



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, 23 APRIL 2015

SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

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

In Attendance: Miss Ciara McKay (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Clerk)
Mr Neil Sedgewick (Clerical Supervisor)
Miss Allison Ferguson (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Mr Barry McElduff MLA

The meeting began at 10.08am in public session.

1. Apologies

No apologies were received.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Committee noted correspondence from Elgin Energy seeking a meeting with the Chairperson regarding a Solar PV project in Kells.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chairperson and other members of the Committee meet with the representatives from the company.

The Committee discussed an invitation from NILGA to participate in a panel discussion at its Annual Conference, along with an indicative agenda.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to hold its meeting at the NILGA conference on 18 June 2015, and that one member from each party would participate in the panel discussion.

The Committee noted correspondence from Natural World Products seeking a meeting with the Chairperson regarding the recycling industry in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chairperson and other members of the Committee meet with the representatives from the company.

The Committee noted a record of the key issues discussed at the Chairpersons Liaison Group meeting on 14 April 2015.

The Committee noted an invitation to the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson to an event organised by Assembly Community Connect.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chairperson would attend the event.

3. Minutes

The minutes from the meeting held on 16th April 2015 were agreed.

4. Matters Arising

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding the allocation of income from the Carrier Bag Levy to environmental projects and programmes.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request an informal meeting with environment groups on this matter.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister to ascertain when he was in a position to brief the Committee on the outcome of his discussions with the environment sector regarding the allocation of the carrier bag levy income.

5. SL1 - The Taxis (Taximeters and Fares) Regulations (NI) 2015.

Mr McCrea joined the meeting at 10.25am.

The Committee considered an SL1 on the Taxis (Taximeters and Fares) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

Mr Maginness left the meeting at 10.26am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a briefing from officials on the Taxis (Taximeters and Fares) Regulations (NI) 2015.

Mr Maginness rejoined the meeting at 10.29am.

6. SL1 - The Environmental Liability (Prevention and Remediation) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2015

The Committee considered an SL1 on the Environmental Liability (Prevention and Remediation) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

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

7. SL1 - The Marine Conservation (Fixed Monetary Penalties) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 - Departmental Briefing

The Committee was briefed on the proposed statutory rule by:

Ms Brenda Cuning Environmental Protection Division

Ms Carol O'Boyle Environmental Protection Division

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

8. SL1 - The Taxi Accessibility Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 - Briefing by Disability Action

The Committee was briefed by:

Ms Monica Wilson Special Projects Advisor, Disability Action

Ms Orla McCann Access Manager, Disability Action

Mr Eastwood joined the meeting at 10.47am.

9. SL1 - The Taxi Accessibility Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 - Briefing by IMTAC

The Committee was briefed by:

Mr Michael Lorimer Executive Secretary, IMTAC

Ms June Best Convenor Information & Training Working Group, IMTAC

Ms Vivien Blakely IMTAC

Mrs Overend joined the meeting at 11.42am.

Mr Eastwood left the meeting at 11.56am.

Mr McCrea left the meeting at 12.00pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite Departmental officials to brief it on the Taxi Accessibility Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

Mr Weir left the meeting at 12.04pm.

10. Correspondence.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding Employer Contributions Pension Schemes.

The Committee noted the Department's Biodegradable Carrier Bags Report: Exemptions from the Northern Ireland Carrier Bag Levy.

The Committee noted the Department's notice advising of an upcoming consultation on the landscape character of Northern Ireland.

The Committee agreed to request a synopsis of responses to the consultation on the landscape character of Northern Ireland.

11. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

12. Any Other Business

No other business was discussed.

13. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

The Committee agreed that its next meeting will be held at 10.00am on Thursday 30th April 2015 in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.08pm.

Anna Lo, MLA

Chairperson, Committee for the Environment

30 April 2015