



Northern Ireland
Assembly

**COMMITTEE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY, 1 JULY 2020

THE SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA (Chairperson)
Mr David Hilditch MLA (Deputy-Chairperson).
Ms Martina Anderson MLA
Mr Roy Beggs MLA
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Mr Keith Buchanan MLA
Ms Liz Kimmins MLA
Mr Andrew Muir MLA

Apologies: Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA

In Attendance: Mrs Cathie White (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Johnny Lawless (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Bill Kinnear (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced in open session at 10:03 am.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairpersons Business

The Chairperson advised Members that she had received correspondence from The Association of Old Vehicle Clubs regarding MOT exemptions for cars 40 years.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Infrastructure to ascertain the current position of the legislation and express its support for the legislation to be introduced as soon as possible.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 24 June 2020.

4. Matters Arising

The Committee made a decision in accordance with Standing Orders which were amended on 31 March 2020 to enable the decision making process to continue during the extraordinary time of the Coronavirus Health Crisis. The decision was as follows:

- The Committee considered two alternative Committee motions on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Option One:

That this Assembly recognises the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the taxi, haulage, driving instruction, and private hire bus and coach sectors; acknowledges that these industries have not been prioritised in terms of guidance and support packages; and calls on the Minister for Infrastructure to bring forward proposals for the formulation of guidance and financial support for these sectors as a matter of urgency.

Option Two:

That this Assembly recognises the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on private industries including taxis, haulage, driving instruction and private hire bus and coach sectors; welcomes the work undertaken by the Infrastructure Minister to ease regulation on these sectors during the emergency period; notes the introduction of wage support packages to assist Self-Employed people; acknowledges that these industries have not been included in specific Executive support packages for private industry; and calls on the Executive to bring forward proposals for the formulation of guidance and financial support for these sectors as a matter of urgency.

The Members indicated their preferred option via email on 26 June 2020 as per the list below:.

Option 1

Ms Michelle McIlveen

Mr David Hilditch

Ms Martina Anderson

Mr Cathal Boylan

Mr Keith Buchanan

Ms Liz Kimmins

Option 2

*Mr Roy Beggs
Mrs Dolores Kelly
Mr Andrew Muir*

5. Briefing from Northern Ireland Ports - Brexit & Current Issues

The representatives joined the meeting at 10:08 am

Mr Roger Armson, General Manager/Director, Port of Larne
Mr Maurice Bullick, Finance & Compliance Director, Belfast Harbour
Commissioners
Mr David Holmes, Chief Executive Officer, Warrenpoint Port
Mr Brian McGrath, Chief Executive, Londonderry Port and Harbour Commissioners

The representatives provided the Committee with a briefing on Brexit and current issues facing ports in Northern Ireland.

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

A question and answer session followed.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their briefing.

The representatives left the meeting at 11:42 am.

Mr Cathal Boylan left the meeting at 11:43 am.

6. Legislative Consent Motion – Business and Planning Bill

The Committee considered a draft report on the Legislative Consent Memorandum on the provisions in the Business and Planning Bill to be extended to Northern Ireland and the Legislative Consent Motion to be brought forward by the Minister for Infrastructure.

Title Page, Contents Page and Committee Membership and Powers Page

The Committee considered the Title Page, Contents Page and Committee Membership and Powers Page as drafted.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the Title Page, Contents Page and Committee Membership and Powers Page.

Introduction and Background

The Committee considered the Introduction and Background section of the report (paragraphs 1 to 11) as drafted.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the Introduction and Background section of the report.

The Business and Planning Bill

The Committee considered the Business and Planning Bill section of the report (paragraphs 12 to 15) as drafted.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the Business and Planning section of the report.

Purpose of the Legislative Consent Motion

The Committee considered the Purpose of the Legislative Consent Motion section of the report (paragraphs 16 to 19) as drafted.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the Purpose of the Legislative Consent Motion section of the report.

Committee Consideration of the Legislative Consent Motion

The Committee considered the Committee Consideration of the Legislative Consent Motion section of the report (paragraphs 20 to 21) as drafted.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the Committee Consideration of the Legislative Consent Motion section of the report.

Appendices

The Committee considered the Appendices section of the report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content that the Appendices be included in the report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for the Chairperson to approve the Minutes of Proceedings of this meeting for inclusion in the report. They would then be replaced by the final version of the Minutes of Proceedings once agreed by the Committee at the next meeting.

Mr Cathal Boylan re-joined the meeting at 11:46 am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for the Report on the Business & Planning Bill Legislative Consent Motion to be published and issued to all MLAs.

7. Subordinate Legislation – SL1’s – Not Subject to Assembly Proceedings

The Committee considered following proposals for Statutory Rules.

- SL1 - The Road Races (Garron Point Hill Climb) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020
- SL1 - The Road Races (Cookstown 100) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020
- SL1 - The Drought (Spelga Impounding Reservoir) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020
- SL1 - The Drought (Blacksprings Emergency Abstraction) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020
- SL1 - The Drought (Altnahinch Impounding Reservoir) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content to note the proposals for the Statutory Rules.

8. Subordinate Legislation – SR’s – Not Subject to Assembly Proceedings

The Committee considered the following SRs not subject to any Assembly proceedings.

- SR 2020-114 The Taxis (Portstewart) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020
- SR 2020-115 The Taxis (Carrickfergus) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the Statutory Rules.

9. Correspondence

Copy of the Examiner of Statutory Rules Thirteenth Report of the Session 2019-2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the report.

Correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure regarding the vehicle lift faults at DVA centres – DVA Action Plan.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request an update in relation to the schedule for installation of the lifts and when each MOT centre will resume operations.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department in relation to point 2 of the Governance section of the DVA Action plan regarding key discussions and decisions to ascertain why these procedures were not already in place.

Response from the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) to Committee correspondence following the Mineral Products Association Northern Ireland MPANI briefing.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Department for Finance response to Committee correspondence following the Mineral Products Association Northern Ireland MPANI briefing.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Department for Infrastructure correspondence regarding the streamlining of the Annual Report and Accounts 2019-2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from Stratagem requesting the opportunity for Ryse Hydrogen and Wrightbus to brief the Committee.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider the request at its strategic planning day.

Correspondence from Mr Steven Rogan regarding the provision of a date for the return to work of driving instructors in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to inform Mr Rogan of the Committees intention to schedule a motion for debate in the Assembly.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request an update on the position in relation to when Driving Instructors may return to work.

Minister for Infrastructure response to Committee correspondence regarding issues arising from the Committee meeting on 10 June 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ascertain if any other companies submitted a proposal in relation to the publicised procurement competition to undertake the assessment of the Mine Waste Management Plan for Dalriadan Gold Ltd.

Translink response to Committee correspondence of 4 June 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Copy correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure to the Committee for Finance regarding financial support for businesses post COVID-19.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Minister for the Economy response to Committee correspondence regarding a financial package for the taxi industry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Response from the Belfast Public Hire Taxis to Committee correspondence requesting a briefing paper on the impact of COVID-19 to the taxi industry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

7. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Draft Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the forward work programme.

8. Any Other Business

None.

9. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be on Wednesday 8 July 2020 at 10:00 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Committee adjourned at 11:59 am

Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Infrastructure

8 July 2020