



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

8 DECEMBER 2015

ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, 10:00am

Present:

Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson)
Mr Conor Murphy (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Adrian Cochrane-Watson
Mr Gordon Dunne
Ms Megan Fearon
Mr Paul Givan
Mr William Humphrey
Mr Fearghal McKinney
Lord Morrow
Mr Máirtín Ó Muilleoir

In Attendance:

Mr Jim McManus (Assembly Clerk)
Ms Angela McParland (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Michael Greer (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Briege Mullan (Clerical Officer)

Apologies:

Mr Stephen Agnew

The meeting began at 10:21am

1. Apologies

Apologies as noted above.

2. Draft Minutes of Meeting of 1st December 2015

Agreed: the Committee agreed the draft minutes of 1st December 2015.

3. Chairperson's Business

Members considered an amended Agenda to include a Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Enterprise Bill (Small Business Commissioner Provisions), tabled as Agenda Item 18.

Agreed: Members were content with the amended Agenda and to move to the LCM, tabled as Agenda Item 18, following consideration of Agenda Item 9.

The Chairperson informed Members of an invitation to attend the Allianz Arts & Business NI Awards 2016 and that both he and the Deputy Chairperson are unable to attend due to prior commitments.

Agreed: Members to contact the Committee Office if they wish to attend.

The Committee discussed the rescheduling of a joint informal meeting with the Oireachtas Joint Committee for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation which had been cancelled in September 2015.

Agreed: to reschedule the visit to take place in January 2016.

4. Oral Briefing from Invest NI: Mid-Year Performance

The officials joined the meeting at 10:24am

Members received a briefing from Mr Alastair Hamilton, Chief Executive, Invest NI and Mr Brian Dolaghan, Executive Director, Invest NI.

Key issues discussed included an update from officials on Invest NI's mid-year performance, jobs promoted and jobs created, corporation tax, export figures and Invest NI's telephone advisory service.

Adrian Cochrane-Watson joined the meeting at 10:36am

Adrian Cochrane-Watson left the meeting at 11:00am

Conor Murphy left the meeting at 11:06am

Megon Fearon joined the meeting at 11:30am

Lord Morrow joined the meeting at 11:31am

The officials left the meeting at 11:56am

5. Oral Briefing from the Visit England: Update on Experience

The representative joined the meeting at 11:57am

Members received a briefing from Mr James Berresford, Chief Executive, Visit England.

Key areas discussed included domestic tourism, clean beaches and the use of social media.

Paul Givan joined the meeting at 12:08pm

William Humphrey left the meeting at 12:18pm

The representative left the meeting at 12:25pm

6. Matters Arising

Members noted a Departmental response regarding the Committee's Inquiry into Growing the Economy and Creating Jobs in Reduced Tax Environment.

Members noted an update on the Sustainable Use of Poultry Litter Project from the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development.

Members considered a Departmental response in regards to savings delivery plans.

Agreed: to consider again when the Minister briefs the Committee.

Members noted correspondence from the Committee's Specialist Advisor suggesting he produce an analysis and mapping of the sub-regional performance of the Northern Ireland economy.

Agreed: to agree to the Specialist Advisor carrying out the study as suggested.

Members noted a Departmental response regarding Brexit.

Members noted an update from the Department in regards to the recent report on corporation tax by the Ulster University Economic Policy Centre.

7. Legislation: SR 2015/387 The Storage of Carbon Dioxide (Licensing Etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Members considered SR 2015/387 The Storage of Carbon Dioxide (Licensing Etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

Agreed: that the Committee for Enterprise, Trade & Investment has considered SR 2015/387 The Storage of Carbon Dioxide (Licensing Etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules' Report, has no objections to the Rule.

8. Legislation: SR 2015/388 The Storage of Carbon Dioxide (Access to Infrastructure) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Members considered SR 2015/388 The Storage of Carbon Dioxide (Access to Infrastructure) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

Agreed: that the Committee for Enterprise, Trade & Investment has considered SR 2015/388 The Storage of Carbon Dioxide (Access to Infrastructure) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules' Report, has no objection to the Rule.

9. Legislation: Legislative Consent Memorandum Housing and Planning Bill

Members considered the draft Report on the Legislative Consent Memorandum on Housing and Planning Bill.

Agreed: Members agreed the draft report.

Lord Morrow left the meeting at 12.18pm

The Committee agreed to move to Agenda Item 18, as tabled.

18. Legislation: Legislative Consent Memorandum Enterprise Bill (Small Business Commissioner Provisions)

The officials joined the meeting at 12:29pm

Members received a briefing from Mr Keith Foster, Principal, Economic Policy Unit, DETI and Mr Martin Graham, Deputy Principal, Economic Policy Unit, DETI

Members considered the LCM on the Enterprise Bill (Small Business Commissioner Provisions).

Paul Givan left the meeting at 12.29pm

Conor Murphy returned to the meeting at 12:31pm

Patsy McGlone left the meeting at 12:31pm

The Deputy Chairperson took the Chair at 12:31pm

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir left the meeting at 12.32pm

In the absence of a decision-making quorum, proceedings commenced in line with Standing Order 49(5).

The officials left the meeting at 12.33pm

10. Written Briefing from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister: Northern Ireland Executive Brussels office report July – October 2015

Members considered a written briefing from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister on the Northern Ireland Executive Brussels office report July – October 2015.

11. Written Briefing from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister: European Commission Work Programme 2016

Members considered a written briefing from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister on the European Commission Work Programme 2016.

12. Written Briefing from Assembly Research: Republic of Ireland's Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariff for Small-Scale Wind

Members considered a written briefing from Assembly Research on the Republic of Ireland's Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariff for Small-Scale Wind.

13. EU Matters Newsletter

Members considered the latest EU Matters Newsletter.

14. Forward Work Programme

Members considered the Committee's draft Forward Work Programme and correspondence from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, NOW Group and the Utility Regulator.

15. Correspondence

Members considered correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister in regards to the Departments Bill and Transfer of Functions Order.

Members considered a thank you letter to the Chairperson from the Northern Ireland Assembly Business Trust.

Members considered correspondence from Ofcom highlighting the publication of the Connected Nations Report.

Members considered correspondence from the Speaker regarding remarks made by the Minister in Plenary on the Committee's position on the proposed closure of the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation to onshore wind.

16. Any other Business

There were no additional items of business.

17. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Tuesday 12th January 2015 at 10.00am, venue to be confirmed.

The Deputy Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:42pm

Mr Patsy McGlone
Chairperson
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

12th January 2015