



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, 22 JANUARY 2015

SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Ms Anna Lo MLA (Chairperson)
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Mr Colum Eastwood MLA
Mr Ian McCrea MLA
Mr Alban Maginness MLA
Mr Barry McElduff MLA
Lord Morrow MLA
Mrs Sandra Overend MLA
Mr Peter Weir MLA

In Attendance: Ms Sheila Mawhinney (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Neil Sedgewick (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Allison Ferguson (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Ian Milne MLA

The meeting began in closed session at 10.06 am.

1. Committee Inquiry into Wind Energy

Mr McElduff joined the meeting at 10.08am.

Mr Eastwood joined the meeting at 10.11am.

The Committee considered a draft report on the Inquiry into Wind Energy.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft report on its Inquiry into Wind Energy.

The meeting moved into public session at 10.24am.

2. Apologies

Apologies were as above.

3. Chairperson's Business

The Committee discussed a proposal to visit Edinburgh to participate in Scottish Environment Week 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to return to this proposal at its next meeting.

Mr Maginness left the meeting at 10.36am

The Committee discussed following up its visit Metabolon.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to hold an informal meeting with representatives of RENEW, NIEA and Belfast City Council.

4. Minutes

The minutes from the meeting held on 15th January 2015 were agreed.

5. Matters Arising

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department regarding the transfer of planning functions to local government.

6. Consultation on proposals to amend UK Guidance Notes regarding the definition of Portable Batteries

The Committee noted a consultation on proposals to amend UK Guidance Notes regarding the definition of Portable Batteries.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a synopsis of responses from the Department once available.

Mr Eastwood left the meeting at 10.40am.

7. SL1. The Waste (Fees and Charges) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item 8.

The Committee considered an SL1 on the Waste (Fees and Charges) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

Agreed: The Committee was content for Department to make the Rule.

8. SL1. The Food Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item 9.

The Committee considered an SL1 on the Food Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

Agreed: The Committee was content for Department to make the Rule.

9. SR 2014/294 The Smoke Control Areas (Exempted Fireplaces) (Amendment No 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item 10.

The Committee agreed the following question:

'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2014/294, The Smoke Control Areas (Exempted Fireplaces) (Amendment No 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014, and has no objection to the Rule.'

10. SR 2014/307 The Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item 11.

Agreed: The Committee deferred consideration of this Rule and agreed to request an oral briefing from the Department.

Mr McElduff left the meeting at 10.48.

11. SR 2014/308 The Phosphorus (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item 12.

Agreed: The Committee deferred consideration of this Rule and agreed to request an oral briefing from the Department.

12. The Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill – Formal Clause by Clause consideration of the Bill.

The Committee agreed to return to agenda item 7.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department on the Bill.

Mr Maginness rejoined the meeting at 10.50am.

Mr Eastwood rejoined the meeting at 10.51 am.

The Committee discussed outstanding issues on specific clauses of the Bill with Departmental officials. The following officials were in attendance:

Mr Iain Greenway Director Road Safety and Vehicle Regulation Division
Ms Nicola McEvoy Road Safety and Vehicle Regulation Division

Mr Donald Starritt Road User Behaviours Policy & Strategy Branch

The Committee commenced its formal clause by clause consideration of the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2

“Question: That the Committee is content with clauses 1 and 2 as drafted put and agreed to”

Clause 3

“Question: That the Committee is content with clause 3 subject to proposed amendments put and agreed to”

Clauses 4 to 15

“Question: That the Committee is content with clauses 4 to 15 as drafted put and agreed to”

Clause 16

“Question: That the Committee is not content with clause 16 as drafted put and agreed to”

Clause 17

“Question: That the Committee is content with clause 17 as amended put and agreed to”

Clause 18

“Question: That the Committee is content with clause 18 as amended put and agreed to”

Clauses 19 to 22

“Question: That the Committee is content with clauses 19 to 22 as drafted put and agreed to”

Clause 22A

“Question: That the Committee is content with clause 22A as drafted put and agreed to”

Clause 23

“Question: That the Committee is content with clause 23 as amended put and agreed to”

Clauses 24 to 27

“Question: That the Committee is content with clauses 24 to 27 as drafted put and agreed to”

Schedule 1

“Question: That the Committee is content with schedule 1 as drafted put and agreed to”

Schedule 2

“Question: That the Committee is content with schedule 2, subject to the proposed consequential amendment at Part 2, put and agreed to.”

Long Title

“Question: That the Committee is content with the Long Title of the Bill, put and agreed to.”

The Committee discussed issues relating to licensing and vehicle testing.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that Departmental officials should provide further information on these issues.

13. Horizon 2020 – Departmental briefing

The Committee was briefed on European funding by:

Mr Wesley Shannon	Environmental Protection Division
Mr Tim Irwin	Environmental Policy Division
Ms Caroline Barry	Environmental Policy Division
Mr Ben Martin	EU Liaison Officer

Mr McElduff rejoined the meeting at 11.52am.

Mr McCrea left the meeting at 12.12pm.

Mr Maginness left the meeting at 12.12pm.

14. Gold Mining issues – Briefing by the Friends of Mickey Atty

The Committee was briefed on concerns about planning decisions in relation to mining by:

Mr Cormac McAleer	Friends of Mickey Atty
Mr Bryan Ward	Friends of Mickey Atty
Ms Rosemary Bradley	Friends of Mickey Atty
Mr James Orr	Friends of Mickey Atty

Mr Maginness rejoined the meeting at 12.54pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the witnesses’ briefing paper to the Department for a response to the issues raised.

Mr Boylan left the meeting at 1.20pm.

15. Correspondence.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister to the Committee for the Office of the First Minister & Deputy First Minister regarding the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsperson Bill.

The Committee noted correspondence from the European Council for the Village and Small Town regarding ‘the importance of small towns’ report.

The Committee noted correspondence from Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the Joint Ministerial Committee on the European Union.

The Committee noted correspondence from Drumsurn Concerned Community regarding Wind Farm Development.

The Committee noted correspondence from NICVA.

The Committee noted the Equality Commission Annual Progress Report 2013-14.

The Committee noted correspondence regarding the Eye on the Hill Policy Event.

The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from Mr Rafferty to the Minister.

The Committee noted Departmental press releases

16. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

17. Any Other Business

No other business was discussed.

18. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 10.00am on Thursday 29th January 2015 in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1.34 pm.

Anna Lo, MLA

Chairperson, Committee for the Environment

29 January 2015