



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

27 JANUARY 2015

SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, 10.00AM

Present: Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson)
Mr Phil Flanagan (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Steven Agnew
Mr Gordon Dunne
Mr Paul Frew
Mr Paul Givan
Mr William Humphrey
Mr Danny Kinahan
Mr Máirtín Ó Muilleoir

In Attendance: Mr Jim McManus (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Nathan McVeigh (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Christopher Jeffrey (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: None

The meeting began at 10:08am

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Draft minutes of meeting of 20 January 2015

Agreed: the Committee agreed the draft minutes of 20 January 2015.

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir joined the meeting at 10.09am

3. Chairperson's Business

Members noted correspondence from the Airport Commission regarding London airports and the effects on Northern Ireland.

Members noted an invitation from the Northern Ireland Renewables industry Group to its fifth Annual Conference.

Members noted an invitation to the final of the Northern Ireland Science Festival FameLab competition.

4. Oral briefing from B9 Energy: County Down Offshore Wind Farm

The representative joined the meeting at 10:12am.

Members received a briefing from Mr Michael Harper, Director, B9 Energy in regards to the County Down Offshore Wind Farm.

William Humphrey joined the meeting at 10.14am

Gordon Dunne joined the meeting at 10.16am

Danny Kinahan joined the meeting at 10.32am

Paul Givan left the meeting at 10.39am

William Humphrey left the meeting at 10.43am

Phil Flanagan left the meeting at 11.02am

Key Issues discussed included: Factors contributing to the collapse of the project, communication between DETI and DECC, what can be done to prevent a project such as this collapsing in the future.

The representative left the meeting at 11.09am

Agreed: to write to NIE asking for details of what guarantees for capacity were given regarding Ballycastle and what is meant by a non-standard solution.

Agreed: to write to the Utility Regulator asking for copies of all correspondence between it and DETI and DECC on this matter.

Agreed: to write to the Department asking for copies of all correspondence between it and DECC on this issue.

Agreed: to write to the Minister asking her to address the issues raised during the briefing.

5. Insolvency (Amendment) Bill

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir left the meeting at 11.15am

Members considered a clause by clause table of the Bill.

Agreed: the Committee is content to await information in regards to the code of conduct.

Members considered correspondence from the Royal Courts of Justice in regards to the Bill.

Agreed: to include the correspondence from the Royal Courts of Justice as evidence in the Committee report.

Members considered correspondence from the Chancery and Probate Committee in regards to the Bill.

Agreed: to forward the correspondence from the Chancery and Probate Committee to the Department for comment.

Agreed: to write to the Department asking for clarification on the extent of any backlog there is in relation to insolvency cases, and if this only applies to cases being administered by the Department where no assets or fees are to be realised.

6. Matters Arising

Members considered a response from the Department to Committee queries in relation to the National Policy Statement on Entrepreneurship in Ireland.

Agreed: to commission Assembly Research to conduct a comparison between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Members noted an invitation from Professor David Waugh for the Committee to visit the Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology at Queen's University, Belfast

The Chairperson informed members that a survey to Northern Ireland businesses will be issued today or tomorrow and the link will be forwarded to members.

The Chairperson informed members that he and the Deputy Chairperson plan to meet with Alastair Hamilton from Invest NI to discuss how the Committee can capture information from businesses without a presence in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: to issue a survey for businesses without a presence in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: to arrange oral evidence sessions, in the first instance, from the Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce, Manufacturing NI, the Institute of Directors, the Federation of Small Business and ICTU/Nevin Institute.

7. Written Briefing from Consumer Council: Consumer Outlook Index January 2015

Members noted a written briefing from Consumer Council in regards to Consumer Outlook Index January 2015.

8. Written Briefing from Consumer Council: Banking Issues and Financial Inclusion

Members considered a written briefing from Consumer Council in regards to Banking Issues and Financial Inclusion.

Agreed: to defer any agreed actions in relation to banking until after the publication of the Westminster Report and the additional work being undertaken by the Consumer Council.

Agreed: to receive an oral briefing from the Consumer Council at a future meeting.

9. Consultation: Proposals for New COMAH Regulations

Members considered a consultation in regards to proposals for New COMAH Regulations

Agreed: to receive a summary of response following consultation.

10. EU Matters Newsletter

Members considered an EU Matters Newsletter Issue 01-2015.

Agreed: to ask the Department if and how it is taking advantage of the European Investment Fund.

Agreed: to ask the Department what it and Invest NI is doing in relation to the new Fast Track to Innovation pilot initiative to promote innovation by reducing the time it takes to bring innovative ideas to market.

11. Correspondence

Members noted the following items of correspondence:

- i. Correspondence from Manufacturing NI regarding its responses to the Utility Regulator regarding its Security of Supply paper.

Agreed: to notify the Department that the response from Manufacturing NI to the Utility Regulator will be discussed when the Department and Utility Regulator brief the Committee.

- ii. Correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding Landscape Seminar.
- iii. Correspondence from a member of the public regarding the Presbyterian Mutual Society.

12. Any Other Business

There were no additional items of business.

13. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **Tuesday 3 February 2015 at 10.00am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.**

The meeting concluded at 11:39am

Mr Patsy McGlone
Chairperson
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

3 February 2015