



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

13 MARCH 2014

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
Mr Mitchel McLaughlin
Ms Sandra Overend

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

Apologies: Ms Megan Fearon

The meeting began at 10.14am in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted, as listed above.

Sandra Overend joined the meeting at 10.15am

2. Minutes of meetings held on Thursday 6 March 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft minutes of 6 March 2014.

3. Chairperson's Business

Members considered the ongoing situation regarding the proposed police and fire training facility in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: to seek a joint meeting with the Committee for Justice on this issue.

Agreed: to write to the Department of Finance and Personnel asking for clarification on any procurement issues there may have been with the proposed police and fire training facility.

Members discussed the closure of DVA in Coleraine.

Agreed: to write to the Department of the Environment and the Department of Finance and Personnel asking if the DVA staff will be relocated to other jobs.

Members considered a proposal to invite the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to brief the Committee on Northern Ireland banking related matters.

Agreed: that a briefing from the FCA is scheduled for a future Committee meeting.

4. Credit Union and Industrial and Provident Societies Bill – Oral Briefing from Irish League of Credit Unions and Ulster Federation of Credit Unions

The representatives joined the meeting at 10.25am

Members received an oral briefing from Brian McCrory, ILCU, Uel Adair, ILCU, David Dowey, UFCU and Chris McCreery, UFCU

Key issues discussed included: the content of the Credit Union and Industrial and Provident Societies Bill

Steven Agnew declared an interest as a member of Bangor Credit Union

Sammy Douglas left the meeting at 11.04am

Phil Flanagan left the meeting at 11.34am

Mitchel McLaughlin left the meeting at 11.51am

The representatives left the meeting at 11.55am

5. The Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation – Oral Briefing from Lightsource

The representatives joined the meeting at 11.56am

Fearghal McKinney left the meeting at 12.29pm

Phil Flanagan returned to the meeting at 12.41pm

Sydney Anderson left the meeting at 12.59pm

Members received an oral briefing from Nick Boyle, CEO, Lightsource, Conor McGuigan, Business Development Director, Lightsource and Richard Green, Senior Business Development Manager, Lightsource.

Key issues discussed included: the impact of the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation on the Solar PV industry.

Agreed: to write to the Department, the Utility Regulator, Lightsource and BNRG asking for an economic breakdown of costs associated with the building, installation and maintain a ground mounted Solar PV site of 100MW.

The representatives left the meeting at 1.06pm

6. Matters Arising

Members noted a response from the Department to Committee queries regarding the PfG Commitments Progress Report to 30 September 2013.

Members considered a response from the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister regarding the Barroso Desk Officer Reports.

Agreed: to write to the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister seeking clarification on the Erasmus programme, Quando and electricity market integration.

Members noted responses from the Committee for Employment and Learning and the Committee for Education regarding the proposed Northern Ireland Science Park Showcase Event.

Members considered correspondence from the Department regarding public sector sickness absence.

Agreed: to forward the correspondence to the Committee for Finance and Personnel for information.

Members considered correspondence from the Department regarding Intelligent Energy Systems.

Agreed: to consider a draft Committee response at the next meeting.

7. Consultation: Implementation of Article 13 and 15 of the Energy Efficiency Directive (2013/27/EU)

Members considered a consultation on the Implementation of Article 13 and 15 of the Energy Efficiency Directive (2013/27/EU)

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

8. Electricity Policy Review: Part III Grid Connections Terms of Reference

Members considered the draft Terms of Reference for Part III of the Electricity Policy Review.

Agreed: that members are content with the draft Terms of Reference.

Members considered an invitation from Action Renewables to a Grid Connection seminar on Thursday 10 April 2014.

Agreed: that Assembly Research attends on behalf of the Committee.

9. Research Briefing: Renewable energy development in the public sector

This item was deferred to the meeting on 27 March 2014.

10. Research Briefing: Cross-border Committee meetings in Europe

This item was deferred to the meeting on 27 March 2014.

11. Correspondence

Members noted the following items of correspondence for action;

- i. From GO ON UK to the Chairperson regarding a cross-sector programme to build the digital skills of people, businesses and charities in the Province.
Agreed: the Chairperson will attend the event.
- ii. From the Department of the Environment regarding Exploris Aquarium.
Agreed: to forward the correspondence to Friends of Exploris for information.
- iii. From the Department to NIPSA regarding consumer representation in Northern Ireland.
Agreed: to ask NIPSA for a written briefing on this issue.
- iv. Members noted correspondence from the Utility Regulator to the Chairperson regarding the Committee Review into Electricity Policy.
- v. Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure regarding Lough Neagh Fishermen's Association.
- vi. Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding post project evaluations.
- vii. Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding Carnegie Trust.
- viii. Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure regarding the Inquiry into Inclusion in the Arts of Working Class Communities.
- ix. Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development regarding the Agri-Food loan scheme.

12. Any other business

Members considered correspondence from the Department regarding the Proposed Revised Health and Safety Approved Codes of Practice.

Agreed: the Committee is content to await the outcome of consultations.

Members considered receiving a briefing on the MLA/Scientist Exchange Scheme.

Agreed: to arrange a lunchtime meeting to discuss this scheme.

Members further considered the oral briefing from Lightsource and the assertion that the Single Farm Payment to farmers would be unaffected by ground mounted solar PV installations on farms.

Agreed: to write to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development seeking clarification on the effect using agricultural land for renewable energy has on single farm payments.

13. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **27 March 2014** at **10.00am** in **Room 30, Parliament Buildings.**

14. Research Briefing: Specialist Advisor – Economic Policy

This item was deferred to the meeting on 27 March 2014.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1.31pm

Mr Patsy McGlone
Chairperson
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

27 March 2014