



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**3 APRIL 2014**

**DENROY PLASTICS, BANGOR, 10.00AM.**

- Present: Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson)  
Mr Phil Flanagan (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Sammy Douglas  
Mr Gordon Dunne  
Ms Megan Fearon  
Mr Fearghal McKinney  
Mr Mitchel McLaughlin  
Ms Sandra Overend
- In Attendance: Mr Jim McManus (Assembly Clerk)  
Ms Ciara McKay (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Ms Jacqueline Holt (Clerical Officer)
- Apologies: Mr Steven Agnew  
Mr Sydney Anderson  
Mr Paul Frew

*The meeting began at 10.07am in public session.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write a thank you letter to Denroy Plastics for hosting the Committee meeting.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were noted, as listed above.

## **2. Minutes of meetings held on Thursday 27 March 2014.**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft minutes of 27 March 2014, subject to one amendment.

## **3. Chairperson's Business**

The Committee noted that the papers on the border region economy have been added to the Committee pages of the website.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to add the InterTradeIreland Hansard transcript to these papers.

The Committee noted the written briefing paper from Royal Mail on its Efficiency Programme.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to consider Royal Mail's written briefing paper at next week's meeting; and to ask Royal Mail when a decision will be taken regarding the impact of job losses in Northern Ireland.

The Committee noted an invitation for a Member of the Committee to make opening remarks at a Knowledge Exchange Seminary Series on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

The Committee noted an invitation from the Northern Ireland Assembly Business Trust to meet with Adam Baacke, Director of Campus Planning and Development at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

## **4. EU Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs 2014-2020 – Oral Briefing from DETI**

*The representatives joined the meeting at 10.15am.*

Members received an oral briefing from Paul Brush, Head of DETI European Support Unit; Stephen Moore, DETI Deputy Principal; William McCulla, Invest NI; and Dr Joanne Coyle, Invest NI.

Key issues discussed included: strategic objectives, background and budget; European Policy content; and the potential benefits and applicability to Northern Ireland.

*Agreed:* Officials agreed to provide the Committee the names of the banks that Exante consultants approached; and to consider how best information can be passed to the Committee that comes to them via Barosso Desk Officers.

*Agreed:* to ask DETI to advise on opportunities available under the Digital Agenda and the Industrial Flagships Policy Initiative.

*Phil Flanagan joined the meeting at 11.06am.*

*Agreed:* to forward DETI's paper to the Ulster Bank; and to question Ulster Bank officials during next week's briefing on the operation of the Loan Guarantee Facility through financial intermediaries.

*Sammy Douglas left the meeting at 11.23am.*

*The representatives left the meeting at 11.27am.*

*The meeting was suspended at 11.28am.*

*The meeting resumed in open session at 11.30am.*

## **5. The Work of Denroy Plastics – Oral Briefing from Denroy Plastics**

*The representatives joined the meeting at 11.30am.*

Members received an oral briefing from Eugene Taylor, Technical Sales Manager, and Jim Knowles, Sales and Marketing Manager.

Key issues discussed included: the company's plans for expansion; imminent new contracts; and successful research and development initiatives from European funding.

*The representatives left the meeting at 11.46am.*

## **6. Matters Arising**

The Committee noted the Department's response to Committee queries on the work of the North South Steering Group on Horizon 2020.

The Committee noted the response from the Department of Finance and Personnel to the Committee queries on the DVA job losses in Coleraine.

The Committee considered its draft response to the Committee for Regional Development's Inquiry into the Benefits of Cycling to the Northern Ireland economy.

*Agreed:* to forward the response to the Committee for Regional Development; and to advise that Committee of the work that the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and the Forest Service is undertaking.

**7. Subordinate Legislation: SL1 Renewables Obligations (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014**

Members considered SL1 Renewables Obligations (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014.

*Agreed:* to forward DARD's response regarding the impact of ground-based solar PV on single farm payments to DETI, UFU, NIAPA and the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development.

*Agreed:* that the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment agreed that it is content with the proposals on the proviso that it is reviewed in 12 months' time; and that the Department has ensured itself and is satisfied that it is not creating a monopoly position where the largest company state it can work with a 7% return on investment, but others believe a minimum 10% rate of return is required.

**8. Legislation: Credit Unions and Industrial and Provident Societies Bill**

Members considered its draft response to the Department on the Credit Unions and Industrial and Provident Societies Bill.

*Agreed:* to forward the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment's response to the Department on the Credit Unions and Industrial and Provident Societies Bill.

**9. Consultation: Revised Safety in Docks Approved Code of Practice and Guidance**

Members considered the consultation on Revised Safety in Docks Approved Code of Practice and Guidance.

*Agreed:* to await the outcome of the consultation.

**10. Consultation: Proposals for the Health and Safety (Miscellaneous Repeals, Revocations and Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014**

Members considered the consultation on Health and Safety (Miscellaneous Repeals, Revocations and Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

*Agreed:* to await the outcome of the consultation.

#### **11. Written Briefing from DETI – Update on the Development of the ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme 2014-2020**

Members considered a written briefing from the Department on update on the development of the ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme 2014-2020.

*Agreed:* to ask DETI to include interim targets to assist in tracking progress against plans.

*Agreed:* to forward the briefing paper to the three MEPs.

#### **12. Written Briefing from DETI – Presbyterian Mutual Society Update Report**

Members noted a written briefing from DETI on the Presbyterian Mutual Society update report.

#### **13. Correspondence**

*Members noted the following items of correspondence:*

- i. From the Committee for Education regarding ‘STEM is Cool’;
- ii. From the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment regarding revised regional aid guidelines.
- iii. From the Committee for Employment and Learning regarding its visit to the University of Ulster, Coleraine Campus, and Seagate Technologies on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

*Agreed:* members agreed to advise the Clerk whether they plan to attend.

- iv. From a PR company inviting the Committee to visit SDC Trailers.

*Agreed:* to schedule a visit to SDC Trailers and Precision Engineering onto the Forward Work Programme.

- v. From the Department responding to the Committee for Finance and Personnel in its Inquiry into Flexible Working in the Northern Ireland Public Sector.
- vi. From the Farm Safety Partnership inviting the Committee to the launch of its Action Plan on 7<sup>th</sup> April.

*Agreed:* members agreed to advise the Clerk whether they plan to attend.

#### **14. Any other business**

Members considered the media article in the Impartial Reporter regarding the extension of Tamboran's drilling licence.

*Agreed:* to ask the Department to clarify the current position regarding Tamboran's drilling licence.

#### **15. Date, time and place of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **10 April 2014** at **10.00am** in **Room 30, Parliament Buildings.**

*The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12.11pm.*

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**Mr Patsy McGlone**  
**Chairperson**  
**Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment**

**10 April 2014**