



**COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**26 MAY 2015**

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

Present:

Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson)  
Mr Phil Flanagan (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Gordon Dunne  
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:

Mr Steven Agnew

*The meeting began at 10:36am*

*Members began with Agenda Item Number 4*

**4. Oral Briefing from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU): Inquiry into Growing the Economy and Creating Jobs in a Reduced Tax Environment**

*The Representative joined the meeting at 10:37am*

Members received a briefing from Mr Peter Bunting, Assistant General Secretary, Irish Congress of Trade Unions.

Key issues discussed included: EU membership referendum, corporation tax, jobs, a lack of criteria or performance based approach to companies in regards to corporation tax, the all-island economy, the Scottish model of corporation tax, collaboration between different industries, business and third level education, innovation in the labour market and the establishment of a National Social and Economic Council.

*Fearghal McKinney joined the meeting at 10:40am*

*Paul Givan joined the meeting at 10:59am*

*Danny Kinahan joined the meeting at 11:07am*

*Paul Givan left the meeting at 11:18am*

*Paul Frew joined the meeting at 11:28am*

*Máirtín Ó Muilleoir left the meeting at 11:30am*

*William Humphrey joined the meeting at 11:53am*

*The representative left the meeting at 11:59am*

*Agreed:* the Representative to forward to the Committee his findings on the transposing of EU directives.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were noted as above.

**2. Draft Minutes of Meeting of 19 May 2015**

*Agreed:* the Committee agreed the draft minutes of 19 May 2015.

**3. Chairperson's Business**

Members discussed the future visit to Queen's University Centre for Cancer Research & Cell Biology scheduled for Wednesday 16 September 2015.

*Agreed:* the Committee Office will contact each Member individually about their attendance at the visit.

Members considered a Departmental paper on June Monitoring 2015-16.

*Agreed:* the Committee to receive an oral briefing on 2 June 2015.

Members noted an invitation to the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson from Carnegie UK Trust and Queen's University School of Law to an event at Crumlin Road Gaol on Wednesday 10 June discussing the Scottish experience of establishing a national wellbeing framework.

*Agreed:* the Deputy Chairperson will attend the event.

Members discussed the recent outage on the O2 mobile phone network over the weekend.

*Agreed:* to write to O2 about the source of the problem and what actions they have taken to ensure the problem is fully resolved.

*Agreed:* to issue a press release on the matter.

*Agreed:* to receive an oral briefing from representatives of the mobile phone industry to update the Committee about their respective development plans in Northern Ireland.

Members noted that Bursary Student Peadar Ó Lamhna will be leaving the Committee team having completed his term. Members thanked him for the work he provided to the Committee throughout the term, especially on the Growth and Jobs Inquiry.

## **5. Oral Briefing from Tourism NI**

*The Representatives joined the meeting at 12:06pm*

Members received a briefing from Ms Kathryn Thomson, Chief Operating Officer, Tourism NI, and Mr Eddie Rowan, Events Manager, Tourism NI.

Key issues discussed included: new national and international events, economic impact of tourism events, BBC Proms in the Park, rebranding of Tourism NI, cooperation with local authorities and illegible and unsuccessful applications.

*Phil Flanagan left the meeting at 12:06pm*

*Danny Kinahan left the meeting at 12:38pm*

*The representatives left the meeting at 12:47pm*

*Agreed:* Tourism NI to provide details of the criteria which applications are assessed upon and details of any recent changes to the criteria. Tourism NI to also provide a list of those events not included on the list in the written briefing to the Committee.

## **6. Matters Arising**

Members considered correspondence from Jonathan Rose, Director of Ofcom NI, regarding correspondence with an individual on competition in Northern Ireland for phone and broadband services.

Members noted a written response from the Department regarding the Committee's request for information in relation to devolved corporation tax powers following the briefing on energy issues on 28 April 2015.

*Agreed:* to add the response as evidence to the Inquiry.

Members noted a written response from the Utility Regulator to the Committee's queries on energy issues following the briefing on 28 April 2015.

*Agreed:* to arrange an oral briefing from Mutual Energy regarding the Moyle Interconnector.

Members noted supplementary information from Grow NI arising out of the oral briefing to the Committee on 28 April 2015.

*Agreed:* to add as evidence to the Inquiry

Members noted correspondence from NILGA regarding corporation tax.

*Agreed:* to add as evidence to the Inquiry.

## **7. Legislation: SR 2015/249 The Electricity and Gas (Ownership Unbundling) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

Members discussed SR 2015/249: The Electricity and Gas (Ownership Unbundling) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

*Agreed:* that the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment has considered SR 2015/249 The Electricity and Gas (Ownership Unbundling) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and has no objection to the Rule.

## **8. EU Matters Newsletter**

Members noted the latest edition of the EU Matters Newsletter.

*Agreed:* to ask the Department how many Northern Ireland companies had applied for the Horizon 2020 SME Instrument phase 1 funding.

## **9. Correspondence**

Members noted the following items of correspondence;

- i. A copy of correspondence from the Minister to Anglewise regarding Air Passenger Duty.

*Agreed:* to forward the response to Belfast International Airport Ltd.

- ii. Correspondence from the Department regarding the Prompt Payment of Invoices for 6 months ending 31 March 2015.
- iii. A copy of correspondence from the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure regarding the Dubai Duty Free Irish Open scheduled for 28-31 May 2015 at the Royal County Down Golf Club.

## **10. Any Other Business**

Members discussed transposition of EU regulations into domestic law.

*Agreed:* to write to Peter Bunting, ICTU, to seek examples of how regulations for different sectors, including energy, are transposed elsewhere in the European Union.

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

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **Tuesday 2 June 2015** at **10.00am** in **Room 29, Parliament Buildings.**

*The meeting concluded at 12:52 pm*

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

**2 June 2015**