



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

**DRAFT MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**THURSDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2014**

**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 Alban Maginness MLA  
Mr Ian Milne 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: None

*The meeting began in public session at 10:17am.*

- 1. Apologies**  
No apologies were received.
- 2. Chairperson's Business**

The Chairperson reminded members that the Committee would be joining with the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure to visit the Archaeological Archives at Swords on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014.

*Mr Weir left the meeting at 10.20am.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed the itinerary for the visit.*

The Chairperson advised members that the specialist advisor on acoustics had requested permission to distribute copies of the report she had prepared for the Committee.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was not appropriate to distribute the report prior to the publication of the Committee report on its Inquiry into Wind Energy.*

### **3. Minutes**

The minutes from the meetings held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014 and 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014 were agreed.

### **4. Matters Arising**

The Committee noted responses from Castlereagh Borough Council and Omagh District Council on their waste recycling policies.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward this information to Zero Waste North West.*

The Committee considered a response from the Department regarding the use of reconditioned wind turbines.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for further information.*

The Committee considered a report, 'Wind Turbines in Denmark'.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to include the report in the report on its Inquiry into Wind Energy.*

The Committee noted a response from the Department regarding sickness absence.

The Committee noted a response from the Department stating that it would not be making a submission to the House of Lords Inquiry on EU Regional Marine Cooperation.

The Committee noted an update from the Department on the progress of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive Monitoring Programme.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department providing an updated timetable for subordinate legislation relating to the Local Government Act.

*Mr Weir rejoined the meeting at 10.35am*

The Committee considered an update from the Department on its position in relation to EU infractions at 30 June 2014.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for further information.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to defer further consideration of this correspondence until its next meeting.*

The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister, indicating that, following legal advice he has received, he no longer intends to bring forward a second Local Government Bill.

## **5. Consultations**

The Committee noted a UK-wide consultation from the Department for Transport on complying with the Third Driving Licence Directive, 2006/126/EC.

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

The Committee noted a Departmental Consultation on the Planning Element of Councillors' Code of Conduct.

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

The Committee noted a Departmental Consultation on proposals related to downloading timescales for digital tachograph data

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

## **6. SL1 - Proposed Amendments to the Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) Regulations (NI) 1996**

*Mr Eastwood joined the meeting at 10.44am.*

The Committee considered an SL1 proposal for amendments to the Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) Regulations (NI) 1996.

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

## **7. SL1 - The Goods Vehicles (Testing) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered an SL1 proposal for the Goods Vehicles (Testing) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

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

## **8. SL1 - The Motor Vehicle Testing (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered an SL1 proposal for the Motor Vehicle Testing (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

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

**9. SL1 - The Public Service Vehicles (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered an SL1 proposal for the Public Service Vehicles (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

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

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek reassurance from the Department that detection & compliance on all vehicle testing regulations will be maintained.*

**10. SL1 - The Waste Management Licensing (Amendment No 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014**

The Committee considered an SL1 proposal for the Waste Management Licensing (Amendment No 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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

**11. Draft Statutory Rule: The Local Government (Indemnities for Members and Officers) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014**

The Committee considered a Draft Statutory Rule, The Local Government (Indemnities for Members and Officers) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014.

*Question put and agreed:*

*“The Committee for the Environment has considered the Local Government (Indemnities for Members and Officers) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014, and recommends that the Assembly affirms this Rule.”*

**12. October Monitoring Round 2014 - Departmental briefing**

The Committee was briefed by Mr Anthony Carlton, Director of Finance & Business Planning, and Mr Kieran McMahon and Ms Siobhan Lynn, Finance & Business Planning, on the outcome of June Monitoring and the Department’s submission for October Monitoring.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that officials should provide a written response on a number of issues raised.*

**13. Metablon and VITO Visit - Briefing by ReNew**

The Committee was briefed by Mr Martin Doherty, Special Adviser, ReNew, on the proposed visit to the Vito & Metablon waste research facilities.

**14. The Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill - Briefing by PSNI**

The Committee was briefed on the provisions of the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill by Inspector Rosie Leech and Superintendent Gerry Murray from the PSNI.

*Mr Weir left the meeting at 12.34pm.*

*Mr Eastwood left the meeting at 12.36pm.*

*Lord Morrow left the meeting at 12.38pm.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that it should issue a press release to reflect its concerns about the recent increase in road deaths.*

## **15. Correspondence**

The Committee considered correspondence from the All Party Group on Construction raising concerns in relation to the Infrastructure Investment Strategy Portal.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department regarding the accuracy of information on the portal site.*

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Regional Development to the Department, requesting an air quality survey in Dungiven.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department, indicating that it would be unable to provide a synopsis of responses to the Nitrates Action Programme Consultation 2014 until October 2014.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel enclosing details of departmental Post Project Evaluations (PPEs).

The Committee noted correspondence from West Tyrone against Wind Turbines regarding a recent SONI report.

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

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister & Deputy First Minister enclosing the Investment Strategy Implementation Report to July 2014.

The Committee considered correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister & Deputy First Minister, enclosing departmental progress reports for Quarter 4 2013-2014 of the Programme for Government 2011-2015

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting more specific information on progress report.*

The Committee noted an invitation to Drumclay Crannog Public Information Day on 27 September 2014.

The Committee noted an invitation from the Committee for Education to a STEM event on 1 October 2014.

The Committee noted an invitation from Action Renewables to the All Party Group on Renewable Energy Seminar on District Heating Schemes on 2 October 2014.

The Committee noted an invitation from the Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute to a conference on waste water management using plants on 16 October 2014.

The Committee noted correspondence from Department regarding a proposed visit to an Area of Special Scientific Interest.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister, indicating his intention to deliver a written statement on the Revised Planning Policy Statement 15 (PPS15) 'Planning & Flood Risk'.

**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 Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2014 in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:53pm.*

**Anna Lo, MLA**  
**Chairperson, Committee for the Environment**  
**9 October 2014**