



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2016

SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

- Present: Ms Anna Lo MLA (Chairperson)
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Mr Paul Girvan MLA
Mr William Irwin MLA
Mr Alban Maginness MLA
Mr Ian Milne MLA
Mr Alastair Patterson 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: Ms Claire Hanna MLA
Mr Barry McElduff MLA

The meeting began in closed session at 10.14am.

Mr Robinson joined the meeting at 10.19am.

Mr Milne joined the meeting at 10.21am.

Agreed: The Committee considered correspondence in relation to the Scrap Metal Dealers Bill. The Committee agreed to hold a private meeting with stakeholders on the Bill.

Agreed: The Committee discussed arrangements for a planned visit to Moubouy.

The meeting moved to public session at 10.28am.

1. Apologies.

The apologies are noted above.

2. Chairperson's Business

No Chairpersons business was discussed.

3. Minutes

The minutes from the meeting held on 28th January 2016 was agreed.

4. Matters arising

The Committee noted a response from the Department providing a breakdown of expenditure on the Strategic Waste Infrastructure Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to seek further clarification in relation to the breakdown of expenditure.

The Committee noted a response from the Department providing information on the transfer of environment functions to new departments and associated budgets.

The Committee noted a response from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to the Committee's request for the report into the wind turbine collapse at Screggagh Wind Farm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to express its concerns that the Committee had not yet received full information on the incident.

The Committee noted correspondence from a taxi driver regarding the impact of the taxi regulations.

Mrs Cameron joined the meeting at 10.36am.

Mr Girvan left the meeting at 10.36am.

Mr Irwin joined the meeting at 10.37am.

Mrs Cameron left the meeting at 10.39am.

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

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for the timescale and terms of reference of its review of the taxi legislation.

Mr Girvan rejoined the meeting at 10.42am.

Mrs Cameron rejoined the meeting at 10.42am.

The Committee noted a report on its informal meeting with NICVA on the Detail Built Heritage Project.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for the following information: any action that the Department will take to prioritise built heritage; penalties for failing to protect buildings on the risk register;

measures to incentivise owners of listed building to carry out necessary repairs and protect the built heritage; funding for listed buildings post March 2016; and criteria to get buildings listed, including in conservation areas?

5. Synopsis of Responses – Consultation on amending NIEA’s Financial Provision Policy – Departmental Briefing.

Officials joined the meeting at 10.47am.

The Committee was briefed by:

Mr Tony Osborne Resource Efficiency Division, NIEA

Mr Mark Livingstone Resource Efficiency Division, NIEA

Mr Maginness left the meeting at 10.55am.

Officials left the meeting at 11.04am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content that NIEA proceed with the policy.

6. The Scrap Metal Dealers Bill – Deliberation of clauses

Mr Girvan left the meeting at 11.04am.

Mr Maginness rejoined the meeting at 11.06am.

The Committee discussed the Scrap Metal Dealers Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite another scrap metal dealer to its informal meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed write to the Department highlighting issues it wished to discuss with officials at its meeting on 9th February 2016.

7. Consultation

The Committee moved to agenda item 9.

The Committee noted a consultation on an amendment to the Pollution Prevention and Control (Industrial Emissions) Regulations on changes to the certification and testing of petrol vapour recovery equipment.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ascertain the rationale for the timescale for this consultation.

8. Correspondence

The Committee moved to agenda item 10.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister seeking an update on any scrutiny recently undertaken by the Committee in respect of good relations and Together: Building a United Community.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider a draft response at its next meeting.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development to the Department requesting clarification on the eligibility criteria for the 'Emergency Payment Scheme' in relation to flooding.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask the Department to copy its response to the Committee.

The Committee noted the EU Matters report for January 2016.

The Committee noted the Investment Strategy procurement activity report for January 2016.

The Committee noted Departmental Press releases.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister to outline its support for ring-fencing the Rates Support Grant for the three years after 2016/17; and to ascertain if there is a mechanism for doing this.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel providing a briefing paper on the Budget Bill (Northern Ireland) 2016 and accompanying Spring Supplementary Estimates.

The next two items on the agenda were considered together.

- 9. SL1 - Amendment of the Road Traffic (Fixed Penalty) (Offences) Order (Northern Ireland) 1997 - Departmental briefing**
- 10. SL1 - Amendment of the Road Traffic (Fixed Penalty) Order (Northern Ireland) 2007 - Departmental briefing.**

The Committee moved to Agenda items 7 and 8.

Officials joined the meeting at 11.35am.

The Committee was briefed on the Statutory Rule by:

Ms Liz Loughran Director of Road Safety & Vehicle Registration
Division, DOE

Mr Alex Boyle Road Safety and Vehicle Registration Division, DOE

Mr Michael O'Neill Taxis Act Implementation Team, DOE

Mr Paul Girvan rejoined the meeting at 11.38am.

Agreed: Officials agreed to provide to the Committee details on which offences might impact on insurance.

The Committee considered the Amendment of the Road Traffic (Fixed Penalty) (Offences) Order (Northern Ireland) 1997.

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

The Committee considered the Amendment of the Road Traffic (Fixed Penalty) Order (Northern Ireland) 2007.

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

11. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted its Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed its Forward Work Programme, visits and informal meetings to the end of the mandate.

12. Any Other Business

No other business was discussed

13. Date, time and Place of next meeting

The Committee noted that its next meeting will be held at 12.00pm on Tuesday 9th February 2016 in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.05pm.

Anna Lo, MLA
Chairperson, Committee for the Environment
11 February 2016