



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**THURSDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2015**

**SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mrs Pam Cameron MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Cathal Boylan 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  
Lord Morrow MLA

In Attendance: Miss Ciara McKay (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Clerk)  
Mr Neil Sedgewick (Clerical Supervisor)  
Ms Stephanie Mallon (Bill Clerk – agenda item 6)

Apologies: Ms Anna Lo MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Colum Eastwood MLA

The meeting opened in public session at 10.05am with the Deputy Chairperson in the Chair.

**6. Environmental Better Regulation Bill - Deliberation of clauses**

*Officials joined the meeting at 11.30am.*

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

The Committee noted that it had considered clauses 1 to 27 at its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015 and was content with clauses 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9-11, 14-27 and schedules 2 & 3.

The Committee noted a response from the Department to issues raised on clauses 3, 5, 8, 12, 13 and schedule 1.

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

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

The Committee noted the wording of the final amendment to Clause 3 proposed by the Department.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the Department's proposed amendment on this clause.*

**Clause 5 – Interpretation**

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the Department's explanation of this clause in the Explanatory and Financial Memorandum.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with this clause as drafted.*

**Clause 8 - Rewriting powers of entry**

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the Department's explanation of the amendment to this clause in the Explanatory & Financial Memorandum.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the Department's proposed amendment on this clause.*

**Clause 12 - Code of practice in relation to powers of entry**

*Mr Middleton left the meeting at 11.43am.*

*Mr Milne left the meeting at 11.43am.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the Department's proposed amendment on this clause.*

**Clause 13 – Interpretation**

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the Department's explanation of this clause in the Explanatory and Financial Memorandum.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with this clause as drafted.*

**Schedule 1 - Matters for, or in connection with, which regulations may be made under section 2**

*Mr Middleton rejoined the meeting at 11.51am.*

*Agreed: Officials agreed to seek advice regarding the Department's retention of paragraph 1(2) and 1(3) in Schedule 1, and to provide an update to the Committee.*

The Committee noted the Department's intention to table a further amendment to the Bill and the background of this amendment.

*Agreed: Officials agreed to provide the Committee with the wording of the amendment as soon as possible.*

*Officials left the meeting at 11.59am.*

**7. Environmental Better Regulation Bill - Formal Clause by Clause consideration**

The Committee deferred consideration of the formal clause by clause until its next meeting.

**[Extract]**