



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**15 MAY 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  
Ms Megan Fearon  
Mr Fearghal McKinney  
Mr Mitchel McLaughlin  
Ms Sandra Overend
- In Attendance: Mr Jim McManus (Assembly Clerk)  
Ms Angela McParland (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Ms Jacqueline Holt (Clerical Officer)
- Apologies: Mr Paul Frew

*The meeting began at 10.15am.*

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were noted, as listed above.

## **2. Minutes of meetings held on Thursday 8 May 2014.**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft minutes of 8 May 2014.

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

The Committee noted that Alan Clarke, Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, will step down at the end of September after 13 years in the post.

*Agreed:* to write to Alan Clarke to wish him well in his retirement and commend him for his success in bringing the Giro d'Italia to Northern Ireland.

The Committee noted Aidan Stennett, Assembly Researcher, will be taking leave shortly to be married.

*Agreed:* to write to Aidan to congratulate him on his upcoming wedding.

The Committee considered a draft request to Assembly Legal Services regarding the Petroleum Production Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 and correspondence from Assembly Research regarding the complexity of the request by the Committee for research on this matter.

*Agreed:* to request further information from the Department including an oral briefing before finalising a request for legal advice and that the research requested should be available prior to the oral evidence session from the Department.

## **4. End of Year Outturn - Oral briefing from Invest NI**

*The representatives joined the meeting at 10.17am.*

Members received an oral briefing from Alastair Hamilton, Chief Executive, Mark Ennis, Chairperson.

Key issues discussed included: letters of offer, jobs, corporation tax, grade A office accommodation, exports measurements, foreign direct investment and promoting Northern Ireland, trade advisors, trade targets, pilot regional office network, living wage analysis, regional imbalance, disadvantaged areas, company locations influenced by grid costs and connection, research and development programme, Horizon 2020, European funding, local council presence, exhibitions, trade missions, comparisons with work in South.

*Megan Fearon left the meeting at 11.02am.*

*The Chairperson left the meeting at 11.31am.*

*The Deputy Chairperson took the Chair at 11.31am.*

*Sandra Overend left the meeting at 12.05pm.*

*Agreed:* Invest NI officials to provide an analysis of letters of offer and uptake.

*Agreed:* Invest NI officials to provide a written briefing in relation to grid connection and the difficulties companies are experiencing. To be received by the Committee before the meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

*Agreed:* to ask the Department for an explanation as to the delay in the Committee receiving the submission for the briefing, as Invest NI officials stated that they had passed the paper to the Department well within the expected timeframe.

*The representatives left the meeting at 12.21pm.*

## **5. Matters Arising**

Members considered the Business Case for the Committee's attendance at the Invest NI trade mission to San Diego and San Francisco, California, USA.

*Agreed:* members are content with the itinerary and to add an extra day in San Diego to take advantage of the opportunity to engage with appropriate stakeholders.

The Deputy Chairperson reminded members that the Committee had considered requesting an oral briefing from the Department of Finance and Personnel on its Office Estate Energy Efficiency and Carbon Reduction Plan and latest Public Sector Energy Consumption Report but agreed to first check with the Committee of Finance and Personnel if they are currently carrying out any work on the matter.

The Deputy Chairperson informed members that the Clerk to the Committee for Finance and Personnel has confirmed that Committee is receiving an oral briefing from the Department of Finance and Personnel on the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2014 on the matter and has offered to pass any questions members may have to members of the Committee for Finance and Personnel.

*Agreed:* members will forward any questions they have on the matter to the Clerk who will then pass these on to the Committee for Finance and Personnel.

The Deputy Chair reminded members that SR 2014/00 The draft Renewables Obligation (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014 is before the Assembly on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2014 and that the Committee was content the SR is affirmed on the proviso that the Order be reviewed in twelve

months and that the Department has ensured is satisfied that it is not inadvertently creating a monopoly position.

The Deputy Chair informed the Committee that the Department had confirmed the Order will be reviewed in twelve months but had not provided a response to the Committee's concern of a monopoly being created.

*Agreed:* to ask that the Minister address the issue of a monopoly in her statement to the Assembly on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

**6. Consultation: Draft Equality Impact Assessment on Gas Network Extension to the West and North West – Table of Responses and Final EQIA**

Members considered a consultation paper which was issued to the energy industry and the wider community on the draft Equality Impact Assessment on proposals to extend the natural gas network to seven further towns in the West and North-West of Northern Ireland.

*Agreed:* that the Committee is content with the consultation.

**7. Written Briefing from DETI: The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) Operating Plan**

Members considered the HSENI Operating Plan 2014 - 2015.

*Agreed:* that the Committee is content to note the operating plan.

**8. Written Briefing: Proposed Revised Health and Safety Approved Codes of Practice (ACOPs)**

Members considered correspondence from the Minister informing the Committee that ACOPs on Dangerous substances and explosive atmospheres; Legionnaires' disease; Control of Substances Hazardous to Health; and Safety in the installation and use of gas systems and appliances have been published by the Health and Safety Executive and will be approved for use in Northern Ireland.

*Agreed:* that the Committee is content with the ACOPS.

## **9. Correspondence**

*Members noted the following items of correspondence:*

- i. Members considered an invitation to the ‘World in your Classroom Event’ to be held on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2014 which the Committee for Education is hosting with the British Council.

*Agreed:* the Committee Office will contact members in relation to attendance.

- ii. Members considered correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding post project evaluations (PPEs).

*Agreed:* to ask the Department for a breakdown of PPEs including the reason for any delays.

- iii. Members considered an invitation, from the Department, to the Horizon 2020 conference at Titanic Belfast on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2014 which was issued to all members.

*Agreed:* members to contact the Committee Office if they wish to attend.

- iv. Members noted correspondence from Ulster Bank in response to information requested by the Committee following the Ulster Bank briefing to the Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

## **9. Any other business**

There was no additional items of business.

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

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **29 May 2014** at **10.00am** in **Room 30, Parliament Buildings.**

*The Deputy Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1.04pm.*

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

**29 May 2014**