



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**THURSDAY, 18 JUNE 2015**

**RIVERVIEW SUITE, LA MON HOTEL**

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

*The meeting began in public session at 9.52am with the following Members present: Ms Anna Lo (Chairperson); Mrs Pam Cameron; Mr Barry McElduff; and Mr Alban Maginness. In the absence of a decision-making quorum proceedings commenced in line with Standing Order 49(5).*

**1. Apologies**

The apologies are noted above.



*Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the response to Queens University which raised this matter with it.*

**6. Environmental Better Regulation Bill.**

The Committee moved to agenda item 5.

The Committee noted that the Environmental Better Regulation Bill was expected to be introduced on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, with the second stage debate due on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June and the Committee stage starting on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed a draft call for evidence notice for the Environmental Better Regulation Bill.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to issue the call for evidence notice once the Bill had been introduced.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed a list of organisations to write to directly, as part of its call for evidence.*

**7. SL1 - The Draft Local Government (Community Planning Partners) Order (NI) 2015**

The Committee moved to agenda item 6.

The Committee considered the Draft Local Government (Community Planning Partners) Order (NI) 2015.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for further information in relation to a suggested engagement protocol; and to query whether the Regulation could be amended in the absence of defining government bodies as statutory partners within the Order.*

**8. SL1 - The Hazardous Waste (Amendment No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.**

The Committee moved to agenda item 7.

The Committee considered the Hazardous Waste (Amendment No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

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

**9. SR 2015/273 The Planning (Development Management) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2015**

The Committee moved to agenda item 8.

*Question put and agreed:*

*The Committee for the Environment has considered 2015/273 The Planning (Development Management) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2015 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.*

**10. Committee Inquiry into Wind Energy - Briefing from Windwatch NI**

The Committee was briefed by:

Dr Dan Kane	Wind Watch
Mr Owen McMullan	Wind Watch
Professor Alun Evans	Wind Watch
Mr Val Martin	Wind Watch

*Mr Middleton joined the meeting at 11.00am.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to hold the Department's briefing on 25<sup>th</sup> June on the Minister's response to the Wind Energy inquiry in closed session.*

**11. Correspondence.**

The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister regarding a planning application for an underground mine in Omagh.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for information regarding community concerns to the planning application.*

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the Joint Ministerial Council (Europe) Report.

The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Social Development Committee to the Department on illegal obstruction of pavements.

The Committee noted correspondence from Friends of the Earth about Lough Neagh.

The Committee noted an invitation to a conference on the benefits of Zero Waste.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that a member of staff from the Assembly Research and Information Service would attend the conference on its behalf and prepare a report.*

The Committee noted correspondence from the taxi industry regarding concerns about classification of taxis and licensing requirements.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department regarding issues raised in the correspondence.*

**12. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted its Forward Work Programme.

**13. Any Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

**14. Date, Time and Place of next meeting**

The Committee agreed that its next meeting will be held at 10.00am on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015 in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.38am.*

**Anna Lo, MLA**

**Chairperson, Committee for the Environment**

**25 June 2015**