



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for the Economy

Extract of Minutes of Proceedings

Wednesday 8 January 2025

Meeting Location: Room MU302 Magee Campus, UU

- Present:**
- Mr Phillip Brett MLA (Chairperson)
 - Mr Gary Middleton MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
 - Ms Diana Armstrong MLA
 - Mr Pádraig Delargy MLA
 - Mr David Honeyford MLA
 - Mr Philip McGuigan MLA
 - Ms Sinéad McLaughlin MLA
 - Ms Kate Nicholl MLA
- Apologies:**
- Mr Jonathan Buckley MLA
- In Attendance:**
- Peter McCallion (Assembly Clerk)
 - Anthea Matthews (Assistant Assembly Clerk)

Karen O'Hare (Clerical Supervisor)

Michael Doran (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced in public session at 10:18am.

1. Apologies

Apologies were as indicated above.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Philip McGuigan left the meeting at 12:00noon.

8. Great British Energy Bill - legislative consent- Departmental evidence session

The following officials joined the meeting at 1:19pm:

- Anne-Maire McConn, Head of Energy Strategy and Corporate Services, DfE
- Paul Skillen, Energy Strategy and Corporate Services, DfE

Key issues discussed included: the Great British Energy Bill; the need for Executive consent prior to the laying of the relevant motion; the amendment to the Bill requiring the consent of the Department in respect of the strategic statement for the new energy company; and the development of renewable energy resources in NI.

Pádraig Delargy left the meeting at 1:37pm

The Chairperson thanked the officials for their evidence.

The officials left the meeting at 1:39pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department urgently seeking clarity in respect of: how the renewable energy development of the NI

coastal seabed by the new energy company will impact on devolved responsibilities; the degree of agency that the Executive will enjoy in respect of the allocation of renewable energy development funding by the new energy company; and how key energy players in NI will be consulted by the new energy company as it implements its strategy.

Agreed: The Committee also agreed that the Clerk should seek guidance from the Business Office in respect of the laying of the relevant memorandum and the production of a Committee report in order to inform the related plenary debate.