



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, 21 JANUARY 2016

SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

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

The meeting began in public session at 10.29am with the following Members present: Ms Anna Lo (Chairperson); Mrs Pam Cameron; Mr Ian Milne; and Mr Cathal Boylan. In the absence of a decision-making quorum proceedings commenced in line with Standing Order 49(5).

1. Apologies.

The apologies are noted above.

2. Synopsis of Responses to the Consultation on Extending the Validity Period of Medically Restricted Driving Licences - Departmental briefing

The Committee moved to agenda item 5.

Officials joined the meeting at 10.30am.

The Committee was briefed by:

Ms Nicola McEvoy Head of Driver Policy Branch, Road Safety & Vehicle Regulation Division, Department of the Environment

Ms Jo Campbell Driver Licensing Policy, Department of the Environment

Ms Fionnula Donnelly Head of Driver Licensing, Driver and Vehicle Agency.

Mrs Overend joined the meeting at 10.32am.

Officials left the meeting at 10.45am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for the Department to proceed with the proposals.

3. Chairperson's Business

The Committee moved to agenda item 2.

The Chairperson reminded members that an informal meeting has been scheduled for 12.30pm on Thursday 28 January 2016 with NICVA on the 'Detail data' project.

The Chairperson reminded members that she would be participating in a photograph for Woodland Trust on Monday 25 January 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed a draft quote for inclusion in Woodland Trust's press release.

4. Minutes

The Committee moved to agenda item 3.

The minutes from the meetings held on 12th January 2016 and 14th January 2016 were agreed.

5. Matters arising

The Committee moved to agenda item 4.

The Committee noted a response from the Department regarding Japanese Knotweed.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to: request the timescale for the completion of its analysis into Japanese knotweed; encourage officials to work with councils to address this issue; and provide a copy of all papers the Committee has considered on this matter.

The Committee noted a response from the Department regarding Strategic Waste Infrastructure Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for a detailed breakdown of the spend on the waste infrastructure procurement programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Committee office should pull together any statistics it has on targets for recycling food wastes across all councils.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department outlining its work assessing the appropriateness of a climate change bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite the Minister to brief the Committee on his work on climate change.

The Committee noted correspondence from Mr Wright regarding the monitoring of carcinogens. The Committee noted that a briefing scheduled for Thursday 28 January 2016 on the final report of the NSMC Air Pollution study had been postponed.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for a date for the rescheduled briefing.

The Committee noted correspondence from Letterbreen and Mullaghduin Partnership seeking a meeting regarding fracking.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider outstanding visits at next week's meeting.

Ms Hanna joined the meeting at 11.09am

6. The Scrap Metal Dealers Bill – Departmental Briefing

Officials joined the meeting at 11.10am.

The Committee was briefed by:

Mr Brendan Forde Environmental Policy Division, Department of
the Environment

Ms Helen Lewis Resource Efficiency Division, Northern Ireland
Environment Agency

Mr Milne left the meeting at 12.01pm.

Mr Boylan left the meeting at 12.04pm.

Officials left the meeting at 12.05pm

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.05pm as quorum was lost.

Anna Lo, MLA
Chairperson, Committee for the Environment
28 January 2016