



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**THURSDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2015**

**SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

- Present: Ms Anna Lo MLA (Chairperson)  
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr William Irwin MLA  
Mr Alban Maginness MLA  
Mr Ian Milne MLA  
Lord Morrow MLA
- In Attendance: Miss Ciara McKay (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Clerk)  
Mr Neil Sedgewick (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mrs Sharon Young (Clerical Officer)  
Ms Stephanie Mallon (Bill Clerk – agenda items 6 & 7)
- Apologies: Mr Cathal Boylan MLA  
Mr Colum Eastwood MLA  
Mr Barry McElduff MLA  
Mrs Sandra Overend MLA  
Mr George Robinson MLA

The meeting opened in public session at 10.04am.

**1. Apologies.**

The apologies are noted above.

**2. Chairpersons Business**

The Committee noted an invitation from the Minister to a conference organised by DOE's Historic Environment Division.

*Agreed: The Committee noted the conference clashed with its weekly meeting, but agreed to write to the Minister thanking him for the invitation.*

The Committee noted correspondence from the Field Studies Council regarding concerns about the future of outdoor learning as a result of budget constraints. The Committee also noted an invitation from the Council to its centres in Fermanagh or Titanic Quarter.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the paper to the Department for a response to the issues raised; and to visit the centre in Fermanagh as part of a wider visit in the area.*

The Committee noted an invitation from NI Water to a 'Partners Against Pollution' stakeholder event on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

*Agreed: The Committee noted the event clashed with its weekly meeting; and agreed to request that the Assembly researcher attend the event on the Committee's behalf.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for the Chairperson to conduct an interview with Agenda NI on the role of the Committee and its achievements.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to table a Committee motion ahead of the Climate Change conference in Paris in November/December. The Committee agreed that the Clerk should liaise with the Business Office to ascertain a date for this debate; and for the Clerk to draft a Committee motion for consideration at its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> November.*

The Committee considered the Minister's press release on future funds for the Natural Environment fund.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister expressing disappointment that it was not notified in advance of the Minister's announcement; and to request more information on the fund.*

### **3. Minutes**

The minutes from the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were agreed.

### **4. Matters arising**

The Committee noted a response from the Department regarding the timetable for the implementation of taxi regulations.

The Committee noted an update from the Department on the sustainable utilisation of poultry litter project.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to bring the correspondence to the attention of Ms Sandra Overend who raised the matter.*

The Committee noted a response from the Minister regarding grant support for the Community Places Planning Advice Service.

The Committee noted correspondence from Community Places informing the Committee that the Department had agreed to provide funding for its Planning Advice Service.

The Committee noted a response from the Building Control NI regarding Fire Protection for Oil Tanks.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Building Control Northern Ireland and local councils regarding raising awareness of fire prevention panels.*

## **5. The Local Government (Numbers and Addresses of Buildings in Townlands) Bill**

The Committee discussed the proposed Local Government (Numbers and Addresses of Buildings in Townlands) Bill.

*Agreed: Subject to the Bill passing its second stage on 17 November 2015, the Committee was content to issue a call for evidence on the Bill on 18 November 2015.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the draft call for evidence notice and the deadline date for receipt of submissions.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the list of suggested organisations to contact directly for evidence, subject to addition of Royal Mail/Post Office.*

## **6. Environmental Better Regulation Bill - Deliberation of clauses**

*Officials joined the meeting at 10.22am.*

Mr Simon Webb      Bill Lead, Regulatory and Natural Resources Policy Division.

Mr Robert Gray      Regulatory and Natural Resources Policy Division

Mr Dave Foster      Director, Regulatory and Natural Resources Policy Division

The Committee noted that it had considered clauses 1 to 27 at its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015 and was content with clauses 1 to 27 and Schedules 2 & 3.

The Committee noted a response from the Department to issues raised on Schedule 1 and the proposed new clause 22A.

The Committee carried out an informal deliberation of the following clauses while officials remained in attendance:

### **Schedule 1 - Matters for, or in connection with, which regulations may be made under section 2**

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with Schedule, as amended.*

### **New Clause 22A – National Security**

The Committee noted the proposed wording for new clause 22A.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the proposed amendment, as it had insufficient time to scrutinise the amendment.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to reflect its disappointment in the Committee report that the amendment was presented so late during the Committee stage.*

*Mr Irwin joined the meeting at 10.30am.*

**7. Environmental Better Regulation Bill - Formal Clause by Clause consideration**

*The following officials remained in attendance:*

Mr Simon Webb      Bill Lead, Regulatory and Natural Resources Policy Division.

Mr Robert Gray      Regulatory and Natural Resources Policy Division

Mr Dave Foster      Director, Regulatory and Natural Resources Policy Division

The Committee commenced its formal clause by clause consideration of the Environmental Better Regulation Bill.

**Part 1 - General environmental regulation.**

**Clause 1**

*“Question: That the Committee is content with clause 1, put and agreed to”.*

**Clause 2**

*“Question: That the Committee is content with clause 2, put and agreed to”.*

**Clause 3**

*“Question: That the Committee is content with clause 3 subject to the amendment as proposed by the Department, put and agreed to”.*

**Clause 3A**

*“Question: That the Committee is content with the proposed departmental amendment to introduce new clause 3A, setting out the objectives on the face of the Bill, put and agreed to”.*

**Clause 4**

*“Question: That the Committee is content with clause 4, put and agreed to”.*

**Clause 5**

*“Question: That the Committee is content with clause 5, put and agreed to”.*

**Part 2 - Powers of entry and associated powers**

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to group clauses 6 and 7 of the Bill for the purposes of putting the question.*

**Clauses 6 and 7**

*“Question: That the Committee is content with clauses 6 and 7, put and agreed to”.*

## **Clause 8**

*“Question: That the Committee is content with clause 8 subject to the amendment as proposed by the Department, put and agreed to”.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to group clauses 9 to 11 of the Bill for the purposes of putting the question.*

## **Clauses 9 to 11**

*“Question: That the Committee is content with clauses 9 to 11, put and agreed to”.*

## **Clause 12**

*“Question: That the Committee is content with clause 12 subject to the amendments as proposed by the Department, put and agreed to”.*

## **Clause 13**

*“Question: That the Committee is content with clause 13, put and agreed to”.*

## **Part 3 - Amendments to the Clean Air (Northern Ireland) Order 1981**

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to group clauses 14 and 15 of the Bill for the purposes of putting the question.*

## **Clauses 14 and 15**

*“Question: That the Committee is content with clauses 14 and 15, put and agreed to”.*

## **Part 4 - Amendments to the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002**

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to group clauses 16 and 17 of the Bill for the purposes of putting the question.*

## **Clauses 16 and 17**

*“Question: That the Committee is content with clauses 16 and 17, put and agreed to”.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to group clauses 18 to 22 of the Bill for the purposes of putting the question.*

## **Clauses 18 to 22**

*“Question: That the Committee is content with clauses 18 to 22, put and agreed to”*

## **New Clause 22A**

*“Question: That the Committee notes new clause 22A, on national security, put and agreed to”.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to reflect its decision to note this amendment in its report.*

## **Part 6 - Miscellaneous and Supplementary**

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to group clauses 23 to 27 of the Bill for the purposes of putting the question.*

### **Clauses 23 to 27**

*“Question: That the Committee is content with clauses 23 to 27, put and agreed to”.*

### **Schedule 1**

*“Question: That the Committee is content with Schedule 1 subject to the amendment as proposed by the Department, put and agreed to”.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to group Schedules 2 and 3 of the Bill for the purposes of putting the question.*

### **Schedules 2 and 3**

*“Question: That the Committee is content with Schedules 2 and 3, put and agreed to”.*

### **Long Title**

*“Question: That the Committee is content with the Long Title of the Bill, put and agreed to”.*

*Officials left the meeting at 10.42am.*

## **8. Briefing on NIEA Environmental Crime Unit report – Briefing from Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland**

*Officials joined the meeting at 10.43am.*

The Committee was briefed by:

Mr Brendan McGuigan

Chief Inspector, Criminal Justice  
Inspection Northern Ireland

Mr James Corrigan

Inspector, Criminal Justice Inspection  
Northern Ireland

A question and answer session followed.

*Officials left the meeting at 11.40pm.*

**9. Briefing on NIEA Environmental Crime Unit report - Departmental briefing**

*Officials joined the meeting at 11.40am.*

The Committee was briefed by:

Mr Derek Williamson

Resource Efficiency Division,  
Department of the Environment

Mr Chris Mills

Director, Resource Efficiency Division,  
Department of the Environment

*Agreed: Officials agreed to provide the Committee with further information on the repatriation of waste from two sites in South Armagh.*

*Officials left the meeting at 12.25pm.*

**10. Synopsis of responses to consultation on proposals to increase the maximum construction speed and weights of agricultural tractors and trailers**

The Committee considered a synopsis of responses to proposals to increase the maximum construction speed and weights of agricultural tractors and trailers.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content that the Department proceed to prepare legislation.*

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

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

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department about the inclusion of the controlled school sectoral support body as a community statutory partner.*

*Mr Irwin left the meeting at 12.30pm.*

**12. SL1 - The Planning (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered the Planning (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for the Department to proceed with the proposed statutory rule.*

**13. Statutory Instrument - The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee noted a Statutory Instrument, the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

**14. SR 2015/357 The Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (Amendment No. 3) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

*Question put and agreed:*

*“The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2015/357 The Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (Amendment No. 3) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and has no objection to the Rule.”*

**15. Protocol for the Care of the Government Historic Estate Biennial Report**

The Committee discussed the Biennial Report on the Protocol for the Care of the Government Historic Estate.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for further information as outlined in the issues paper.*

The Committee noted correspondence from NICVA providing information on a project aimed at developing the voluntary and community sector to use data effectively; and an article on protecting historic sites.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to hold an informal meeting with NICVA on the project; and to forward the article ‘Building on the past: Is government doing enough to protect historic sites’ to the Department for a response to issues raised in it.*

**16. DOE report on Marine Plan Process in Northern Ireland**

The Committee noted the DOE report on Marine Plan Process in Northern Ireland

**17. Correspondence**

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development advising that it has written to all departments to seek comments on the Rural Needs Bill.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask the Department for a copy of any response to the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development.*

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding a Legislative Consent Motion proposing a cap on public sector exit payments.

The Committee noted correspondence from NILGA regarding a Legislative Consent Motion proposing a cap on public sector exit payments.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister to ascertain any discussions he has had with the Minister of Finance and Personnel on this*



*matter; and to advise the Committee for Finance and Personnel and NILGA of this action.*

The Committee noted correspondence from Six Mile Water Trust.

The Committee noted the Irish Environment newsletter for November 2015.

The Committee noted the following publication from NILGA: the 'Councillor' Reference for Waste & Resource Efficiency'.

**18. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted its Forward Work Programme.

The Committee noted the draft programme for the Bryson House Recycling Centre, Mallusk on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

**19. Any Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

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

The Committee noted that its next meeting will be held at 10.00am on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015 in the Bryson House Recycling Centre, Mallusk.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.40pm.*

**Anna Lo, MLA**  
**Chairperson, Committee for the Environment**  
**19 November 2015**