallon is leaving the Committee team to take up a new post in the Assembly as Head of Communications and Information Standards and thanked her for her contribution.

The Chairperson welcomed Angela McParland to the Committee team.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson informed members that the scheduled forward work planning session on 3 December has been postponed.

Agreed: the planning session is rescheduled for noon on Tuesday 14 January.

The Chairperson informed members that they were sent a short pro forma to complete to provide evidence to the NI Affairs Committee on Access to Finance.

Agreed: the deadline for returns to the Committee Office is Tuesday 3 December. *Agreed:* the Chairperson will give evidence to the NI Affairs Committee on Tuesday 17 December if required.

Agreed: Assembly Research to examine Hansard transcripts from the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development with regards to its evidence session on the financial crisis in banking.

The Chairperson informed members that the Committee had previously requested the Department send information on all mineral prospecting and petroleum licenses.

Agreed: this information is sent in Members' information instead of being included in meeting packs.

Members considered a note of the meeting the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson attended with the Fermanagh Trust last week.

Agreed: the Fermanagh Trust briefs the Committee on 23 January 2014 and the Committee host an event for the Fermanagh Trust in Parliament Buildings in the New Year to highlight the issue of community benefits for wind farm developments and the area of community energy.

Members considered a letter from Airtricity informing the Committee that it has decided to increase its Community Fund for all newly constructed projects to £5,000 per megawatt per year.

Agreed: to forward this letter to the Fermanagh Trust for comment.

Agreed: to write to Airtricity commending it for this decision.

Members considered a list of Northern Ireland Assembly and Business Trust members to accompany the Committee for part of the Dublin visit and a draft press release.

Agreed: to invite the Chairperson of the Oireachtas Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation to join members for dinner, along with Imelda Lampkin, Enterprise Ireland, Aidan Gough, InterTradeIreland and Michael D'Arcy.

Agreed: members were content with the press release and that some media work should be completed before the visit.

The Chairperson informed members that the Deputy Chairperson and he attended a meeting with the Irish League of Credit Unions.

Agreed: the Irish League of Credit Unions to brief the Committee on 23 January 2014.

Members considered an invitation to the launch of Steensons as the fourth ÉCONMUSÉE on Thursday 5 December 2013 at noon.

Agreed: apologies to be sent as the Committee is in Dublin on that date.

Phil Flanagan joined the meeting at 10.28am

Members considered a press release welcoming the new Chief Executive of Manufacturing NI Stephen Kelly and noting that Bryan Gray will retire on 6 December.

Agreed: to write to Bryan Gray wishing him well in his future endeavours.

Agreed: to write to Stephen Kelly to welcome him to the post.

Members considered a letter from a JTI staff member regarding concerns over the EU's decision to revise the Tobacco Products Directive.

Agreed: Assembly Research to provide a paper giving further information on the Tobacco Products Directive.

Agreed: Assembly Research to get further information on global trends in tobacco production, and how it is impacting local jobs and investment.

The Chairperson informed members that an invitation has been received from Enterprise Ireland to a Horizon 2020 Launch in Dublin on Tuesday 10 December.

Agreed: Assembly Research to attend this event and report to the Committee.

Members considered an invitation from the Ulster Bank to the Chairperson to take part in its confidential stakeholder study.

Agreed: the Chairperson to participate in this study.

Members noted an invitation to the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition.

3. Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 14 November 2013.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft minutes of 14 November 2013.

Agreed: to forward an extract of the minutes to Lowlands Health and Energy Limited for information.

4. Programme for Government - Oral Briefing from DETI

Representative joined the meeting at 10.45am

Members received an oral briefing from David Thompson, Deputy Secretary, Policy Group and Philip Rodgers, Head of Economic Policy Unit.

Key issues discussed included: targets achieved and targets that are likely not to be achieved.

Agreed: to forward the Simple Power submission to the Department for information.

Agreed: to receive from the Department, information regarding grid connection, breakdown of figures from PfG commitment number 3, graphs referred to in the context of explaining PfG commitment number 4, briefing notes used by the witnesses to the Committee, the baseline against which progress is measured in PfG commitment number 13, figures from Invest NI for PfG commitment number 7 and the eligibility criteria for RHI for those who have a Carbon Trust loan.

Representatives left the meeting at 11.48am

5. Foresight Study - Oral Briefing from MATRIX

Representatives joined the meeting at 11.49pm

Members received an oral briefing from David Surplus, Chair of the MATRIX, Sustainable Energy Horizon Panel and Director of B9 Energy and Dr Sam McCloskey, Manager, Centre for Advanced Sustainable Energy.

Key issues discussed included: new technologies and work achieved to date.

Maeve McLaughlin left the meeting at 11.58am

Agreed: to forward the Simple Power submission to the Sustainable Energy Horizon Panel.

Gordon Dunne left the meeting at 12.09pm

Fearghal McKinney left the meeting at 12.22pm

Sandra Overend left the meeting at 12.38pm

Representatives left the meeting at 12.52pm

Agreed: to consider a Committee visit to the Centre for Advanced Sustainable Energy.

Agreed: to write to the Department, Northern Ireland Electricity and the Utility Regulator asking for their assessment on intelligent energy systems as an alternative to grid strengthening.

6. Matters Arising

Members considered a response from the Department regarding the Combined Heat and Power Quality Assurance Programme.

Agreed: to ask the Department to consider the question further and give a response which addresses the level of take up by businesses in Northern Ireland on the exemptions listed under the CHPQA programme.

Members considered a response from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions regarding RIDDOR.

Agreed: to ask Assembly Research to attend the event.

Members considered a response from the Department regarding advertising insolvencies.

Agreed: to ask Assembly Research for information on the role of Chancery and Probate Liaison Committee.

Agreed: to ask the Department to note the Committee's recommendation of advertising online as an addition rather than an alternative to traditional conduits. Further, to note that the Committee expects to take evidence from officials responsible for the Department's website and online presence in the New Year.

Members noted a response from Invest NI regarding the number of large energy users.

Members noted thanks from Bryson Energy and Action Renewables to the Committee for forwarding information on the Green Investment Bank.

Members noted a response from the Department regarding its Operating Plan outturn figures.

Members noted a press release from the Consumer Affairs Branch of the Department on the consultation paper and review on the Consumer Council.

Members considered a response from the Department of Finance and personnel regarding Exploris.

Agreed: to forward the response to Ards Borough Council, Friends of Exploris, NIPSA and Portaferry Regeneration Ltd for information.

Sandra Overend returned to the meeting at 1.01pm

7. Amendment to Gas (Applications for licences and extensions) Regulations 1996 – SL1

Members considered a proposal for subordinate legislation from the Department.

Agreed: that the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment has considered the Department's proposal for subordinate legislation under Amendment to Gas (Applications for licences and extensions) Regulations 1996 and has no objection to the policy implications of the proposed legislation at this stage.

8. Proposals for UK-wide REACH Enforcement (Amendment) Regulations 2013 – Consultation

Members considered the Proposals for UK-wide REACH Enforcement (Amendment) Regulations 2013 consultation.

Agreed: to write to the Committee for the Environment asking them to consider consulting the Irish Congress of Trade Unions on this matter.

9. Updates on the ETI Committee Inquiry into Renewable Energy and SEF Implementation Plan – Written Briefing from DETI

Members considered a written briefing from the Department regarding updates on the ETI Committee Inquiry into Renewable Energy and SEF Implementation Plan.

Agreed: to write to the Minister of Finance and Personnel asking for an update on the position of renewable energy in government owned buildings.

10. Cost to Northern Ireland of Workplace Injuries and Ill-health – Written Briefing from DETI

Members considered a written briefing from the Department regarding the Cost to Northern Ireland of Workplace Injuries and Ill-health.

Agreed: to forward the written briefing to the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents for information.

Agreed: to ask Assembly Research for analysis if there's been a reduction in accidents and attendant costs as a result of the revision of RIDDOR in GB.

11. Correspondence

Members noted the following items of correspondence for action

- i. From the Committee for the Environment regarding the Terms of Reference for its Review into Wind Energy.

Agreed: to forward the correspondence to the Department for comment.

Agreed: to forward the latest update on the Committee's Inquiry into Renewable Energy to the Committee for the Environment for information specifying that the Department has stated there will be a review of the Strategic Energy Framework in the near future.

- ii. From the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development regarding its Review into Farm Safety.

Agreed: to accept an invitation to the Farm Safety Event, which the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development hopes to run in conjunction with the Farm Safety Partnership.

- iii. From Simple Power regarding the small scale wind renewables sector.

Agreed: to add the correspondence to the forthcoming report on electricity pricing.

Agreed: to forward the correspondence to the Confederation of British Industry for comment.

- iv. Members noted correspondence from the Department regarding Energy Balance of Competence Review.

Members noted the following items of correspondence

- v. From the Consumer Council regarding supermarket fuel prices.
- vi. From the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister regarding City of Culture 2013.
- vii. From the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure regarding the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games.
- viii. From the Department regarding Lonmin Mineral Prospecting Licences.
- ix. From the Department regarding Dalradian Mineral Prospecting Licences.
- x. From the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure regarding the demarcation of sports and events between DETI and DCAL.

12. Any other business

Steven Agnew left the meeting at 1.15pm

Agreed: to amend the press release on the Dublin visit to include additional information.

13. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **12 December** at **10.00am** in **Room 30, Parliament Buildings.**

The meeting went in to closed session at 1.14pm

14. Electricity Policy Review – Closed Session

Members considered the draft report for the Committee's Electricity Policy Review.

Steven Agnew left the meeting at 1.15pm

Agreed: Members are content with the final report.

Agreed: Members are content for the Chairperson to approve the extract of minutes of today's meeting relating to the report.

Agreed: Members are content to debate the report in plenary session during week commencing 9 December 2013.

Agreed: Members agreed the motion for debate.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1.32pm

Mr Patsy McGlone
Chairperson
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

12 December 2013