



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**7 OCTOBER 2014**

**ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, 10.00AM**

- Present: Mr Phil Flanagan (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Steven Agnew  
Mr Sydney Anderson  
Mr Gordon Dunne  
Mr Paul Frew  
Mr William Humphrey  
Mr Fearghal McKinney
- In Attendance: Mr Jim McManus (Assembly Clerk)  
Ms Angela McParland (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Nathan McVeigh (Clerical Supervisor)  
Ms Jacqueline Holt (Clerical Officer)  
Mr Peadar Ó Lamhna (Bursary Student)
- Apologies: Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson),  
Ms Megan Fearon  
Mr Danny Kinahan

*The meeting began at 10.10am with Mr Phil Flanagan (Deputy Chairperson) presiding.*

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were noted, as listed above.

## **2. Minutes of meetings held on Thursday 25 September 2014.**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft minutes of 25 September 2014.

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

The Chairperson welcomed Mr William Humphrey and Mr Chris Hazzard to the Committee.

*Agreed:* to write to Mr Sammy Douglas and Mr Mitchel McLaughlin thanking them for their input and commitment to the work of the Committee.

The Chairperson reminded members to declare any interests held by them which are relevant to the work of the Committee and informed members that a copy of the Register of Interests for Mr Humphrey and Mr Hazzard was included in meeting papers.

The Chairperson welcomed Bursary Student Peadar Ó Lamhna to the Committee.

The Chairperson informed members that the October Monitoring Round had been added as a substantive item as Agenda Item 8 and that an updated agenda had been tabled for members.

*Agreed:* Members were content with the revised agenda.

The Committee noted correspondence informing members that the Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry event 'Corporation Tax- Seizing the Opportunity' which the Chairperson was to attend has been postponed.

Members noted an invitation from Colleges NI to attend a Further Education showcase event in the Long Gallery on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014 which the Chairperson will attend.

Members noted that the Committee Twitter account was activated on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014 and that the response has been very positive. The Chairperson encouraged members to promote the Committee Twitter.

Members noted a paper from the Committee Clerk summarising the issues that were raised by representatives of SDC Trailers when the Committee visited last week. Members who had attended the visit gave a summary of the visit.

*Agreed:* to consider at next week's Committee meeting.

## **4. Oral briefing from B9 Energy Group : Microgrids**

*The representative joined the meeting at 10:16am.*

*Gordon Dunne left the meeting at 11:08am*

Members received an oral briefing from Mr David Surplus, Chairman, B9 Energy Group.

Key issues discussed included: microgrid projects in Larne, Lecale and Coleraine, how microgrids work in practice, ownership of microgrids, how microgrids are financed and why microgrids would be considered beneficial to both load and generator customers.

*Agreed:* to ask Assembly Research to provide research on the different types of microgrids available, storage of electricity systems and the environmental impacts of salt cavern compressed air storage.

*Agreed:* to seek a written brief from the Utility Regulator & SONI regarding microgrids.

*Agreed:* to write to Coleraine Borough Council to seek information regarding the development of a Renewable Energy Microgrid and Energy Storage in the Coleraine region.

*The representative left the meeting at 11.30am.*

## **5. Oral Briefing from The Consumer Council for Northern Ireland: Postal Issues**

*The representatives joined the meeting at 11:30am*

Members received an oral briefing from Ms Kathy Graham, Interim Director of Policy, Consumer Council for Northern Ireland and Ms Kellin McCloskey, Head of Postal Policy, Consumer Council for Northern Ireland.

Key issues discussed included: Cross-border postal services, establishment of new consumer helpline, working with Post Office Ltd to ensure that consumers' views are taken into account when closing or transferring post offices, post office banking and motor tax renewal in post offices.

*The representatives left the meeting at 12:20pm*

## **6. Matters Arising**

Members considered plans for a visit by the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation to Parliament Buildings on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2014.

*Agreed:* InterTradeIreland and the Centre for Cross Border Studies to provide informal briefings to both Committees.

## **7. Northern Ireland Assembly EU Matters Newsletter**

Members noted the Northern Ireland Assembly EU Matters Newsletter.

*Agreed:* to ask the Assembly's EU Affairs Manager to clarify what communication has taken place between local councils and the Assembly on collaborative working.

## **8. October Monitoring Round**

*The representatives joined the meeting at 12:25pm*

Members received an oral briefing from Mr Trevor Cooper, Head of Finance Division, DETI, Ms Bernie Brankin, Head of Finance Branch, DETI and Mr. Mike Thompson, Head of Tourism, Telecoms and GSNI Division, DETI.

Key issues discussed included funding for past and future events and progress with the budget for next year.

Members noted the contents of the October Monitoring Report.

*William Humphrey left the meeting at 12:31*

*Gordon Dunne re-joined the meeting at 12:45*

*Sydney Anderson left the meeting at 12:46*

## **9. Correspondence**

***Members noted the following items of correspondence:***

- i. Members noted correspondence from the Minister regarding the consequential amendments to the UK-wide REACH enforcement regulations 2008.
- ii. Members considered correspondence from the Department regarding the publication of a new statistical report entitled "Electricity Consumption and Renewable Generation in Northern Ireland".

*Agreed:* to update the draft Electricity Policy Review Part III Grid Connections Report to reflect the information provided in the briefing.

- iii. Members noted correspondence from the Department providing an update on the Tamboran petroleum license PL2/10.

- iv. Members considered correspondence from the Centre for Cross Border Studies regarding the hosting of an information session.

*Agreed:* that the Committee will host the Centre for Cross Border Studies.

- v. Members noted correspondence from Full Circle Power detailing the major difficulties the project is facing due to the timing of the ROC deadline.

*Agreed:* to write to the Minister to ask what plans she has to bring forward to an earlier date the timeframe for the introduction of a grace period.

## **10. Forward Work Programme**

Members considered the Committee Forward Work Programme up to 9 December 2014.

Members noted correspondence regarding an invitation to host an external meeting..

## **11. Any other business**

There were no additional items of business.

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

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **14 October 2014** at **10.00am** in **Room 29, Parliament Buildings.**

*The meeting closed at 1:01pm*

---

**Mr Phil Flanagan**  
**Chairperson**  
**Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment**

**14 October 2014**