



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**THURSDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2015**

**SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Ms Anna Lo MLA (Chairperson)  
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Colum Eastwood MLA  
Mr William Irwin MLA  
Mr Alban Maginness MLA  
Mr Barry McElduff MLA  
Mr Gary Middleton 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)  
Ms Stephanie Mallon (Bill Clerk)

Apologies: Mr Cathal Boylan MLA  
Lord Morrow MLA

*Mr Maginness left the meeting at 10.52am.*

*Mr Eastwood left the meeting at 11.33am.*

**7. The Environmental Better Regulation Bill - Deliberation of clauses**

*Officials joined the meeting at 11.37am.*

Mr Robert Gray	Regulatory and Natural Resources Policy Division
Mr Dave Foster	Director, Regulatory and Natural Resources Policy Division

The Committee carried out an informal deliberation of the following clauses while officials remained in attendance:

**Clause 1 - General purpose: protecting and improving the environment.**

*Mrs Cameron rejoined the meeting at 11.41am.*

*Mr Irwin left the meeting at 11.47am.*

*Mr McElduff left the meeting at 11.57am.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask the Department to consider an amendment to elaborate on the purpose of the Bill; address concerns regarding the vagueness of the Bill; and to better define the framework of what will be enforced in the future.*

**Clause 2 - Regulations relating to protecting and improving the environment.**

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the Department's explanation of the key issues surrounding this clause.*

**Clause 3 - Regulations relating to protecting and improving the environment: consultation**

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask the Department to consider an amendment to replace 'such other persons as it thinks fit' to 'such other relevant persons'.*

**Clause 4 - General environmental rules**

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the Department's explanation of the key issues surrounding this clause.*

**Clause 5 – Interpretation**

*Mr McElduff rejoined the meeting at 12.34pm.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask the Department to provide more detailed information in the Explanatory & Financial Memorandum to explain what is meant by 'offence to the senses of human beings'; and ecosystems.*

*Officials left the meeting at 12.41pm.*

**[Extract]**