



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, 2 JULY 2015

SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Ms Anna Lo MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Alban Maginness MLA
Ian McCrea MLA
Mr Ian Milne MLA
Mrs Sandra Overend MLA
Lord Morrow MLA

In Attendance: Miss Ciara McKay (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Clerk)
Mr Neil Sedgewick (Clerical Supervisor)
Miss Allison Ferguson (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Barry McElduff MLA
Mr Colum Eastwood MLA
Mr Gary Middleton MLA

The meeting began in public session at 10.05am.

1. Apologies.

The apologies are noted above.

2. Chairpersons Business.

The Chairperson reminded members that an informal meeting is scheduled following the Committee meeting.

3. Minutes.

The minutes from the meeting held on 25th June 2015 were agreed.

4. Matters arising.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department about rescheduling an oral briefing on dilapidated buildings and neglected sites.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department regarding the need to reschedule an oral briefing on the Strategic Waste Infrastructure Programme annual update.

Mr Maginness noted that he had been absent from the meeting on 25th June 2015 and wished to return to item 11 of the minutes on Japanese knotweed. The Committee discussed this matter.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the letter from Ms Atkinson to the Department of the Environment; the Department for Regional Development; and the Department for Agriculture and Rural Development.

The Committee noted a response from the Department regarding the planning decision on the Cavanacaw goldmine.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department providing an update on forthcoming consultations and lists of policies screened out for Equality Impact Assessment.

The Committee noted a response from the Department providing an update on the consultation on Producer Responsibility Regulations.

The Committee noted a copy of a response from the Department to Kells Vocal.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to KellsVocal.

The Committee noted a response from the Department providing additional information on the Economic Development standards set out in the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015.

The Committee noted a response from the Department on the voluntary exit scheme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for information on the monetary savings and a breakdown by grade of those categorised as career break.

5. SL1 - The Road Traffic (Fixed Penalty) (Offences) (Amendment) Order (NI) 2015.

The Committee considered the Road Traffic (Fixed Penalty) (Offences) (Amendment) Order (NI) 2015.

Mrs Overend joined the meeting at 10.26am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Committee for Regional Development seeking its views on the legislation.

6. SR 2015/271 The Local Government Reorganisation (Compensation for Loss of Employment) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

Question put and agreed:

The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2015/271 The Local Government Reorganisation (Compensation for Loss of Employment) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and has no objection to the Rule.

7. Correspondence.

The Committee moved to item 10.

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister regarding the implementation of the Crannog Action Plan.

The Committee noted a letter from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment regarding its plenary debate on the Report on its Inquiry into Economic Growth and Job Creation in a Reduced Tax Environment.

The Committee noted an update from the Department regarding the George Best City Airport Planning Agreement.

The Committee noted the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland Procurement Activity Report for June 2015.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department about a consultation on proposals to rename the DVTA trading fund and expand the functions it covers to include all of DVA.

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

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department about a consultation on draft legislation on fluorinated greenhouse gases.

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

The Committee noted a Synopsis of Responses to a consultation on the Northern Ireland Quality Action Plan and Materials Recovery Facility Code of Practice.

The Committee noted a letter from the Speaker regarding a petition presented to the Assembly regarding ‘Circuses with Animals: Entertainment Licences’.

8. Fixed Penalty Notice for Offences relating to Taxi Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 - Synopsis of Responses: Departmental Briefing.

The Committee moved to item 7.

The Committee was briefed by:

Mr Iain Greenway

Director of Road Safety and Vehicle Regulation,
Department of the Environment

Mr Michael O'Neill Taxis Act Implementation Team, Department of
the Environment

The Committee noted the synopsis of responses.

9. Road Safety Strategy – Departmental briefing.

The Committee moved to item 8.

The Committee was briefed by:

Mr Iain Greenway Director of Road Safety and Vehicle Regulation,
Department of the Environment

Lynda Hurley Road Safety and Vehicle Regulation,
Department of the Environment

Mr Adrian Borland Road Safety Team, Department of the
Environment

*Agreed: Officials agreed to provide to the Committee a list of all projects
under the grant scheme.*

Mr McCrea left the meeting at 12.13pm.

10. Waste Management Licensing Amendment Regulations - Departmental Briefing.

The Committee moved to item 9.

The Committee was briefed by:

Mr Paul Byrne Head of Waste Policy & Legislation,
Department of the Environment

Ms Siobhan Greenan Environmental Policy Officer, Department of
the Environment

Ms Mairead Adams Policy Lead, Waste Framework, Department of
the Environment

Mr Ian McCrea rejoined the meeting at 1.03pm.

The Committee noted the proposals for the Waste Management Licensing
Amendment Regulations.

11. Forward Work Programme.

The Committee noted that its Forward Work Programme would be discussed
at its first meeting following summer recess.

12. Any Other Business.

No other business was discussed.

13. Date, Time and Place of next meeting.

The Committee agreed that its next meeting will be held at 10.00am on
Thursday 3rd September 2015 in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1.18pm.

Anna Lo, MLA
Chairperson, Committee for the Environment
3 September 2015