

## **COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

### **END OF MANDATE (LEGACY) REPORT 12 MAY 2011 – 29 MARCH 2016**

The Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment is a Statutory Committee established in accordance with paragraph 8 and 9 of the Belfast Agreement, Section 29, of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and under Assembly Standing Order 48. The Committee has a scrutiny, policy development and consultation role with respect to the Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI or the “Department”) and has a role in the initiation of legislation.

The Committee has the power to:

- Consider and advise on Departmental Budgets and Annual Plans in the context of the overall budget allocation;
- Approve relevant secondary legislation and take the Committee stage of relevant primary legislation;
- Call for persons and papers;
- Initiate inquiries and make reports; and
- Consider and advise on matters brought to the Committee by the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment.

## **PRIMARY LEGISLATION**

### **Credit Unions and Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Bill**

[The Bill](#) was introduced to the Assembly on 23 June 2015. This legislation had arisen as a result of an inquiry by the ETI Committee during the previous mandate. The Bill is intended to update the key Northern Ireland legislation governing credit unions and industrial and provident societies (IPSS) – the Credit Unions (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 and Industrial and Provident Societies Act (Northern Ireland) 1969 respectively. The main principles of the Bill are: in the interests of promoting the continued growth and ongoing sustainability of the sectors, to give Northern Ireland Credit Unions and IPSS greater operational flexibility.

On [16 June 2015](#), the Committee received a briefing from Department officials who acknowledged the Committee’s extensive pre-consultation and scrutiny and significant contribution to the development of policy within the Bill. The Committee undertook considerable pre-legislative scrutiny of the Bill and made suggested changes to the proposed policy which was largely accepted by the Department. Many of the Committee’s recommendations have been enacted through legislation in Westminster. Clause 1 and Clause 6 of this Bill will enact two more of the Committee’s recommendations. The [Committee Report](#) was published on 24 November 2015 and the Final Stage of the Bill was approved in the Assembly on 29 February 2016.

### **Insolvency (Amendment) Bill**

[The Bill](#) was introduced to the Assembly on 7 October 2014. The Committee welcomed the Bill which is intended to update insolvency legislation which was made before the advent of modern methods of electronic communication. The Bill addresses those procedures which, though relevant in the

past, have become outdated and pointless and endeavours to make other procedures more efficient. The Committee engaged in a call for evidence from interested organisations and individuals and from the Department. Evidence from stakeholders indicated there was broad support for the Bill, although there were concerns raised over a number of provisions. During the Committee Stage of the Bill the Committee gave further consideration to Clauses concerning:

- Attendance at meetings and use of websites;
- Fast-track voluntary arrangements: notification of the Department;
- Bankruptcy: early discharge procedure; and
- Effect on backlog cases of certain requirements for consultation with the Lord Chief Justice.

Final changes were made to the Bill at Consideration Stage regarding:

- Removal of requirement for annual meetings in a members' voluntary and a creditor's voluntary winding up;
- Deeds of Arrangement;
- After-acquired property of bankrupt;
- Authorisation of insolvency practitioners; and
- An effective route to policing and controlling the conduct of insolvency practitioners.

The [Committee Report](#) was published on 19 March 2015. The Bill received Royal Assent on 29 January 2016.

## **SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION**

The Committee considers and scrutinises Policy Proposals (SL1s) and Statutory Rules (SRs) on a range of policies including economy (e.g. insolvency, administration, employment), energy (electricity and natural gas), tourism and health & safety. The Committee considered and approved 46 items of subordinate legislation including the following SRs which received considerable scrutiny:

### **Renewables Obligation (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee agreed on 16 June 2015 that the Renewables Obligation (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 (NIRO) be affirmed by the Assembly.

The Committee heard evidence on [4 November 2014](#) from stakeholders within the industry regarding the Department's Consultation. The representatives relayed their concerns with the main focus of the Consultation being on photovoltaic (PV) support levels and the proposed reduction from 4 ROCs to 1.6 ROCs for solar PV generating stations up to 50kW installed capacity and that the reductions proposed would be not only detrimental but catastrophic to the solar PV industry in Northern Ireland. Further, that the proposed changes to ROC levels would impact those people in Northern Ireland currently in fuel poverty.

The Committee welcomed the Department's response, published on 29 January 2015, in which it confirmed solar PV up to 50kW will receive 4 ROCs up to the end of September 2015, and 3 ROCs until the end of September 2016 after which date there will be a reduction to 2 ROCs for new stations seeking accreditation under the NIRO. The Committee also welcomed proposals for Solar PV above 50kW up to 250kW to continue to receive current ROC levels and for existing ROC levels

for small scale onshore wind, anaerobic digestion and hydro technologies to remain unchanged until the closure of NIRO to new applicants from 1 April 2017.

### **Renewables Obligation Closure Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 and 2016**

The Committee considered the SL1 Proposed Renewables Obligation Closure Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 on 30 June 2015 but did not agree the SL1. Under the SR, the introduction of limited grace periods for wind energy would allow for additional capacity to be accredited. However, as onshore wind in Northern Ireland is being supported for an additional year, costs for the one year grace period for onshore wind would probably have to be met by Northern Ireland consumers alone. DETI had intended for the NIRO to remain open, to all technologies, until 31 March 2017. However the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) announced in June 2015 its intention to close the Renewables Obligations across GB to onshore wind from 1 April 2016, therefore creating potential impacts for both Northern Ireland electricity consumers and the renewables industry. The Committee asked the Department to provide full details of any cost benefit analysis that was undertaken by the Department to inform the development of the proposals for supporting onshore wind in Northern Ireland for an additional year.

The Chairperson met with the Minister on 2 July 2015 to discuss the issue. The Chairperson explored the possibility of bringing the SL1 at this stage to meet a number of projects in the pipeline that require assurances. The Department stated that this could not be done. Department officials briefed the Committee on [9 July 2015](#) regarding their ongoing discussions with DECC and agreed to update the Committee when DECC's position was finalised. On 20 August 2015, the Committee received correspondence from the Minister detailing a revised consultation response. An amended SL1 was received on 2 September 2015, reflecting the Committee's position for a Closure Order which excludes onshore wind until the issues surrounding the socialisation of costs across the UK are resolved with DECC. The Committee agreed the revised SL1 on 8 September 2015.

The Department's consultation paper on the closure of the NIRO to onshore wind, published on 30th September 2015, acknowledged that the Minister brought forward NIRO closure proposals to the Committee on two occasions which would have resulted in additional cost to consumers. The Committee received a briefing from officials on 10 November 2015 on the Department's consultation on the closure of the NIRO to all wind generation and the eligibility for and duration of grace periods.

At its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016 the Committee heard oral evidence from Departmental officials on the policy proposals (SL1) for the closure of the Renewables Obligation to new large scale onshore wind generation and additional large scale generating facilities adding additional capacity from 1 April 2016. The Minister informed the Committee that the intention is to consult further on closure arrangements for new small scale onshore wind. The SL1 was approved following a division in the Committee. The Statutory Rule was considered by the Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016 and, following a further division the SR was approved by the Committee.

### **Renewable Heat Incentive Schemes (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

The Committee received a briefing from the Permanent Secretary on 9th February 2016 regarding an SR and correspondence from the Minister. The correspondence stated that time constraints would not allow the 'established convention' of seeking the Committee's approval of the policy and draft legislation. The RHI Scheme Regulations 2012 established a Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme

for the non-domestic sector in November 2012. The 2014 Regulations established a RHI for the domestic sector in December 2014. In November 2015 new tariffs were introduced for Combined Heat and Power, (CHP), to coincide with changes to the NIRO and ROCs. Cost control measures were introduced for small and medium scale biomass which put in place a two tier tariff structure, a change in medium biomass banding and an annual payment cap.

The new regulations give the Department the power to issue a notice suspending the non-domestic and domestic RHI schemes in relation to new applicants where it appears to the Department that it does not have or is not likely to have sufficient funds available to it for the purpose of meeting the full cost of periodic support payments for all eligible RHI installations. It also gives the Department power to revoke any such notice and resume the operation of either scheme. The letter stated that the PfG target of 4% has been exceeded as it is estimated that over 6% of Northern Ireland's total heating needs are now provided through renewable technologies. It stated that the available budget for new applications has been exceeded and the Minister has no choice but to propose immediate closure of the scheme to prevent further overspend. The Committee questioned the Permanent Secretary and his officials on the handling of the schemes and on the estimated cost to businesses, jobs and the economy of the immediate closure of the RHI. Following Committee concerns, the intended date of closure of 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016 was put back to 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

## INQUIRIES

### **Opportunity for Excellence: Growing the Economy and Creating Jobs with Lower Corporation Tax**

The Committee carried out a wide-ranging Inquiry to consider the long-term development of the Northern Ireland economy from a strategic perspective and to examine the wider policy areas which have the potential to impact on economic development in general and on economic growth and job creation. The Committee considered, not only, the direct requirements to develop the economy and create jobs, but also how this can be integrated into an overall approach to economic development covering education, skills, physical and virtual infrastructure and society.



*'Opportunity for Excellence' stakeholder event*

The Committee heard evidence from a wide range of stakeholders and held an event in Parliament Buildings in order to engage directly with the business community. A delegation of three members also visited Stuttgart to inform the Inquiry. A briefing paper of the visit can be viewed [here](#). The Committee published its [Report](#) on 30th June 2015.



*Chair, Patsy McGlone MLA, addressing 'Opportunity for Excellence' stakeholder event*



*A delegation visited the Stuttgart Region as part of the Committee's Inquiry*

### **Electricity Policy Review**

The System Operator for Northern Ireland (SONI) tracks the electricity that is available to be put on the system in Northern Ireland. SONI reported there is not sufficient margin to ensure security of supply in the event of a prolonged outage of a large generating plant. The Committee sought to determine the extent of the problem and what scope there may be to resolve the situation without unduly impacting on electricity consumers. The Committee agreed to undertake a review of electricity policy in Northern Ireland. The review consisted of three reports:



### **Electricity Policy Part I: Security of Electricity Supply**

The Committee consulted with a range of stakeholders and made a series of recommendations in the Report. The Assembly approved the [Report](#) on [9th December 2013](#), calling on the Minister, Executive, Utility Regulator, and System Operator for Northern Ireland (SONI) to implement the recommendations. Key conclusions and recommendations from the report centred on issues DETI, SONI and the Utility Regulator must urgently undertake to ensure security of supply beyond 2015 and beyond 2020.

### **Electricity Policy Part II: Electricity Pricing**

The Committee engaged with business and consumer representative bodies, suppliers and the Utility Regulator on the issue of electricity pricing for businesses and consumers. The Assembly approved the [Report](#) following a plenary debate on [3 March 2014](#). Key conclusions and recommendations from the Report centred on issues such as transparency in the electricity market, system marginal price, cost of carbon, capacity payments, imperfection charges, use of system costs, public service obligation, incentives for renewable obligation, supply costs and impact of integration of EU electricity markets.

### **Electricity Policy Review: Part III Grid Connections**

The third and final [Report](#), was published on 1 December 2014. The Committee gathered oral and written evidence from a range of stakeholders on grid connections costs, grid connection time, contestability and competition in the grid market, grid infrastructure investment and requirement to connect to the grid. The Report was debated in plenary on 1st December 2013.

### **Inquiry into Innovation, Research and Development**

In November 2011 the Committee initiated an inquiry into Research & Development (R&D). The main aim of the inquiry was to understand the barriers faced by local businesses and academic institutions when considering investing in R&D and to identify actions to support and encourage investment in R&D.



*Members took evidence from Almac for the R&D Inquiry on a visit to the site*

The opportunity exists to make more of support programmes for R&D to help drive the economy and develop the high value, high paid jobs needed to rebalance and rebuild the economy. A clear and holistic vision is needed for innovation and R&D. This must be developed and implemented along with appropriate policies, strategies, structures, systems and process required to drive R&D. The Committee published the [Report](#) and findings on 24 May 2012.

The Committee agreed to include provision for the use of a Rapporteur to lead the collection and analysis of evidence and to oversee the drafting of the Inquiry report. The Rapporteur role included taking evidence at informal meetings with key stakeholders. This approach enabled the Committee to widen the range of stakeholders from whom evidence was taken without significantly increasing the duration of the Inquiry or the workload of the Committee. This was the first time that a rapporteur was appointed by any Committee of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

At its meeting on 14 October, the Committee was informed of the appointment of a Chief Scientific Advisor as part of the Department's Innovation Strategy. This was a recommendation made by the Committee in the previous mandate in its Inquiry 'Developing the Northern Ireland Economy through Innovation, Research & Development'.

### **Renewable Energy Inquiry Follow-Up**

The Committee followed up on an Inquiry by the Committee in the previous mandate on Barriers to the Development of Renewable Energy and its associated contribution to the Northern Ireland economy. Of the 25 recommendations in the report 15 were accepted in full by the Department and five were partially accepted. The Department agreed to provide a biannual update on the progress towards implementation of the inquiry recommendations. Progress has been made on a number of issues including a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) approved by the Executive on 5 April 2012. Interim targets for the percentage of renewable electricity consumption and percentage of renewable heat have been included in the Executive's Programme for Government and have been incorporated into the Strategic Energy Framework Implementation Plan.

## **BUDGET SCRUTINY**

### **Invest NI**

In the June 2012 monitoring, the Committee wrote to both the Minister and the Minister for Finance and Personnel to highlight the need for some form of end of year budget flexibility in the Invest NI budget.

The Committee considered a written briefing from the Department on its draft budget for 2015-16 at its meeting on 2 December 2014. The Committee asked and received confirmation that the Minister is committed to ensuring that, as was stated by the Executive, no viable Job Creation Scheme will be lost due to financial constraints on Invest NI.

### **Health and Safety Executive**

The Minister briefed the Committee on the DETI Final Budget for 2015-16 on 10 February 2015 and informed the Committee that £250,000 had again been allocated for a farm safety advertising

campaign. The Committee had previously conveyed its concerns to the Minister that funding for the campaign had been withdrawn as part of saving measures within the budget by the Department.

### **InterTradelreland**

A Committee delegation visited InterTradelreland on 7 October 2015. Members heard case studies from businesses which had benefited considerably from InterTradelreland. Officials informed members that demand for services is much greater than the available resources and continues to grow. However, with the InterTradelreland budget declining year on year, it is having to seriously consider which services it can continue to offer which it will have to reduce or cease.

Officials informed members that funding to InterTradelreland operates through the principle of joint guidance with the RoI Government providing funding on a 2:1 basis. This entails instruction from both DETI and the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in the RoI. The Committee was concerned that this protocol has seemingly been ignored in recent times with InterTradelreland having been informed unilaterally by DETI that further cuts would be implemented in 2016.

The Committee engaged with the Department on the matter and held an informal joint meeting with the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation on 28th January 2016. Included in discussions between the two Committees was whether the In Year bids process is appropriate for accommodating InterTradelreland's unique funding situation. The Department has now informed the Committee that InterTradelreland's budget will be ring fenced for 2016.

## **EU SCRUTINY**

### **Dissemination of Information from Brussels**

Through a series of communications with OFMDFM and DETI, the Committee campaigned for a co-ordinated approach to the dissemination of information from Brussels to stakeholders in Northern Ireland. In June 2014 OFMDFM informed the Committee that the Barroso Taskforce Working Group would examine the issue and DETI informed the Committee it would be proposing the establishment of a web-based portal to provide a central source of EU opportunities and activities of relevance to Northern Ireland stakeholders.

### **European Investment Fund**

In January 2015, the Committee asked if, and how, the Department is taking advantage of the European Investment Fund and received an update regarding DETI's Telecoms Branch and Energy Division on the issue.

### **Impact of Potential Brexit**

As part of its Inquiry, '[Opportunity for Excellence](#)', the Committee commissioned a [report](#), by its Specialist Advisor, on the 'Consequences for Northern Ireland Economy from a United Kingdom Exit from the European Union' which the Committee shared with the Executive.



## POLICY SCRUTINY

### Economy

#### Industrial Development Act Consultation and NI Assisted Area Status

The Committee [responded](#) to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) consultation, between July and November 2011, on modernising the Industrial Development Act. The main issue raised by the Committee was that the removal of automatic Assisted Area Status would significantly harm efforts to attract business to Northern Ireland, especially business from high productivity sectors; would remove a key tool from Invest NI and cause significant damage to efforts to attract FDI and to compete with the Republic of Ireland; and would cause major damage to efforts to rebalance the Northern Ireland economy through growing the private sector. Despite considerable opposition locally, BIS announced in June 2012, the UK Government's intention to proceed with the removal of Northern Ireland's automatic 100% coverage as an Assisted Area.

#### Rebalancing the NI Economy – Response to Consultation

In June 2011, the Committee agreed to consider the Treasury's consultation on "Rebalancing the NI Economy" and a [response](#) to the Government request for views on key questions and issues was submitted. Key issues addressed the need for economic growth including attracting foreign direct investment and growing indigenous businesses competing with other economies; and the costs and risks associated with devolution of corporation tax varying powers.

#### Economic Strategy – Response to Consultation

In February 2012, the Committee responded to the Department's draft Economic Strategy and Comprehensive Action Plan. The Committee also gauged the views of key stakeholders and co-ordinated responses from other Statutory Committees on the draft Action Plan and reflected those views in the Committee's response. The Committee welcomed the Strategy and recommended the inclusion of specific, outcome based measurable targets within implementation of the Strategy.

#### Air Passenger Duty – Response to CFP Consultation

The Committee welcomed the opportunity to [respond](#) to the Committee for Finance and Personnel consultation on Air Passenger Duty (APD) in May 2012 as it believed that high levels of APD have had a negative impact on business and on tourism and the potential to place Northern Ireland at a competitive disadvantage compared to the RoI.

#### Committee Specialist Advisor on Economic Policy

In the 2012/2013 session, the Committee engaged the services of Dr Leslie Budd, to inform the work of the Committee and provide independent advice in regards to the economy. Dr Budd provided oral briefings to the Committee on three occasions and kept the Committee abreast of economic news and publications relevant to its work throughout 2014/15 and 2015/16. Dr Budd provided the following Reports to the Committee:

- Priorities for Sustainable Growth and Prosperity
- Consequences for the Northern Ireland Economy from a United Kingdom Exit from the European Union
- Briefing Note on Opportunity for Excellence: The Report on the Committee's Inquiry into Growing the Economy and Providing Jobs with Lower Corporation Tax

- Briefing Note on Sub-National Performance within the Northern Ireland Economy

### **Ulster University Economic Policy Centre**

The Committee also engaged throughout the mandate with the Ulster University Economic Policy Centre. On 1st December 2015, the Committee received a joint oral briefing from the Committee's Specialist Advisor on the economy and Professor Neil Gibson, UUEPC. Key areas discussed included global value chains, reduced corporation tax, exports and the 'Brexit' debate.

### **Invest NI**

Throughout the mandate the Committee closely scrutinised the work of Invest NI including bi-annual briefings from the Chief Executive on its mid-year end of year outcomes.

In November 2013 Invest NI reported to the Committee that it was changing the way it measured jobs promoted to include jobs created. This followed numerous requests from the Committee to get clarity in the outputs of Invest NI's programmes and has been accommodated through a systematic change in Invest NI's methods for recording and measuring success.

Invest NI reported to the Committee, at its meeting on 15th May 2014, a significant rise in R&D investment and acknowledged the Committee's focus on making sure R&D is driven and supported in the small and medium enterprise community across Northern Ireland. Invest NI also updated the Committee on the delivery of 4,000 target jobs, acknowledging 'the difficult questions' asked of Invest NI earlier in the mandate by the Committee on the slow start of the Jobs Funds programme.

### **Going for Growth Scheme**

The Committee held a concurrent meeting with the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development on 9 June 2015 to receive updates from the Agri-Food Strategy Board on the Going for Growth Scheme. The two Committees also considered the Assembly Research papers on the Scheme; '[Background, Overview and Progress on Going for Growth – June 2015](#)', '[The Going for Growth Strategic Action Plan – How Much is New](#)' and '[The Going for Growth Agri-Food Strategy – Comparison with Similar Strategies/Documents in Neighbouring Jurisdictions](#)'.

## **Energy**

### **Carbon Levy**

Following a meeting on 17th April 2010 between the Chair and representatives from an energy company regarding the Carbon Revenue Levy it was agreed to receive an oral briefing from Manufacturing Northern Ireland. Contact was made with the Department and the Utility Regulator to obtain their views on the matter. Furthermore, during a visit from the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation the issue was raised with a view to encouraging that Committee to make the relevant RoI Minister aware of the impact of the levy on business in Northern Ireland. Subsequently, in May 2012 the RoI Minister took steps to reduce the levy to 0%.

### **Strategic Energy Framework**

The Strategic Energy Framework (SEF) is the Executive's key policy for Northern Ireland's energy future. On the 15 September 2011 the Committee considered the Department's plan for its implementation. The Committee also scrutinised the implementation plan for the years 2012-2015

to ensure that Northern Ireland is compliant with EU electricity model by 2016. It was agreed that the Department should provide updates on the SEF Implementation Plan to the Committee every six months.



*Committee Members with the Systems Operator NI (SONI)*

## **TOURISM**

### **Committee Scrutiny**

Throughout the mandate the Committee has received written and oral briefings from Tourism Northern Ireland and Tourism Ireland as well as organisations such as the Northern Ireland Hotels Federation. In the final session of 2015/16 the Committee made tourism one of its priorities and heard evidence from Visit Belfast and Visit England.

### **Planning Policy Statement 16 (PPS16)**

The purpose of PPS16 was to support tourism development in Northern Ireland. The Committee considered a written briefing from NITB on draft PPS16 at its meeting on 30th June 2011 and expressed concern in relation to the potential impact of some of the proposals on future tourism development and on the potential of the proposals to deter or inhibit development in rural areas. The Committee was informed in June 2011 the policy was being amended to take into account the response to the consultation.

### **City of Culture Event**

The Committee held a working breakfast in the City of Culture in March 2014. This event drew together business leaders to understand the key challenges faced by businesses, areas where government and the Committee could provide support and opportunities for business to come together.

## **CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

### **Committee Scrutiny**

The Committee has worked closely throughout the mandate on a range of issues with the Consumer Council for Northern Ireland including the EU consultation on cross border parcel delivery, online parcel premium, Alternative Dispute Resolution, reforming consumer complaints handling, banking issues, payday lending, consumer switching of energy suppliers and more.

## **TELECOMS**

### **Broadband**

The Committee received regular updates on the Northern Ireland Broadband Improvement project, which was a £23.5million project to bring more choice and improved broadband speeds to over 45,000 premises across Northern Ireland by the end of 2015.

### **Roaming charges**

In January 2014, the Committee held a videoconference during its Committee meeting with the EU Commissioner for Digital Agenda to address the issue of roaming charges and ascertain the work being carried out to achieve the abolishing of roaming charges.

## **HEALTH & SAFETY**

### **Farm Safety Advertising Campaign**

HSENI plays an important role in ensuring and promoting health and safety in the workplace. Following concerns raised by the Committee on the withdrawal, due to budgetary pressures, of funding for farm safety awareness, the Committee welcomed the decision by the Minister to allocate £250,000 for a farm safety advertising campaign.

### **RIDDOR**

At its meeting on 24 March 2015, the Committee received a written briefing from the Department detailing the Outcome of the Consultation on Proposals to Revise and Amend the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997. The briefing stated that due to a lack of consensus on the original proposals coupled with budgetary constraints associated with any changes, the Minister had decided not to proceed with the proposed changes. The Committee had taken detailed evidence from trade unions on their strong objection to the policy.

## **ENGAGEMENT**

### **SMEs**

Following an oral briefing on the new network of SME envoys in the EU, which included the objectives of the network and proposals for how the envoys would work, an event was held in the

Long Gallery in November 2011. Stakeholders attending the event had the opportunity to engage with representatives from the office of the UK SME EU Envoy.

A delegation from the Committee attended a two day conference in Dublin Castle in June 2012 as part of Ireland's EU presidency. The conference highlighted and considered SME development policy in the context of transition from EU Framework Programme 7 to Horizon 2020.

### **Enterprise Centres**

In March 2014, the Committee visited Dungannon Enterprise Centre and Willowbank Ltd, where members developed their understanding of the work of social enterprises and community enterprises.

The Committee held a meeting at the Newry and Mourne Enterprise Centre and toured the facilities.

### **Trade Mission**

A delegation of four members from the Committee attended a trade mission to San Diego and San Francisco, California, USA, in June 2014, with Invest NI. This brought political representation to the visit with the aim of providing greater access to people who could help and support local businesses. The delegation attended a major Life Sciences exhibition called 'BIO', one of the world's major biotech and pharmaceutical exhibitions and visited a wide range of companies in San Diego and San Francisco throughout the week. A report of the trade mission is [here](#).



*The ETI Committee delegation at the Bio Convention in San Diego*

### **Green Investment Bank**

The Committee hosted a Green Investment Bank workshop, in June 2014, which was attended by stakeholders from across departments to scrutinise how Departments can best utilise the 'green loans' being offered. Officials heard details of case studies and took part in a detailed question and answer session. The Committee reviewed submissions from each Department.

### **Titanic Quarter**

In September 2014, the Committee visited the Titanic Quarter and received a briefing from Titanic Quarter Ltd on the Development and its future projects. Members received a tour of the Titanic Quarter Studios. A blog of the visit can be viewed [here](#).





*ETI Committee Members and Titanic Quarter representatives, Titanic Studios*

### **City of Culture**

In March 2015, the Committee held a working breakfast in Derry/Londonderry as part of the City's City of Culture year, drawing together business leaders to discuss key challenges facing businesses and how they can be supported by Executive and the Committee. The Committee visited CultureTECH as part of the City of Culture programme's focus on creative innovation.

### **Kingspan Environmental Headquarters**



*ETI Committee on the roof of Kingspan Environmental Headquarters*

The Committee visited Kingspan Environmental Headquarters in December 2015. A blog on the visit can be found [here](#).



### **Queen's University Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology**

The Committee held a meeting at Queen's University Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology. The meeting brought detailed briefing and discussions from the Centre's Director and representatives from the diagnostics sector including Randox Laboratories and Almac Diagnostics. The Committee also received a briefing from the University's Pro Vice Chancellor.



*The Committee held an external meeting at Queen's Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology*

### **Oireachtas**

The Committee attended an informal meeting between the Oireachtas Joint Committee for Communications, Natural Resources and Agriculture and in the House of the Oireachtas in November 2011. Included in the discussions were hydraulic fracturing, electricity, natural gas and renewable energy.

The Committee, in collaboration with the Education Committee, welcomed a visit by Members of the Oireachtas Select Committee on Jobs, Social Protection and Education to Parliament Buildings in May 2012. Key areas discussed were banking loan schemes, carbon revenue levy, social economy and collaboration. Following this meeting the carbon revenue levy was reduced to zero and a formal letter of thanks was received from Manufacturing NI for the collaborative approach by the two committees.

In December 2013, the Committee held a series of meetings at the Oireachtas, Enterprise Ireland and Solarprint in order further develop members' understanding of the potential of Horizon 2020 and and of support for the growth of small and medium enterprises.

In April 2015, the Deputy Chair attended a meeting of the Chairpersons of EU Employment, Enterprise, Innovation and Social Affairs Committees in Dublin Castle as part of the parliamentary dimension of Ireland's EU Presidency.



*The Committee and the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Transport and Communications*

In June 2015, the Committee hosted the Oireachtas Joint Committee for Transport and Communications in Parliament Buildings where the two Committees held a joint informal meeting and received an update from Tourism Ireland on its current projects and successes.

The Committee visited the Oireachtas in January 2016 to hold an informal joint meeting with the Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and were briefed by InterTradeIreland on funding issues.

## ISSUES INCOMING COMMITTEE MAY WISH TO CONSIDER

### Primary Legislation

#### **Credit Unions and Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies (CUCCBS) Act**

During the mandate the Committee considered the [Committee Stage](#) of the CUCCBS Bill. The two main credit union trade bodies, the Irish League of Credit Unions and the Ulster Federation of Credit Unions expressed concerns in relation to the inability of credit unions to provide accounts in the name of unincorporated bodies. Unincorporated bodies will have to hold accounts in the name of an individual member of that body. DETI and both HM Treasury and the regulator in GB agreed to give the matter further consideration and try to find a way forward. However, given short timeframe for the passing of the Bill, the Committee agreed that an amendment should be included to ensure that this aspect of the legislation is reviewed by the Department and a report issued to the Committee within two years of the Bill receiving royal assent. The incoming Committee should expect a report from the Department during the first half of the new mandate.

#### **Energy Bill**

The Department [consulted](#) on proposals for an Energy Bill in summer 2012 and brought a summary of consultation responses to the Committee in November 2012. The following six issues were identified for inclusion in the proposed Energy Bill:

- a. An energy efficiency measure;
- b. Feed-in tariff powers for small-scale renewable electricity installations;
- c. Transfer and assignment of licences;
- d. Gas storage provisions;
- e. Duties and obligations of the Department and the Regulator; and
- f. Amendment of enforcement provisions in the Energy (Northern Ireland) Order 2003.

The then Minister informed the Committee what she wanted to ensure that the Energy Bill was introduced to the Assembly before the summer recess of 2013.

As the Energy Bill did not progress beyond this stage and no firm policy proposals were brought to the Committee, the Economy Committee may wish to follow this up with the Department for the Economy and ask if and when it is proposed to bring an Energy Bill to the Assembly.

### Subordinate Legislation

The Committee for the Economy should expect Statutory Rules early in the new mandate in relation to the following:

- Substitute Insolvency Practitioners (Recognised Professional Bodies) Order (NI) 1991
- The Weights and Measures (Food) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2015
- The Mines Regulations (NI) 2016

## **Inquiries**

### **Committee Inquiry into Growing the Economy and Creating Jobs with Lower Corporation Tax**

The Committee's [report](#) in its Inquiry, entitled 'Opportunity for Excellence' was widely praised by the business sector. The Committee's specialist advisor stated that the report, *"...makes a major and significant contribution to understanding the challenges facing the economy and society of Northern Ireland over the longer term."* As corporation tax powers will be devolved from April 2018 the incoming Committee may wish to consider this report in the context of the other key economic drivers which will have to be in place if Northern Ireland is to maximise the opportunity presented by lower corporation tax.

## **Economy**

### **Programme for Government and Economic Strategy**

In a statement to the House on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016 the Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Investment announced that a major refresh of the Executive's Economic Strategy is underway. This will put manufacturing at the centre of the new strategy. He stated that lower corporation tax will transform the economy and that Northern Ireland can look forward to attracting major profit centres leading to more jobs and better jobs. There will also be a focus on skills development and on competitiveness.

In anticipation of the devolution of corporation tax and the impact on the economy, the Committee commissioned its specialist advisor on economic policy to outline some possible new objectives and targets that could be included in the new Programme for Government and Economic Strategy. The Committee forwarded [Dr Budd's paper](#) to the Department for its consideration. The Committee may wish to follow up on this with the Department for the Economy.

### **New Apprenticeship Strategy**

With responsibility for skills moving to the new Department for the Economy the Committee saw the coming together of responsibility for the economy and skills as an opportunity to improve alignment of apprenticeships with business needs. The new Apprenticeship Strategy is a step change from what was previously on offer and the Committee saw this new scheme as an opportunity for members to become closely involved in scrutiny at an early stage. It was suggested that each member of the Economy Committee may wish to consider shadowing an apprentice from commencement of the new scheme. This would provide committee members with the opportunity to gain a practical understanding of how the scheme works including benefits and initial problems at a practical level and would enhance the Committee's scrutiny role.

### **Cerberus**

As part of its consideration of evidence from local accountancy firm Bell & Company regarding its representation of a number of local businesses in relation to Cerberus and Capita Asset Services (Ireland) Ltd, the Committee wrote to the FCA to determine the basis on which Cerberus European Services Ltd and Capita Asset Services (Ireland) Ltd are authorised to operate in Northern Ireland. The Committee also commissioned Assembly Research into how Cerberus is authorised under the FCA. The [Research](#) was considered at the Committee meeting on 23 February 2016.

The Committee wrote to Cerberus to obtain a list of investors in the Company. Responses from Cerberus detailing its investors and from the FCA had not been received prior to the agreement of this report. The Committee for the Economy may wish to follow up on this.

### **Going For Growth**

As the Going for Growth programme has been a joint initiative between the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment, the Committee agreed to scrutinise activity in this area in conjunction with the Committee for Agriculture & Rural Development through concurrent committee meetings. The Committee for the Economy may wish to consider whether a similar approach in conjunction with the Committee for Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs.

## **Energy**

### **Incentives for Small-Scale Wind Generation**

Following proposals for the closure of the Renewables Obligation to new large scale wind generation the Minister is to consult further on proposals for the closure of the Renewables Obligation to new small scale wind generation. Incentives for small scale wind generation are in place across GB however closure of the NIRO to new small scale wind generation without a replacement being put in place would result in no incentives being available for small scale wind generation in Northern Ireland. The Economy Committee may wish to give careful consideration to the Ministers proposals in respect of small scale wind generation.

### **Electricity Market Reform - Contracts for Difference**

Electricity Market Reform (EMR) will result in renewable electricity generators no longer having a guaranteed subsidy and will have to compete for contracts within a yearly budget allocation. Funding for the scheme comes from all UK consumers and is levied on electricity bills. Under EMR the costs to consumers are capped and known, unlike the NIRO where there was no cap.

EMR has already been implemented in GB and there is a project underway to extend it to Northern Ireland. However, not all projects are guaranteed a 'contract for difference' under the scheme which means that whilst the costs are spread across all UK consumers, there is no guarantee of a similar spread of successful projects across the UK. This could potentially result in Northern Ireland consumers paying into a scheme from which they derive little or no benefit.

It was the Minister's intention to publish a Strategic Issues Paper prior to dissolution. The incoming Committee may wish to receive an update from the Department for the Economy early in the new mandate.

### **Renewable Heat Incentive Closure**

There is a Programme for Government target to achieve 10% of heat from renewable sources by 2020. A Renewable Heat Incentive was launched in 2012 for non-domestic schemes and in 2014 for domestic schemes. Due to budgetary problems the scheme was closed to new applicants on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016. The Department reported that, at that time, more than 6% of Northern Ireland's heating needs were being met by renewable technologies. The Department has initiated an internal

audit into how the Scheme was run. The Permanent Secretary informed the Committee that the audit will consider whether the scheme was adequately designed to cope with an unprecedented increase in demand. It will look at whether there were administrative errors. It will examine whether the budget situation may have been clarified at an earlier stage. There is also an issue of DFP approval which was missed for a deadline to seek re-approval for the non-domestic scheme and the audit will check that there has been no breach in obligation of the scheme.

The incoming Committee may wish to consider the outcome of the audit. It may also wish to look at how the Department for the Economy intends to support future renewable heating schemes in order to support the achievement of the 10% target.

### **Review of the Strategic Energy Framework (SEF)**

A mid-term review of the SEF was planned for 2015. The Department informed the Committee that the review would consist of three interrelated elements:

- Review of the SEF progress and achievements 2010-2015;
- Review and revised SEF 2015-2020 – focusing on medium term energy policy priorities; and
- SEF future direction, which will consider the ‘direction of travel’ for SEF issues and policy priorities that may go beyond 2020.

In addition, two ongoing work streams will inform the review. Namely:

- The review of costs and benefits of the 40% renewable electricity target; and
- The review of the costs and benefits of smart metering.

In a briefing in September 2015 the Committee was informed that it would be consulted in late autumn 2015. However the Committee received no further update from the Department at that time. The Committee requested an update from the Department in February 2016. The Department responded that it is anticipated that the public consultation will be published on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 for an eight week consultation period. The Committee for the Economy may wish to receive an update following consultation.

### **RP6**

RP6 is the name given to the Northern Ireland Electricity Networks (NIE-N) sixth price control. Northern Ireland’s electricity network is owned by NIE-N. Due to the company’s monopoly position, the amount of revenue the company earns is subject to a price control.

The overriding purpose of the price control is to ‘provide an efficient revenue cap to enable NIE Networks to deliver quality outputs that customers need’.

The outcome of the price control will have a significant impact on consumers. The proportion of the electricity tariff paid for by consumers attributable to networks and levies is equivalent to 28% of the total tariff. It is the second largest component after wholesale costs.

The price control has a dual purpose. Firstly the revenue cap is to be set at a level that ‘ensures that the company’s operational and investment costs can be met and objectives delivered effectively and efficiently, providing best value for money to consumers’. Secondly, the outcome of the price control should provide the ‘best value for money to consumers’.



The Utility Regulator's draft Determination is due to be published for consultation on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016 followed by the final Determination which is due to be published on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

## **Tourism**

### **Northern Ireland Year of Food & Drink 2016**

The year 2016 is being promoted by Tourism NI as "[Northern Ireland's Year of Food & Drink 2016](#)". The Committee was unable to arrange to host an event for this however the Committee for the Economy may wish to consider hosting an event during the calendar year. The November theme of "[Legacy & Learning](#)" may fit well with the Committee's roles relating to business, job creation and skills development.

## **EU Issues**

### **INTERREG Va**

The Interreg (Inter-regional) programme is the EU supported Structural Funds Programme which aims to promote greater territorial cohesion between Northern Ireland, the border region of the Republic of Ireland and Western Scotland.

Elements of the programme of particular interest to the Department for the Economy include the allocation of €71m towards Research and Innovation (R&I) activity. Under the R&I theme there are two relevant objective:

- Objective 1.1 – Health and Life Sciences and Renewable Energy; and
- Objective 1.2 – Enhance Innovation Capacity of SMEs.

The Department for the Economy and the Department for Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation in the RoI will work to ensure that both strands of the R&I theme are fully utilised for the long-term benefit of the enterprise sector. Calls for applications are managed by the Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB).

### **Brexit**

The Committee has undertaken considerable work on the potential impact of a UK exit from the EU. Depending on the result of the 23<sup>rd</sup> June referendum the Committee for the Economy may wish to consider the result and the economic implications for Northern Ireland of either a UK exit or of a reformed European Union.

## APPENDIX 1

### COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

#### END OF SESSION REPORT 2 SEPTEMBER 2015 – 29 MARCH 2016

The Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment is a Statutory Committee established in accordance with paragraph 8 and 9 of the Belfast Agreement, Section 29, of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and under Assembly Standing Order 48. The Committee has a scrutiny, policy development and consultation role with respect to the Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI or the “Department”) and has a role in the initiation of legislation.

The Committee has the power to:

- Consider and advise on Departmental Budgets and Annual Plans in the context of the overall budget allocation;
- Approve relevant secondary legislation and take the Committee stage of relevant primary legislation;
- Call for persons and papers;
- Initiate inquiries and make reports; and
- Consider and advise on matters brought to the Committee by the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment.

#### MEMBERSHIP

Democratic Unionist Party	Mr Gordon Dunne Mr Paul Frew Mr Paul Givan <sup>1</sup> Mr William Humphrey <sup>2</sup> Mr David McIlveen <sup>3,4,5</sup>
Green Party	Mr Steven Agnew
Sinn Féin	Ms Megan Fearon Mr Conor Murphy (Deputy Chairperson) <sup>6</sup> Mr Máirtín Ó Muilleoir <sup>7,8</sup>
Social Democratic and Labour Party	Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson) Mr Fearghal McKinney
Ulster Unionist Party	Mr Adrian Cochrane-Watson <sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> With effect from 01 December 2014 Mr Paul Givan replaced Mr Sydney Anderson

<sup>2</sup> With effect from 06 October 2014 Mr William Humphrey replaced Mr Sammy Douglas

<sup>3</sup> With effect from 5 October 2015 Mr Paul Girvan replaced Mr Paul Frew

<sup>4</sup> With effect from 16 November 2015 Lord Morrow replaced Mr Paul Girvan

<sup>5</sup> With effect from 18 January 2016 Mr David McIlveen replaced Lord Morrow

<sup>6</sup> With effect from 10 September 2015 Mr Conor Murphy replaced Mr Phil Flanagan

<sup>7</sup> With effect from 06 October 2014 Mr Chris Hazzard replaced Mr Mitchel McLaughlin

<sup>8</sup> With effect from 10 November 2014 Mr Máirtín Ó Muilleoir replaced Mr Chris Hazzard

<sup>9</sup> With effect from 30 June 2015 Mr Adrian Cochrane-Watson replaced Mr Danny Kinahan

## MEETINGS

Between 2 September 2015 and 29 March 2016 the Committee held XX meetings, with XX of these meetings held in partly closed session. The closed sessions were in regards to XX.

## PRIMARY LEGISLATION

### **Credit Unions and Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Bill**

The [Committee Report](#) was published on 24th November 2015 following [the Bill](#) being introduced to the Assembly on 23 June 2015. Many of the Committee's recommendations have been enacted through legislation in Westminster. Clause 1 and Clause 6 of this Bill will enact two more of the Committee's recommendations.

## SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

The Committee considers and scrutinises Policy Proposals (SL1s) and Statutory Rules (SRs) on a wide range of topics from business legislation (e.g. insolvency, administration, employment) to energy (electricity and natural gas), tourism and health & safety. The Committee considered and approved XX pieces of secondary legislation.

### **Renewables Obligation Closure Order (Northern Ireland) 2015**

An amended SL1 was received on 2 September 2015, reflecting the Committee's position for a Closure Order which excludes onshore wind until the issues surrounding the socialisation of costs across the UK are resolved with DECC. The Committee agreed an updated SL1 on 8 September 2015.

The Department's consultation paper on the closure of the NIRO to onshore wind, published on 30th September 2015, acknowledged that the Minister unsuccessfully brought forward NIRO closure proposals to the Committee on two occasions which would have resulted in additional cost to consumers. The Committee received a briefing from officials on 10th November 2015 on Department's consultation on the closure of the NIRO to all wind generation and the eligibility for and duration of grace periods. The Committee has continued to receive evidence from large scale and small scale stakeholders to inform its scrutiny of the Department's policy on the issue. The Committee reviewed all correspondence between the Department, the Minister and DECC on the issue and called for a meeting between the Committee and the DECC Secretary.

### **Closure of the Renewable Heat Incentive to Domestic and Non Domestic**

The Committee received a briefing from the Permanent Secretary on 9th February 2016 regarding an SR and correspondence from the Minister. The correspondence stated that time constraints would not allow the 'established convention' of seeking the Committee's approval of the policy and draft legislation. The RHI Scheme Regulations 2012 established a renewable incentive scheme for the non-domestic sector in November 2012. The 2014 Regulations established a RHI for the domestic sector in December 2014. In November 2015 new tariffs were introduced for Combined Heat and Power, (CHP), to coincide with changes to the NIRO and ROC's. Cost control measures were introduced for small and medium biomass which put in place a two tier tariff structure, a change in medium biomass banding and an annual payment cap. The new regulations give the Department the power to issue a notice suspending the non-domestic and domestic RHI schemes in relation to new

applicants where it appears to the Department that it does not have or is not likely to have sufficient funds available to it for the purpose of meeting the full cost of periodic support payments for all eligible RHI installations. It also gives the Department power to revoke any such notice and resume the operation of either scheme. The letter stated that the PfG target of 4% has been exceeded as it is estimated that over 6% of Northern Ireland's total heating needs are now provided through renewable technologies. It stated that the available budget for new applications has been exceeded and the Minister has no choice but to propose immediate closure of the scheme to prevent further overspend. The Committee questioned the Permanent Secretary and his officials on the handling of the schemes and on the estimated cost to the developer of the immediate closure of the RHI.

## **LEGISLATIVE CONSENT MEMORANDA**

The Committee published reports on the following Legislative Consent Memoranda:

- Enterprise Bill (Small Business Commissioner Provisions); and
- Housing and Planning Bill.

The reports can be viewed [here](#).

## **BUDGET SCRUTINY**

### **InterTradelreland**

A delegation of Committee members visited InterTradelreland on Wednesday 7th October 2015. Members received a presentation on the programmes offered by InterTradelreland and the organisation's outcomes and achievements. Members also heard case studies from businesses which had benefited considerably from the work of InterTradelreland. Officials from InterTradelreland informed members that demand for its services is much greater than the resources it has to satisfy that demand. The Committee learned that demand continues to grow however, with the InterTradelreland budget declining year on year, the organisation is having to give serious consideration to what services it can continue to offer and what services it will have to reduce or cease. Two thirds of InterTradelreland's budget comes from the RoI. During the visit officials informed members that funding to InterTradelreland operates through the principle of joint guidance. This entails instruction from both DETI and the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in the RoI. The Committee was concerned that this protocol has seemingly been ignored in recent times with InterTradelreland having been informed unilaterally by DETI that further cuts would be implemented in 2016. The organisation has consistently over-delivered on its Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and gets a substantial return on its budget. It is estimated to have helped create 3000 jobs and has been an important stepping stone for many small businesses in progressing to work with Invest NI. However, with its budget declining year on year, the organisation is having to give serious consideration to what services it can continue to offer and what services it will have to reduce or cease.

The Committee engaged with the Department on the matter and held an informal joint meeting with the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation on 28th January 2016. Included

in discussions between the two Committees was whether the In Year bids process is appropriate for accommodating InterTradelreland's unique funding situation. The Department has now informed the Committee that InterTradelreland's budget will be ring fenced for 2016.

## **EU SCRUTINY**

The Committee's Specialist Advisor on the economy produced the Report 'Consequences for the Northern Ireland Economy from a United Kingdom Exit from the European Union'. The Report was shared with the executive.

## **ECONOMY**

The Committee heard briefings during the session from its Specialist Advisor, the Ulster University Centre for Economic Policy and the Economic Advisory Group.

### **Cerberus**

The Committee invited Members of the Committee for Finance and Personnel to join a briefing session by Bell and Company in regards to Cerberus and Capita. On hearing the issues raised by the Company on behalf of Northern Ireland businesses the company wrote to Cerberus asking for an oral briefing.

## **POLICY SCRUTINY**

### **Tourism**

The Committee made tourism a priority in this session and heard briefings on a range of issues from representatives including Visit Belfast and Visit England.

The NI Affairs Committee launched an Inquiry into promoting the tourism industry in Northern Ireland through the tax system and the Committee forwarded a Research paper 'Impact of reducing the VAT rate on tourism goods and services in the Republic of Ireland' to inform the Inquiry.

### **Mobile Network Operators**

On 20th October 2015, the Committee brought a focus to mobile coverage when it was briefed by the main mobile network operators and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on the progress of the Mobile Infrastructure Project.

### **Going for Growth Scheme**

The Committee held a concurrent meeting with the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development on 8th March 2016 and were briefed by officials who updated the Committee on the scheme.

### **Legacy Credit Unions Source Book**

The Committee received a written brief from the Irish League of Credit Unions (ILCU) stating its grave concerns that proposals being put forward by the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA)

sought to impose unreasonable regulatory burdens and ratio thresholds. The Committee wrote to the Department for its assessment of the impact of the proposals on the credit union movement in Northern Ireland and commissioned research to compare the proposals of the FCA and PRA with current provision for credit unions. The Committee shared the paper with the Department, ILCU and the Ulster Federation of Credit Unions. At its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016, the Committee considered correspondence from ILCU thanking the Committee for articulating the concerns of the credit union movement to the regulators. On 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016, the PRA confirmed that the ratio thresholds had been taken from formal rules and placed within recommended best practice levels for each credit union to set their own ratio threshold according to their own business requirements. The ILCU stated that this approach allows the credit union movement the ability to advance its social mission and help assist those most in need in our communities.

## **ENGAGEMENT**

### **Science at Stormont**

The Chairperson spoke at the annual 'Science and Stormont' event. The event is organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry and is designed to foster closer relations between scientists and the NI Executive and Assembly. The theme for this year's event was 'Energy and the Environment'

### **BT Young Scientist and Entrepreneur**

The Chair and Deputy Chair attended the event at the RDS Dublin and had the opportunity to engage with a number of young Northern Ireland participants on the projects. The Members were highly impressed with the young students representing Northern Ireland.



*Chair and Deputy Chair observe a demonstration on water film motors from Loreto College, Coleraine at the BT Young Scientist and Entrepreneur Exhibition 2016*



**Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment  
Expenditure for the period 2 September 2015 – 29 March 2016**

<b>Budget area</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		

## APPENDIX 2

### MEMBERSHIP

Democratic Unionist Party	Mr Gordon Dunne Mr Paul Givan <sup>11, 20</sup> Mr William Humphrey <sup>4, 6, 12, 17</sup> Mr David McIlveen <sup>1, 23, 24, 25</sup>
Green Party	Mr Steven Agnew
Sinn Féin	Ms Megan Fearon <sup>10, 15</sup> Mr Conor Murphy Mr Máirtín Ó Muilleoir <sup>2, 9, 14, 18, 19</sup>
Social Democratic and Labour Party	Mr Patsy McGlone <sup>5, 8</sup> Mr Fearghal McKinney <sup>13</sup>
Ulster Unionist Party	Mr Adrian Cochrane-Watson <sup>3, 16, 21</sup>

<sup>1</sup> With effect from 24 October 2011 Mr Paul Frew replaced Mr David McIlveen

<sup>2</sup> With effect from 23 January 2012 Ms Jennifer McCann replaced Ms Sue Ramsey

<sup>3</sup> With effect from 06 February 2012 Mrs Sandra Overend replaced Mr Mike Nesbitt

<sup>4</sup> With effect from 27 February 2012 Mr Paul Givan replaced Mr Robin Newton

<sup>5</sup> With effect from 23 April 2012 Mr Patsy McGlone replaced Mr Alasdair McDonnell

<sup>6</sup> With effect from 21 May 2012 Mr Robin Newton replaced Mr Paul Givan

<sup>7</sup> With effect from 02 July 2012 Mr Phil Flanagan replaced Mr Daithí McKay as Deputy Chairperson

<sup>8</sup> With effect from 07 September 2012 Mr Patsy McGlone replaced Mr Alban Maginness as Chairperson. Mr Maginness rejoined the Committee as a member from 10 September 2012.

<sup>9</sup> With effect from 10 September 2012 Ms Sue Ramsey replaced Ms Jennifer McCann

<sup>10</sup> With effect from 10 September 2012 Ms Maeve McLaughlin was appointed as a Member

<sup>11</sup> With effect from 16 September 2013 Mr Sydney Anderson replaced Mr Stephen Moutray

<sup>12</sup> With effect from 16 September 2013 Mr Sammy Douglas replaced Mr Robin Newton

<sup>13</sup> With effect from 07 October 2013 Mr Fearghal McKinney replaced Mr Alban Maginness

<sup>14</sup> With effect from 21 October 2013 Mr Mitchel McLaughlin replaced Ms Sue Ramsey

<sup>15</sup> With effect from 02 December 2013 Ms Megan Fearon replaced Ms Maeve McLaughlin

<sup>16</sup> With effect from 04 July 2014 Mr Danny Kinahan replaced Mrs Sandra Overend

<sup>17</sup> With effect from 06 October 2014 Mr William Humphrey replaced Mr Sammy Douglas

<sup>18</sup> With effect from 06 October 2014 Mr Chris Hazzard replaced Mr Mitchel McLaughlin

<sup>19</sup> With effect from 10 November 2014 Mr Máirtín Ó Muilleoir replaced Mr Chris Hazzard

<sup>20</sup> With effect from 01 December 2014 Mr Paul Givan replaced Mr Sydney Anderson

<sup>21</sup> With effect from 30 June 2015 Mr Adrian Cochrane-Watson replaced Mr Danny Kinahan

<sup>22</sup> With effect from 10 September 2015 Mr Conor Murphy replaced Mr Phil Flanagan

<sup>23</sup> With effect from 05 October 2015 Mr Paul Girvan replaced Mr Paul Frew

<sup>24</sup> With effect from 16 November 2015 Lord Morrow replaced Mr Paul Girvan

<sup>25</sup> With effect from 18 January 2016 David McIlveen replaced Lord Morrow

## APPENDIX 3

### Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

#### Committee Meetings and Visits

Session	Number of meetings held	Number of meetings with partly closed session	Number of meetings held outside Parliament Buildings	Number of Committee visits
2011/2012	41	12	9	11
2012/2013	36	4	3	6
2013/2014	32	13	5	11
2014/2015	34	11	0	8
2015/2016	23	1	1	5

#### Bills

Session	Name of Bill	Committee Report (ordered to print)
2011/2012		
2012/2013		
2013/2014		
2014/2015	Insolvency (Amendment) Bill	3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2015
2015/2016	Credit Unions and Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Bill	24 <sup>th</sup> November 2015

#### Committee Inquiries

Session	Name of Report	Committee Report (ordered to print)	Date Debated in Plenary
2011/2012	Inquiry into Developing the Northern Ireland Economy through Innovation, Research and Development	24 <sup>th</sup> May 2012	11 <sup>th</sup> June 2012
2012/2013			
2013/2014	Electricity Policy Review: Part I, Security of Electricity Supply	28 <sup>th</sup> November 2013	9 <sup>th</sup> December 2013
	Electricity Policy Review: Part II, Electricity Pricing	20 <sup>th</sup> February 2014	3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2014
2014/2015	Electricity Policy Review: Part III, Grid Connections	18 <sup>th</sup> November 2014	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2014
	Opportunity for Excellence: The Report on the Committee's Inquiry into Growing the Economy and Creating Jobs with Lower Corporation Tax	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2015	7 <sup>th</sup> September 2015
2015/2016			

## Statutory Rules

Session	Number agreed by Committee
2011/2012	5
2012/2013	11
2013/2014	6
2014/2015	12
2015/2016	12

## Committee Reports (excluding Bill and Inquiry Reports)

Session	Name of Report	Date (date approved by Committee)	Date debated in Plenary
2011/2012	Committee for Enterprise, Trade & Investment Report on its Consideration of the Legislative Consent Memorandum Concerning the Transfer of Responsibility for Northern Ireland Credit Union Registration to the Appropriate GB Authority	24 <sup>th</sup> May 2012	11 <sup>th</sup> June 2012
2012/2013	Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment Report on its Consideration of the Legislative Consent Memorandum Concerning the Enterprise and regulatory Reform Bill	19 <sup>th</sup> October 2012	23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2012
	End of Session report 12 May 2011 – 31 August 2012	12 <sup>th</sup> November 2012	N/A
2013/2014	End of Session Report 1 September 2012 – 31 August 2013	19 <sup>th</sup> November 2013	N/A
	Report on the Public Bodies (Abolition of the National Consumer Council and Transfer of the Office of Fair Trading's Functions in Relation to Estate Agents Etc.) Order 2014 Assembly Consent Motion	27 <sup>th</sup> February 2014	3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2014
	Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment Report on the Consumer Rights Bill Legislative Consent Motion (LCM)	27 <sup>th</sup> March 2014	8 <sup>th</sup> April 2014
2014/2015	Report on Committee Members' Delegation Invest NI Trade Mission and Visit USA	25 <sup>th</sup> September 2014	N/A
	End of Session Report 1 September 2013 – 31 August 2014	17 <sup>th</sup> November 2014	N/A
	Legislative Consent Memorandum: Concerning the Extension to Northern	8 <sup>th</sup> December 2015	20 <sup>th</sup> January 2016

	Ireland of Certain Provisions of the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill		
2015/2016	End of Session Report 1 September 2014 – 31 August 2015	22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2015	N/A
	Legislative Consent Memorandum Concerning the Housing & Planning Bill (HPB)	8 <sup>th</sup> December 2015	1 <sup>st</sup> February 2016
	Legislative Consent Memorandum Concerning the Enterprise Bill (Small Business Commissioner Provisions)	12 <sup>th</sup> January 2016	29 <sup>th</sup> February 2016

#### **Witnesses**

<b>Session</b>	<b>Number of Organisations who gave evidence to the Committee (excluding DETI officials)</b>
2011/2012	34
2012/2013	36
2013/2014	34
2014/2015	32
2015/2016	34