



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

1 MARCH 2016

ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, 10:00am

Present:	Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson) Mr Conor Murphy (Deputy Chairperson) Mr Gordon Dunne Ms Megan Fearon Mr Paul Givan Mr William Humphrey Mr David McIlveen Mr Fearghal McKinney 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:	None

The meeting began at 10:13am

1. Apologies

Apologies as noted above.

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

Members agreed to move to Agenda Item 4

4. Oral Briefing from Consumer Council Northern Ireland: Online Parcel Premium

The representatives joined the meeting at 10:14am

Members received a briefing from Mr John French, Chief Executive and Ms Kellin McCloskey, Head of Postal Policy.

Key issues discussed included an update on work conducted since last year, current exclusions to Northern Ireland for free delivery and possible solutions in legislation to protect Northern Ireland customers.

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir joined the meeting at 10:21am

Paul Givan joined the meeting at 10:23am

Paul Givan left the meeting at 10:37am

William Humphrey joined the meeting at 10:46am

Agreed: to ask the Department if it is considering carrying out any substantive work on this issue.

The representatives left the meeting at 10:50am

Members agreed to move to Agenda Item 2

2. Draft Minutes of Meeting 23rd February 2016

Agreed: the Committee agreed the draft minutes of 23rd February 2016.

3. Chairperson's Business

The Committee considered an invitation to the book launch of "Devolution and the UK Economy", edited by Dr Leslie Budd and Professor David Bailey.

Fearghal McKinney joined the meeting at 10:51am

The Chairperson informed Members that the Minister is available to brief the Committee on 15th March 2016 regarding DETI's Renewables Energy Policy.

Agreed: that the Minister will brief the Committee on 15th March 2016.

The Committee noted correspondence from BSH Limited on the closure of the Renewable Heat Incentive schemes.

Agreed: to ask the Department to respond to BSH Ltd on the matter.

The Chairperson informed Members of an invitation to a STEM Event celebrating National Science and Engineering Week on 15th March 2016.

Agreed: Member's will attend the event on a 'drop-in' basis, when available, during the afternoon session.

Megan Fearon joined the meeting at 10:53am

5. Oral Briefing from InterTradeIreland: Mapping the Potential for All-Island Sectoral Ecosystems

The officials joined the meeting at 10:54am

Members received a briefing from Mr Aidan Gough, Director of Strategy and Policy, InterTradeIreland, and Dr Eoin Magennis, Policy Research Manager, InterTradeIreland.

Paul Givan returned to the meeting at 11:22am

Key issues discussed were the opportunities for growth identified in the report and the key players that will help take the report's recommendations forward.

The officials left the meeting at 11:35pm

6. Oral Briefing from Invest NI: InterTradeIreland Report 'Mapping the Potential for All-Island Sectoral Ecosystems'

The officials joined the meeting at 11:36am

Members received a briefing from Mr Brian Dolaghan, Executive Director, Business & Sector Development, Invest NI, and Ms Olive Hill, Director of Strategy, Invest NI.

Paul Givan left the meeting at 11:40am

Key issue discussed was the InterTradeIreland report.

Officials agreed to forward a copy of their opening statement to the Committee.

Gordon Dunne left the meeting at 11:56am

Agreed: to ask the Department to provide a briefing on how it sees work progressing in regards to the recommendations in the report.

The officials left the meeting at 11:59am

7. Matters Arising

The Chairperson informed Members that the Chair of the Agri-Food Strategy Board can no longer attend the concurrent meeting for Going for Growth.

Agreed: to ask the Department if another Board member can attend with officials in his place.

Members considered correspondence from O2 providing an update on mobile phone coverage issues.

Agreed: to forward to the Committee for the Environment regarding planning.

Members considered correspondence from Tourism NI regarding the BBC Good Food Show.

Agreed: to forward to the Committee for Social Development for information.

Members considered correspondence from the Committee for Employment and Learning regarding a joint meeting with that Committee and the Minister as well as the Minister for Employment and Learning, to discuss the recent Bombardier announcement on job losses.

Agreed: the Committee Office will notify Members of the details when finalised.

Members noted correspondence from the Ulster University Economic Policy Centre regarding Invest NI data packs for new Councils.

Members considered a Departmental response to the Oireachtas Joint Committee Report on the All-Island Economy.

Agreed: to state to the Department that the Committee had expected it to give detailed consideration to the report and will raise the matter with the Minister at the briefing on 15th March 2016.

Members noted a Departmental update on the Invest NI Budget 2016/17.

8. Draft End of Mandate (Legacy) Report 12 May 2011 – 29 March 2016

Members considered a third draft of the End of Mandate (Legacy) Report.

Agreed: to forward Dr Budd's paper to the Department for consideration when developing objectives for the refreshed Economic Strategy.

Agreed: Members are content with the draft report pending finalisation of the items listed in the Clerk's Brief.

9. Correspondence

Members noted correspondence from Ofcom regarding its Strategic Review of Digital Communications.

William Humphrey left the meeting at 12:06am

Members considered an invitation from Tourism NI to the European Federation of Chinese Tour Operators Post Conference Familiarisation Trip.

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

Members considered an invitation from the Building Change Trust regarding an information lunch.

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

Members noted correspondence from the Minister to the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure regarding the Commonwealth Youth Games 2021.

Members noted correspondence from the Minister regarding Air Passenger Statistics.

Members noted correspondence from ICTU regarding an Asbestos in Schools event.

Members noted correspondence from the Consumer Council Northern Ireland regarding its draft Corporate Plan and draft Forward Work Programme 2016-17.

10. Any Other Business

There were no additional items of business.

11. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Tuesday 8th March 2016 at 10.00am, Room 29.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:09pm



Mr Patsy McGlone
Chairperson
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

8th March 2016