



COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 21 JANUARY 2020
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

- Present:** Mr Declan McAleer MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Philip McGuigan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Ms Clare Bailey MLA
Mrs Rosemary Barton MLA
Mr John Blair MLA
Mr Maurice Bradley MLA
Mr Harry Harvey MLA
Mr William Irwin MLA
- Apologies:** Mr John Dallat MLA
- In attendance:** Ms Stella McArdle, Committee Clerk
Ms Elaine Farrell, Assistant Assembly Clerk (Items 1-8)
Ms Bronagh Irwin, Assistant Assembly Clerk (Items 9-19)
Ms Marion Johnson, Clerical Supervisor
Mr Thomas Coogan, Clerical Officer

2.08 p.m. The meeting commenced in Closed Session.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Briefing from the Clerk on the backlog of Statutory Rules and approach to be taken

Agreed: The Committee agreed the approach to be taken on the backlog of Statutory Rules.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to move to Agenda Item 4.

3. Briefing from the Examiner of Statutory Rules

Ms Angela Kelly, Examiner of Statutory Rules, joined the meeting 2.45 p.m.

Ms Kelly provided an overview on her role as Examiner of Statutory Rules.

The briefing was followed by a questions and answer session.

The Chairperson thanked Ms Kelly for her attendance.

4. Committee Protocols

Agreed: The Committee agreed the arrangements for committee meetings.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the approach to dealing with correspondence and requests for meeting not linked to strategic priorities or statutory rules.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the approach to the use of the Committee's social media account.

The Chairperson raised an issue that the NI Assembly Twitter account had recently referred to the Committee as the "Agriculture Committee" and the Environment and Rural Affairs had been omitted. He requested that the Communications Office be informed of this omission.

Noted: The Committee noted the contact details for committee staff.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to adopt to protocol on conduct and courtesy during meetings.

5. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson updated Members on a meeting he and the Deputy Chairperson attended with Minister Poots regarding Direct Payments to Farmers (Legislative Continuity) Bill.

The meeting moved into Open Session at 3.17 p.m.

6. Committee Membership

Noted: Members noted the Committee Membership.

7. Declaration of Members' Interests

The Chairperson advised Members that all Assembly Members are required to register relevant financial and other interests in the Register of Members' Interests and that details of registered interests are published on the Assembly website.

Mr Irwin declared an interest that he is a partner in a business that is in receipt of the Basic Payment Scheme.

8. Oral Briefing on Direct Payments to Farmers (Legislative Continuity) Bill

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 3.21 p.m.:

Norman Fulton, Deputy Secretary, Food and Farming Group
Rosemary Agnew, Grade 5, Director of Brexit, Food and Farming Group
Mark McLean, Grade 7, Principal Agricultural Economist, Food and Farming Group

The officials briefed the Committee and this was followed by a question and answer session.

The oral briefing was reported by Hansard.

The Chairperson thanked the officials for their attendance.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the departmental approach on the Direct Payments to Farmers (Legislative Continuity) Bill. The Committee further noted that the LCM on the provisions in the Bill that apply to Northern Ireland would be debated in Plenary on Monday 27 January 2020.

9. Delegation of Technical Scrutiny to the Examiner of Statutory Rules

Agreed: The Committee to delegate to the Examiner of Statutory Rules the technical scrutiny of statutory rules referred to the

Committee under Standing Order 43 and that in carrying out this function the Examiner shall be authorised to report her technical findings on each statutory rule to the Assembly, and to the relevant Department, as well as to the Committee itself and to publish her report.

10. Departmental Written Briefing on The Agriculture (Student Fees) Regulations and the Waste (Fees and Charges) Regulations

Noted: The Committee note the Departmental Written briefing on The Agriculture (Student Fees) Regulations and the Waste (Fees and Charges) Regulations.

11. SR 2017/152: The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017

The Committee considered The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 which would apply an increase to tuition fees paid by full-time eligible students attending courses of higher education delivered at DAERA's College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise.

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2017/152: The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2017 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report had no objection to the Rule.

12. SR 2018/136: The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018

The Committee considered The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018 which would apply an increase to tuition fees paid by full-time eligible students attending courses of higher education delivered at DAERA's College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise.

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2018/136: The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report had no objection to the Rule.

13. SR 2019/108: The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019

The Committee considered The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 which would apply an increase to tuition fees paid by full-time eligible students attending courses of higher education delivered at DAERA's College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise.

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2019/108: The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report had no objection to the Rule.

14. SR 2020/8: The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee considered The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 which sets the level of fees payable for course of higher education delivered by DAERA at its College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise.

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2020/8: The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report had no objection to the Rule.

15. SR 2017/221: The Waste (Fees and Charges) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017

The Committee considered The Waste (Fees and Charges) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 which enables the Northern Ireland Environment Agency to recover 100% of its costs in relation to its functions as regulator of waste activities which is enabled through its Charging Scheme which is update annually.

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2017/221 The Waste (Fees and Charges) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 and, subject the Examiner of Statutory Rules report had no objection to the Rule.

16. SR 2018/91: The Waste (Fees and Charges) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018

The Committee considered The Waste (Fees and Charges) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018 which enables the Northern Ireland Environment Agency to recover 100% of its costs in relation to its functions as regulator of waste activities which is enabled through its Charging Scheme which is update annually.

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2018/91 The Waste (Fees and Charges) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018 and subject the Examiner of Statutory Rules report had no objection to the Rule.

17. SR 2019/83: The Waste (Fees and Charges) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019

The Committee considered The Waste (Fees and Charges) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 which enables the Northern Ireland Environment Agency to recover 100% of its costs in relation to its functions as regulator of waste activities which is enabled through its Charging Scheme which is update annually.

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2019/83 The Waste (Fees and Charges) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 and subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report had no objection to the Rule.

18. AOB

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request a written First Day Brief in advance of the oral briefing.

19. Date, time and place of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs will take place on Thursday 23 January 2020 at 10.00 a.m. in Room 30.

4.13 p.m. *The meeting adjourned.*

Declan McAleer.

Declan McAleer, Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

Date