



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY, 15 DECEMBER 2015

ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Ms Anna Lo MLA (Chairperson)
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Ms Claire Hanna MLA
Mr William Irwin MLA
Mr Alban Maginness MLA
Mr Barry McElduff MLA
Mr Ian Milne MLA
Mrs Sandra Overend MLA
Mr George Robinson MLA

In Attendance: Miss Ciara McKay (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Clerk)
Mr Neil Sedgewick (Clerical Supervisor)
Mrs Sharon Young (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Paul Girvan MLA

The meeting opened in public session at 2.00pm.

1. Apologies.

The apologies are noted above.

2. Chairpersons Business

The Committee noted that a Motion to extend the Committee Stage of the Scrap Metal Dealers Bill to 19th February 2016 has been scheduled for Monday 11th January 2016.

The Committee noted that a Notice of Amendments had been issued for the Environmental Better Regulation Bill.

3. Scrap Metal Dealers Bill – Consideration of written submissions

The Committee noted that 13 responses had been received to date following its call for evidence on the Scrap Metal Dealers Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite Ballyvesy Recycling Solutions to give oral evidence on the Bill.

Agreed: Members agreed to advise the Clerk of any other organisations that it might wish to hear evidence from.

4. Scrap Metal Dealers Bill – Evidence session with the Department of Justice and the PSNI

Officials joined the meeting at 2.19pm.

The Committee was briefed by:

Mr Steven McCourt	Acting Head of Community Safety Unit, Department of Justice
Ms Martine McKillop	Head of Crime Reduction Branch, Community Safety Unit, Department of Justice
Insp Roy Robinson	PSNI/NIEA SPOC for G & F District, Police Service of Northern Ireland
Supt Alywn Barton	District Policing Command, Police Service of Northern Ireland

Mrs Overend left the meeting at 3.05pm.

Officials left the meeting at 3.10pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to send the clause by clause table to the sponsor of the Bill, Mr Roy Beggs MLA.

5. Matters arising

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to a number of stakeholders to seek their views on the transfer of current DOE functions, upon successful passage of the Departments Bill.

Mr Irwin left the meeting at 3.10pm.

The Committee noted a Synopsis of Responses to a pre-consultation on the need for a NI Climate Change Bill carried out in 2013.

6. Consultations

Mrs Overend rejoined the meeting at 3.13pm.

The Committee noted a consultation on Guidance for Local Government Performance Improvement from 2016 onwards.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a synopsis of responses to the consultation.

The Committee noted a synopsis of responses to the consultation on extending the validity period of medically restricted driving licences.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request an oral briefing on the synopsis of responses.

The Committee noted a revised synopsis of responses to a consultation on the way forward on the Tachograph Directive.

7. SL1 – Amendment of the Road Traffic (Fixed Penalty) (Offences) Order (Northern Ireland) 1997

Agreed: The Committee agreed to defer consideration of an SL1 for an Amendment to the Road Traffic (Fixed Penalty) (Offences) Order (Northern Ireland) 1997 until its meeting on 7 January 2016.

8. SL1 – Amendment of the Road Traffic (Fixed Penalty) Order (Northern Ireland) 2007

Agreed: The Committee agreed to defer consideration of an SL1 for an Amendment to the Road Traffic (Fixed Penalty) Order (Northern Ireland) 2007 until its meeting on 7 January 2016.

9. SR 2015/398 The Planning (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2015/398 The Planning (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and agreed that it was content with the rule.

10. Correspondence

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department regarding the Marine Strategy Framework.

Ms Hanna left the meeting at 3.19pm.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department regarding publication of the Noise Complaints Statistics Report.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department regarding the Air Quality Summary Report for Northern Ireland in 2014, ahead of an oral briefing scheduled in early 2016.

The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel Committee to Department regarding the Rates (Amendment) Bill.

The Committee noted correspondence from Kells VOCAL.

The Committee noted the Planning and Water Appeals Annual Report.

The Committee noted the Irish Environment Newsletter for December 2015.

The Committee noted EU Matters for December 2015.

11. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted that it would discuss its Forward Work Programme at its next meeting on 7th January 2016.

12. Any Other Business

Ms Hanna rejoined the meeting at 3.26pm.

The Committee noted that correspondence was sent to individual members from the Letterbreen and Mullaghduin Partnership on Departmental funding for the Irish EPA study into Unconventional Gas Exploration & Extraction (UGEE).

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Department for a response to the issues raised.

13. Date, Time and Place of next meeting.

The Committee noted that its next meeting will be held at 10.00am on Thursday 7th January 2016 in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.27pm.

Pam Cameron, MLA
Deputy Chairperson, Committee for the Environment
7 January 2016