



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

9 DECEMBER 2014

SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, 10.00AM

Present:

Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson)
Mr Phil Flanagan (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Steven Agnew
Mr Gordon Dunne
Ms Megan Fearon
Mr Paul Frew
Mr Paul Givan
Mr William Humphrey
Mr Danny Kinahan
Mr Fearghal McKinney
Mr Máirtín Ó Muilleoir

In Attendance:

Mr Jim McManus (Assembly Clerk)
Ms Angela McParland (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Nathan McVeigh (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Christopher Jeffrey (Clerical Officer)
Mr Peadar Ó Lamhna (Bursary Student)

Apologies:

None

The meeting began at 10:15am

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

2. Draft minutes of meeting of 2 December 2014

Agreed: the Committee agreed the draft minutes of 2 December 2014.

3. Chairperson's Business

Members noted that, pending Committee agreement, the Private Dining Room had been booked for a working lunch for Committee members immediately following the Committee meeting.

Agreed: to have lunch in the Private Dining Room following the Committee meeting.

Members noted that the Chairperson had met with the Chairperson of the Committee for Agriculture & Rural Development to discuss both Committees holding joint meetings in the future for the Agri-Food strategy 'Going for Growth'.

Agreed: to hold a joint briefing with the committee for Agriculture & Rural Development from the Agri-food Strategy Board before summer recess.

Members noted correspondence from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions requesting that the Committee sponsor the Worker's Memorial Day in the Long Gallery on Monday 27 April 2015 from 12 noon to 2pm.

Agreed: the Committee will sponsor the event.

4. Oral Briefing: Collaboration and Cooperation in the Life and Health Sciences Sector

The representative joined the meeting at 10:18am

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir left the meeting at 10.39am

Paul Givan joined the meeting at 10:54am and left at 11:00am

Megan Fearon joined the meeting at 11:11am

Members received an oral briefing from Professor David Waugh, Director of the Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology, Queen's University Belfast.

Key issues discussed included: The work of the Centre, creation of an innovation hub, the need for infrastructure for Cancer Research, obstacles to

expansion, Horizon 2020 proposals, corporation tax incentives, drug companies relocating to Northern Ireland and animal testing.

The representative left the meeting at 11:12am

Agreed: to request a retrospective official report of the briefing session.

Agreed: Committee to visit the Centre for Cancer Research & Cell Biology.

5. Oral Briefing: Insolvency (Amendment) Bill

The representatives joined the meeting at 11:15am

Members received an oral briefing from Mr Sean Cavanagh, Chairperson, Insolvency Technical Committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland and Partner, Cavanagh Kelly, Mr Stephen Cave, Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers and Member of the Insolvency Technical Committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland and Mr Gareth Latimer, Senior Manager, Business Recovery Services, PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Key issues discussed included: Issues with Clause 14 of the Bill, regulation of insolvency practitioners, dual licensing, grandfathering, issues with Clause 3, requirements to hold a meeting once per year, verification issues with regards meetings, issues with Clause 13, bankrupts having access to bank accounts, partial authorisation.

The representatives left the meeting at 12:30pm

Agreed: to receive an oral briefing from the Department following recess to obtain its views on the issues raised during the briefing.

6. Matters Arising

Members noted a response from DETI regarding the publication dates for the reports on Corporation Tax Modelling and Air Connectivity.

Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Education regarding a response from the Department of Education to this Committee's concerns on employability skills and connectedness between schools and businesses.

Members considered a response from Invest NI to members' questions following the briefing on Invest NI's Mid-Year Outturn Figures.

Agreed: to forward the response to the Committee Specialist Advisor.

Agreed: to ask Invest NI, regarding no.7 in Invest NI's response to the Committee, if this information can be provided in another format e.g. by district council area or constituency.

Members considered a response from the Department to the Committee's request for details of any underspend on the Agri-food Loan Scheme.

Agreed: to ask Invest NI to clarify what the planning issues are in relation to the uptake being slower than anticipated for the first phase of the AFLS and to provide a breakdown of what is outstanding.

7. Legislation: Legislative Consent Memorandum – UK Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill

Members considered a draft report on the Legislative Consent Memorandum.

Agreed: members agreed the draft report.

Agreed: to forward the report to the Committee for Finance & Personnel for information.

The Chairperson left the meeting at 12:42 pm.

The Deputy Chairperson took the chair at 12:42pm

8. Oral Briefing from DETI: Budget 2015/2016

The Deputy Chairperson requested that the Departmental officials on standby for the January Monitoring Round oral briefing join the meeting.

The representatives joined the meeting at 12:44pm

Megan Fearon joined the meeting at 1:00pm

Key issues discussed included clarity on the spendings and savings figures provided by the Department, in year monitoring, supplementary information provided by the Department to the Committee, budget allocation to North South Bodies.

Agreed: that the Department provide figures for the change in actual outturn, in both monetary and percentage terms since 2007-2008 (including the expected current year following January Monitoring) for Tourism Ireland, InterTradeIreland, Invest NI and the rest of the Department.

Members considered a draft response to the committee for Finance & Personnel.

Agreed: to forward the response to the Committee for Finance & Personnel.

Members considered a briefing paper from the Cathedral Quarter Trust regarding the loss of Northern Ireland Tourist Board support for festivals and events. Members also considered correspondence from the Ulster Farmers' Union and the Northern Ireland Agricultural Producers' Association (NIAPA) in response to the proposed suspension of the current farm safety campaign.

Agreed: to forward the correspondence from the Cathedral Quarter Trust, NIAPA and the Ulster Farmers' Union to the Department.

Members agreed to move to Agenda Item 11.

11. Oral Briefing from DETI: January Monitoring Round

Members received an oral briefing from Mr Trevor Cooper, Head of Finance Division and Ms Bernie Brankin, Principal Officer, Finance Branch.

Key issues discussed included funding towards social economy hubs, possible Departmental legal costs in the Tamboran legal challenge, the Department's budget for committed events and the Titanic Project.

Fearghal McKinney left the meeting at 1.08pm

Agreed: the Department to provide a breakdown of how the programme of projects funded from £18m, originally intended for Titanic Belfast, will be allocated across the various themes and Departments.

The representatives left the meeting at 1:26pm

9. Assembly Research: A Review of Literature Regarding the Determinants of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

Members noted the written briefing from Assembly Research providing a review of literature regarding the determinants of Foreign Direct Investment.

Agreed: to receive a briefing from Assembly Research on the paper when a decision on the devolution of corporation tax has been announced.

Agreed: to forward the paper to the Committee Specialist Advisor, the Committee for Finance and Personnel and the Department for information.

10. EU Matters Newsletter

Members noted the EU Matters newsletter for December.

12. Written Briefing from DETI: Programme for Government 2011/15 Year 3 Quarter 2 Progress Report

Members noted the Progress Report for Year 3 Quarter 2.

13. Consultation: Proposals in relation to three Health and Safety Approved Codes of Practice

Members noted the above consultation.

14. Correspondence

Members noted the following items of correspondence:

- i. Correspondence from the Committee for Justice requesting the Committee's views regarding SL1 – The Insolvency (Amendment) Rules (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Agreed: to reply to the Committee for Justice that the Committee is content with the policy proposals.

- ii. A copy of the report from the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation on their informal meeting with the Committee in Parliament Buildings on 3 November 2014.

- iii. Correspondence from National Energy Action Northern Ireland requesting an oral briefing to the Committee in regards to the ending of the Northern Ireland Sustainable Energy Programme.

Agreed: to be considered at the forward planning meeting in January.

- iv. An invitation from BT Ireland inviting Committee members to the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2015 in Dublin.

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

- v. Correspondence from the Minister regarding consultation on legislation to implement Directive 2013/30/EU – Safety of offshore/Onshore Oil and Gas Operations.

Agreed: members are content with the proposals.

15. Any Other Business

There was one item of additional business:

Members noted a consultation document regarding proposals for the replacement of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007.

Agreed: the Committee agreed to receive a summary of responses following consultation.

16. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **Tuesday 13 January 2015 at 10.00am** in Room 29, **Parliament Buildings.**

The meeting concluded at 1:18pm

Mr Patsy McGlone
Chairperson
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

13 January 2015