



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, 28 JANUARY 2016

SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Ms Anna Lo MLA (Chairperson)
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Paul Girvan MLA
Mr Barry McElduff MLA
Mr Alban Maginness 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)
Ms Suzi Cave (RAISE, item 5 only)

Apologies: Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Ms Claire Hanna MLA
Mr William Irwin MLA
Mr George Robinson MLA

The meeting began in public session at 10.16am.

1. Apologies.

The apologies are noted above.

Mrs Overend joined the meeting at 10.17am.

2. Chairperson's Business

No Chairpersons Business was discussed.

3. Minutes

The minutes from the meetings held on 19th January 2016 and 21st January 2016 were agreed.

4. Matters arising

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister providing a summary report on the outcome of the Historic Environment Conference in December.

The Committee noted a letter from the Department regarding the postponed briefing on the North South Ministerial Council commissioned report on Air Pollution.

The Committee noted a response from the Department regarding ETSU-R-97 guidelines.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a copy of the Health and Safety Executive (NI) report into the wind turbine collapse at Screggagh Wind Farm.

The Committee noted a response from the PSNI to the Committee's request for its views on the SL1 on The Waste Management Licensing (Amendment) Regulations (NI).

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

The Committee noted a correction slip to the SR 2015/389 - The Taxis (2008 Act) (Commencement No. 5) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015, to rectify an incorrect reference.

The Committee noted correspondence provided by Mr Boylan regarding the amount of waste collected and recycled by councils.

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

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister reiterating the Department's intention to address the issue of dead miles on rural taxi journey's by way of a legislative amendment, if required.

5. Pollution in NI rivers – Briefing from RaISe

Ms Cave joined the meeting at 10.30am.

The Committee received a briefing from RaISe on its paper on river pollution in Northern Ireland.

The Committee discussed the format of a stakeholder event on river pollution to be held on Thursday 18 February 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the format of the stakeholder event on river pollution on 18th February 2016.

Mr McElduff left the meeting at 11.10am.

6. The Scrap Metal Dealers Bill – Deliberation of clauses

The Clerk provided an update to the Committee on the outcome of the meeting between DOE officials and the Sponsor of the Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to defer the deliberation of clauses on the Scrap Metal Dealers Bill; and to hold an additional meeting on Tuesday 2nd February 2016 at 12pm to receive a briefing from DOE officials on the policy content of proposed amendments.

7. European issues - Written Briefing

Mr Maginness joined the meeting at 11.25am

The Committee discussed its European Priorities for 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed a response to the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister on European Priorities for 2016/17.

8. Transfer of Functions/ Departmental restructuring – written briefing

The Committee discussed its draft response on the Departments Bill's Transfer of Functions Order, as requested by the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister.

Agreed: The Committee agreed its response on the draft Order.

9. Consultations

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department notifying it of a consultation on proposals for Special Areas of Conservation for Harbour Porpoise

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a synopsis of responses to the consultation when it becomes available.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department notifying it of a consultation on NIEA's Regulatory Charging Policy for 2016-2021

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a synopsis of responses to the consultation when it becomes available.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department notifying it of a consultation on the draft Local Government Pension Scheme (Nursery Assistants) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a synopsis of responses to the consultation when it becomes available

The Committee noted a synopsis of responses to a consultation on changes to the Plastic and Glass Packaging Recycling Business Targets up to 2020

10. SL1 - The Emissions Performance Standard Monitoring and Enforcement Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.

The Committee considered the Emissions Performance Standard Monitoring and Enforcement Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.

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

11. SL1 - The Planning (Local Development Plan) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Committee considered the Planning (Local Development Plan) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.

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

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

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

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite Departmental Officials to brief it on the SL1.

13. SL1 - Amendment of the Road Traffic (Fixed Penalty) Order (Northern Ireland) 2007

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

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite Departmental Officials to brief it on the SL1.

14. 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 that the Department should proceed with the proposed Statutory Rule, when it will be formally considered by the

Committee. The Committee also agreed to advise the Department of the reservations of some Members on the draft order, as follows: the absence of departments as a statutory partner; and the role of CCMS as a statutory partner, given its membership on the Education Authority which is also a statutory partner.

15. SR 2016/2 The Passenger and Goods Vehicles (Recording Equipment) (Downloading of Data) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2016

'Question put and agreed:

The Committee considered SR 2016/2 The Passenger and Goods Vehicles (Recording Equipment) (Downloading of Data) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2016 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the rule.'

16. SR 2016/8 Change of Council Name (Derry and Strabane City Council) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

'Question put and agreed:

The Committee considered SR 2016/8 Change of Council Name (Derry and Strabane City Council) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the rule.'

17. SR 2016/9 Change of District Name (Derry and Strabane) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

'Question put and agreed:

The Committee considered SR 2016/9 Change of District Name (Derry and Strabane) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the rule.'

18. SR 2016/10 Change of District Name (North Down and Ards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

'Question put and agreed:

The Committee considered SR 2016/10 Change of District Name (North Down and Ards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the rule.'

19. SR 2016/11 Change of District Name (Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

'Question put and agreed:

The Committee considered SR 2016/11 Change of District Name (Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the rule.'

20. Correspondence

The Committee noted a copy of a response from the Department to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment regarding Mineral Development Licences.

The Committee noted the Disposal and Retention schedule for the Department of the Environment.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the schedule.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding the 2014-20 Interreg Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to include the Interreg Programme in its legacy report.

The Committee considered correspondence from the Committee for Regional Development to the Department, regarding schemes to Alleviate Flooding and Stormwater.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a copy of the response to the Committee for Regional Development.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Finance and Personnel Committee regarding a briefing on Public Sector Voluntary Exit Schemes.

Mr Milne left the meeting at 12.04pm.

The Committee noted correspondence from Dr Lennon regarding Northern Ireland Renewable Obligation Certificates.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment.

The Committee noted correspondence from Belfast City Airport Watch outlining its concerns on the Department's consultation on the identification and designation of Quiet Areas.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Department; and to request the timescale for progressing this consultation.

The Committee noted correspondence from RaISe regarding two Explanatory Memorandums in respect of the Mid-term Report on the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2010-2020 and the progress report on the designation of Marine Protected Areas.

Mr Milne rejoined the meeting at 12.07pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for an update on progress in the implementation of its Biodiversity Strategy.

The Committee noted a briefing paper from the Committee Clerk on four proposed EU Directives on a waste package.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department regarding subsidiarity issues relating to the proposed Directives; and to ascertain the engagement DOE has had with DEFRA in relation to these proposals.

The Committee noted correspondence from Climate Northern Ireland regarding the Department's discussion paper on a Climate Bill for Northern Ireland.

The Committee noted a newsletter from Arthur Cox on the projected Corporation Tax Rate for Northern Ireland from April 2018.

21. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted its Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Committee Office would provide it with details of proposed Committee visits for consideration at its meeting on 4th February 2016.

22. Any Other Business

No other business was discussed

23. Date, time and Place of next meeting

The Committee noted that its next meeting will be held at 12.00pm on Tuesday 2nd February 2016 in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

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