



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, 29 JANUARY 2015

SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Ms Anna Lo MLA (Chairperson)
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Mr Alban Maginness 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 McCrea MLA
Mr Barry McElduff MLA
Mr Ian Milne MLA

The meeting began at 10.14am in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies were as above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson referred members to a letter from CPL Industries seeking to brief the Committee about smokeless fuel in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to decline the meeting at this time.

3. Minutes

The minutes from the meeting held on 22nd January 2015 were agreed.

4. Matters Arising

The Committee noted a response from the Department in relation to concerns raised by RES regarding the approach to renewable energy in the draft Strategic Planning Policy Statement.

The Committee noted responses from the Department for Enterprise, Trade & Investment regarding an incident at Screggagh Wind Farm Co Tyrone.

Mr Maginness joined the meeting at 10.18am.

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the 2015-16 draft budget.

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

Agreed: The Committee agreed that a delegation would visit Edinburgh to participate in Scottish Environment Week 2015.

5. Committee Inquiry into Wind Energy

The Committee considered the final report on the Committee Inquiry into Wind Energy.

The Committee considered the Executive Summary section of the report.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Executive Summary as drafted.

The Committee considered the Key Conclusions and Recommendations section of the report.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Key Conclusions and Recommendations as drafted.

The Committee considered the Introduction section of the report.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Introduction as drafted.

The Committee considered the Consideration of Evidence section of the report.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Consideration of Evidence as drafted.

The Committee considered Appendix 1 – Minutes of Proceedings.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Appendix as drafted.

The Committee considered Appendix 2 – Minutes of Evidence.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Appendix as drafted.

The Committee considered Appendix 3 – Written Submissions.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Appendix as drafted.

The Committee considered Appendix 4 – Departmental papers.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Appendix as drafted.

The Committee considered Appendix 5 – Other Departmental papers.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Appendix as drafted

The Committee considered Appendix 6 – Research papers.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Appendix as drafted

The Committee considered Appendix 7 – Other papers submitted to the Committee.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Appendix as drafted.

The Committee considered Appendix 8 – List of Witnesses.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Appendix as drafted

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for an extract from the minutes of this meeting to be included in its Report unapproved.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the report should be ordered to print.

The Committee discussed the distribution of confidential correspondence.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chairperson would raise this matter with the Chairpersons Liaison Group.

Mrs Cameron joined the meeting at 10.38am.

6. Consultations

The Committee noted a consultation on the Waste Management Licensing (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

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

The Committee noted a consultation on a programme of measures to support the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

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

7. Synopsis of responses to the Consultation on an Ethical Standards Framework

The Committee considered a synopsis of responses to the consultation on the apportionment of costs under an Ethical Standards Framework.

Agreed: The Committee agreed it was content for the Department issue a circular advising councils of the Minister's decision.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for an update on the role of the Commissioner for Complaints.

8. Synopsis of responses for Consultation on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Compliance Fee Methodology

The Committee considered a synopsis of responses to the consultation on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Compliance Fee Methodology.

Agreed: The Committee agreed it was content with the proposed methodology.

9. Synopsis of responses to Consultation on the Proposed Scheme Governance and Draft Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Departmental briefing

The Committee was briefed by:

Ms Marie Cochrane Local Government Policy Branch, Department of the Environment.

Mr Patrick Smith Local Government Policy Branch, Department of the Environment.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for the Department to prepare the statutory rule.

10. SL1. The Planning (Fees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

The Committee considered an SL1 on the Planning (Fees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

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

11. SR 2015/14 the Food Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

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

12. SR 2014/307 The Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Departmental briefing

The Committee was briefed by:

Mr Eamon Campbell Regulatory Natural Resource and Policy Division, Department of the Environment

Ms Fiona Wilson Regulatory Natural Resource and Policy Division, Department of the Environment

Mr Boylan left the meeting at 11.23am.

The Committee agreed the following question:

'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2014/307 The Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014, and, subject to the report from the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.'

13. SR 2014/308 The Phosphorus (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Departmental briefing

The Committee was briefed by:

Mr Eamon Campbell	Regulatory Natural Resource and Policy Division, Department of the Environment
Ms Fiona Wilson	Regulatory Natural Resource and Policy Division, Department of the Environment

The Committee agreed the following question:

'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2014/308 The Phosphorus (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014, and, subject to the report from the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.'

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment regarding projects for disposing of chicken litter.

14. Environmental Education in Northern Ireland.

The Committee was briefed on Environmental Education by:

Mr Alyn Jones	Chair, Education for Sustainable Development Forum
Ms Catherine Gleave	Vice Chair, Education for Sustainable Development Forum
Mr Andy Griggs	Committee member, Education for Sustainable Development Forum

Mr Boylan rejoined the meeting at 11.45am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the briefing paper provided by the Education for Sustainable Development Forum to the Committee for Education.

15. Correspondence.

The Committee noted correspondence from Mr Hora regarding Wind Farms and Energy Storage.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment.

The Committee noted correspondence from a member of the public regarding Infrastrata licence PL1/10.

The Committee noted an invitation from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister to a Landscape Seminar.

The Committee noted correspondence from Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment regarding its Inquiry into Economic Growth and Job Creation.

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

The Committee noted correspondence from Minister regarding a planning application decision.

The Committee noted the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland Procurement and Investing Activity Report for January 2015.

The Committee noted an invitation from the European forum for Renewable Energy Sources.

The Committee noted the Belfast Healthy Cities Annual Report 2013/14.

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 5th February 2015 in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.16pm.

Anna Lo, MLA
Chairperson, Committee for the Environment
5 February 2015