



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

03 MARCH 2015

ROOM 29, 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)

The meeting began at 10:07am

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Draft Minutes of Meeting of 24 February 2015

Agreed: the Committee agreed the draft minutes of 24 February 2015.

3. Chairperson's Business

Members discussed contacting the Permanent Secretary regarding the lateness of Departmental papers to the Committee.

Agreed: to arrange for the Chairperson to meet with the Permanent Secretary on the matter.

Members were reminded that at the meeting of 18th November the Committee asked for a copy of the advice the Department received on corporation tax from the Ulster University Economic Policy which was due after Christmas recess.

Agreed: the Chairperson to discuss at the meeting with the Permanent Secretary.

The Chairperson advised that the Clerk and the Clerk to the Committee for Finance & Personnel met with the Consumer Council last week to organise a stakeholder event addressing the issues arising from bank closures. The event has been arranged for 26 May 2015 in the Member's Dining Room.

The Chairperson reminded members that a stakeholder event has been organised for the Inquiry for 14th April 2015.

Megan Fearon joined the meeting at 10:10am

Agreed: to invite the Belfast Telegraph top 100 companies to attend the event.

Members were informed that the Committee is invited to the launch of the new Farm Safety Partnership TV advertisement to be held on 11th March 2015. The Chairperson informed the Committee that he is unable to attend due to another Committee commitment.

4. Oral Briefing from Tourism Northern Ireland: Key Capital Projects

The representatives joined the meeting at 10.11am

Members received a briefing from Kathryn Thomson, Chief Operating Officer, and Laura McCorry, Director of Product Development at Tourism Northern Ireland.

Key issues discussed included: Support of projects, Promotion of NI as a visitors destination, Belfast Waterfront extension, HMS Caroline, temporary accommodation for conferences in Belfast, Fermanagh Heritage Gateway, family orientated attractions, literary tourism and legacy projects.

Danny Kinahan joined the meeting at 10:25am

Fearghal McKinney left the meeting at 10:48am

Steven Agnew left the meeting at 10:59am

The representatives left the meeting at 11:14am

Agreed: to ask the Department for a list of the 18 key capital projects currently under consideration. To also ask the Department whether there are any large scale capital build projects in the pipeline or under consideration or have any been proposed by any party.

5. Assembly Research Briefing: Case Study – Foreign Direct Invest in the Republic of Ireland

The official joined the meeting at 11:19am

Members received a briefing from Research Officer Aidan Stennett.

Key issues discussed included: why investors choose the Republic of Ireland to invest, visa arrangements for FDI workers, magnets of attraction for investment and Republic of Ireland sub-regional investment and FDI policies.

Paul Frew left the meeting at 11:25am

William Humphrey left the meeting at 11:34am

The official left the meeting at 11:46am

Agreed: to ask the Department for a copy of its Research Agenda for 2015 – 2016. To ask the Department to provide information on what the research is used for.

Agreed: to commission the following research: Invest NI work to attract investment to areas outside Belfast - mapping exercise to see what Northern Ireland offers outside Belfast, identification of targets that the IDA has to attract investment outside Dublin, identification of policy measures that the IDA has to attract business to areas outside Dublin; Tourism statistics – to

compare how tourism statistics are compiled here with RoI, Scotland, England and Wales.

6. Insolvency (Amendment) Bill: Draft Report and Final Report

The Committee formally scrutinised each paragraph of the draft report.

Agreed: that the Executive Summary at paragraphs 1-9 stands part of the report.

Agreed: that the Introduction at paragraphs 10-14 stands part of the report.

Agreed: that the Summary of the draft Bill as presented to the Committee at Committee Stage at paragraphs 15-38 stands part of the report.

Agreed: that the Summary of Consideration of the Bill at paragraphs 39-96 stands part of the report.

Megan Fearon left the meeting at 11:49am

Paul Givan joined the meeting at 11:49 am

Agreed: that the Summary of Consideration of Other Issues of the Bill at paragraphs 97-118 stands part of the report.

Agreed: that the Clause-by-Clause Scrutiny of the Bill at paragraphs 119-125 stands part of the report.

The Committee formally scrutinised each appendix of the final Bill report.

Agreed: that the following papers should be appended to the Committee's report:

Minutes of proceedings

Minutes of evidence (Hansards)

Written submissions

Memoranda and papers from DETI

Research Papers

List of witnesses

Agreed: Chairperson to approve an extract from today's minutes which reflect the read-through of the Report.

Agreed: to lay the Report in its entirety in the Assembly Business Office after today's meeting.

7. Draft Response to OFMDFM Committee: Children's Services Co-operation Bill

Members considered a response to the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister.

Agreed: to forward the response to that Committee.

8. Matters Arising

Members noted correspondence from the Department regarding the Committee's queries about the Agri Food Strategy Board.

Members discussed tourism statistics provided by Danny Kinahan MLA in relation to the Tourism Ireland briefing the previous week.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to commission research on ways tourism figures are calculated in other jurisdictions namely England, Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland.

Members noted correspondence from a member of the public regarding Domestic PV Arrays.

Agreed: members agreed to add this to the agenda for the upcoming meeting with the Utility Regulator.

Members noted a copy of the letter sent to the Northern Ireland Office in relation to the impact of corporation tax devolution on credit unions and mutual.

Agreed: members agreed to issue a press release on the matter.

Members considered organising a meeting with the Oireachtas Select Sub-Committee on Transport, Tourism and Sport to discuss all-island issues.

Agreed: members agreed for the Clerk to make contact with the Clerk of the Oireachtas Select-Sub Committee.

Members considered the EU Matters newsletter. Members noted that that Committee Clerk was informed by the Clerk to the Committee for Employment and Learning that that Committee has made extensive enquiries into the matter with the Department and is awaiting a reply which will be forwarded to this Committee.

Agreed: members are content to await sight of the correspondence from the DEL Committee before pursuing this matter further.

9. Written Briefing from DETI: Research Agenda Update

Members considered a paper from the Department providing a research agenda up to March of this year.

10. Written Briefing from DETI: Giro d'Italia 2014- Post Project Evaluation

Members considered a paper from the Department regarding the Giro d'Italia Post Project Evaluation.

Agreed: to ask the Department what is meant by 'tourism impact' and what was the actual derived income from the event. To ask the Department for further detail on the type of print media coverage obtained during the event.

11. Written Briefing from Advice NI: Business Debtline NI – Impact Report 2013-14

Members considered a paper from Advice NI regarding the Business Debtline NI Impact Report 2013-14.

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir left the meeting at 12:06pm

12. Correspondence

Members noted the following items of correspondence:

- i. An invitation from Belfast Met to hold an evidence session for the Committee's Inquiry at Belfast Met.

Agreed: to respond to Belfast Met thanking them for the invitation stating that as Committee meetings are held on Tuesdays members are required to be available for plenary debates it is not possible to hold formal committee meetings outside of Parliament Buildings.

- ii. An invitation from Agenda NI to attend their Growing an Enterprise Economy.

Agreed: members to contact Committee Office if members wish to attend.

- iii. Correspondence from Enterprise NI regarding the Launching Business, Creating Jobs publication which is available in the Committee Office if members wish to view it.
- iv. Correspondence from the Minister regarding the provision of defibrillators in public buildings.
- v. Correspondence from DCAL regarding the Retention and Disposal Schedule for Employee Records.
- vi. Correspondence from the NIAO regarding the Cross-border broadband initiative.

13. Any Other Business

Members discussed Air Connectivity in Northern Ireland.

Members noted that contrary to the Minister's letter, the Department was scheduled to brief the Committee on 10 March and not 24 March and that the Committee Office is working to reschedule briefings.

14. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **Tuesday 10 March 2015 at 10.00am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.**

The meeting concluded at 12.09pm.

Mr Patsy McGlone
Chairperson
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

10 March 2015