



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for Infrastructure

Minutes of Proceedings

14 April 2021

Meeting Location: Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings

Present: Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Keith Buchanan MLA

Present by Video or Teleconference:

Ms Martina Anderson MLA
Mr Roy Beggs MLA
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA
Ms Liz Kimmins MLA
Mr Andrew Muir MLA

Apologies: Mr David Hilditch MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

In Attendance: Ms Alison Ross (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Vincent Gribbin (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Jonathan Lawless (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr William Kinnear (Clerical Supervisor)



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The meeting commenced at 10:04 am in open session

1. Apologies

As above

2. Chairpersons Business

Agreed: The Committee agreed a number of documents regarding the Committee Inquiry into Decarbonisation Transport.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Translink with regards to the recent attacks on public transport workers.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department in relation to providing an update on the status of the contract for road resurfacing and how this is going to be addressed in the interim period.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10 March 2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 24 March 2021.



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4. Matters Arising

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to those organisations that have not responded to the Committee's requests for information urging them to do so.

5. Correspondence

Copy correspondence from the Minister for infrastructure to Sir Peter Hendy CBE regarding the Union Connectivity Review.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Response from the Northern Ireland Office on behalf of HMRC to issues raised by the Haulage and retail sectors on trade impacts in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Copy of the Examiner of Statutory Rules Twenty-Ninth Report of the Session 2020-2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the report.

Copy correspondence from a member of the public to the Department for Infrastructure regarding cycle paths in Ballymena.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Chairpersons Liaison Group regarding condensing of the Committee stage of the Damages (Return on Investment) Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.



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Copy of correspondence from Chloe Smith MP, Minister of State for the Constitution and Devolution, to William Wragg MP regarding Status of Common Frameworks and scrutiny process.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure regarding a Planning Application for Hightown Landfill, 59 Upper Hightown Road Newtownabbey, BT14 8RR.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Response from the Department for Health regarding COVID testing arrangements for haulage drivers who require evidence of a negative COVID test within 72 hours of travelling.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Response from the Department for the Economy regarding how many applications the Department for the Economy has received from taxi operators to Part B of the CRBSS and the number of those applications that were successful.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for the Economy and the Minister for Infrastructure requesting that they engage with one another to ensure the immediate funding of the taxi, bus and coach sectors and for the Minister for the Economy to provide an update regarding the current position in relation to applications received and processed.

Correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure regarding the launch of competition to appoint a Chair to the Board of Belfast Harbour Commissioners.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Report from the Electricity Association of Ireland (EAI) and Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine Research and Innovation (MaREI) - Our Zero e-Mission Future.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note and consider as part of its Inquiry into Decarbonisation of Road Transport in Northern Ireland.



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Correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure regarding its intention to award a new Public Service Agreement (PSA) to the Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company (NITHC).

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Response from the Department for Finance regarding issues raised during the briefing received by the Construction Employers Federation (CEF).

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Correspondence from the Chairpersons Liaison Group regarding a Questionnaire on Strengthening Scrutiny.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure regarding the A5 Western Transport corridor.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure regarding a Planning Application for Planning Application – Corlacky Wind Farm, west of Swatragh (LA09/2016/0232/F).

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Copy of the Examiner of Statutory Rules Thirtieth Report of the Session 2020-2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the report.

Correspondence from the Northern Ireland EU Affairs Manager regarding the Operation of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.



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Response from the Minister for Infrastructure to issues arising from the Committee meeting 3 March 2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting that it ensure clear communication with the public in respect of the resumption of driving tests and MOT tests.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting assurance that there are robust criteria in place for the management of the Covid Relief Schemes to ensure best use of public funds.

Correspondence from the Northern Ireland EU Affairs Manager regarding the 10th UKG report on Common Frameworks.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Copy of the Examiner of Statutory Rules Thirty-First Report of the Session 2020-2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the report.

Correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure regarding the Launch of a competition to appoint Non-Executive Members to the Board of Warrenpoint Harbour Authority.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Copy of the Examiner of Statutory Rules Thirty-Second Report of the Session 2020-2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the report.

Response from the Minister for Infrastructure to issues arising from the Committee meeting 10 March 2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule briefings on the A5 Western Transport Corridor and York Street Interchange.



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Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department seeking clarity on the continued reviews preventing work to proceed on the A5 Western Transport corridor.

Response from the Committee for Finance to Committee correspondence regarding Budget 2021 – 22 Scrutiny by Statutory Committees.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure regarding the York Street Interchange – review and decisions on next steps.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Invitation from Stratagem NI on behalf of Watertight International to the Chairperson to Open Online Flooding Event Climate Change and Flooding — Building Resilient Homes and Communities.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

Correspondence from the Committee for Justice regarding a Call for Evidence on the Damages (Return on Investment) Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from Investing Strategy for Northern Ireland providing a copy of the Department for Infrastructure's Investing Activity Report for March 2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Airport Operators Association providing a copy of their Quarterly Update – Quarter 1 – 2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure regarding the Appointment of non-executive members to the board of Belfast Harbour Commissioners.



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Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from Mark H Durkan MLA regarding an initial proposal for a One Planet Private Members Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting information on how they would manage small holdings with respect to the proposed Bill.

Response from the Department for Communities to the Committee's call for evidence for its Inquiry on the Decarbonisation of Road Transport.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and include it in the Inquiry Report.

Correspondence from the Electric Vehicle Association Northern Ireland providing details about the formation of a new Community Interest Company.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and include it in the Inquiry Report.

Correspondence from a member of the public regarding a Consultation with caravan owners for the review of the Caravans Act 2011.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and to forward to the Department for Communities for information.

Correspondence from a member of the public regarding a Consultation with caravan owners for the review of the Caravans Act 2011.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and to forward to the Department for Communities for information.

Response from the Minister for Finance regarding the Committee call for evidence on the Decarbonising Road Transport in Northern Ireland Inquiry.



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Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and include it in the Inquiry Report.

Copy of the Examiner of Statutory Rules Thirty-third Report of the Session 2020-2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the report.

Correspondence from Alex Easton MLA regarding a complaint relating to the sale of Portavoe Reservoir by Northern Ireland Water.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Department for Infrastructure, the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and to the Department of Finance for information and comment.

Response from Fonacab regarding the Committee call for evidence on the Decarbonising Road Transport in Northern Ireland Inquiry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and include it in the Inquiry Report.

Response from the Department of Education regarding the Committee call for evidence on the Decarbonising Road Transport in Northern Ireland Inquiry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and include it in the Inquiry Report.

Response from Logistics UK regarding the Committee call for evidence on the Decarbonising Road Transport in Northern Ireland Inquiry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and include it in the Inquiry Report.

Response from Derry City & Strabane District Council regarding the Committee call for evidence on the Decarbonising Road Transport in Northern Ireland Inquiry.



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Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and include it in the Inquiry Report.

6. Subordinate Legislation - SL1s - Not Subject to Assembly Proceedings

The Committee considered the following SL1's not subject to any Assembly proceedings.

- SL1 - The Road Races (Knockagh Hill Climb) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021
- SL1 On-Street Parking (Residents Parking Zone-Rugby Road College Park Avenue Area, Belfast) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021

The Committee considered The Road Races (Knockagh Hill Climb) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021 by correspondence and agreed that it was content with the proposal. Issued to Members on 18 March and agreed on 23 March 2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ascertain how it ensures engagement by the organisers with local residents.

The Members listed below gave their consent (via email) to the Department's proposal for the statutory rule.

Michelle McIlveen
David Hilditch
Martina Anderson
Cathal Boylan
Keith Buchanan
Dolores Kelly
Liz Kimmins
Andrew Muir



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

7. SL1 - The Lake Street, Lurgan (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021

The Committee considered the SL1 - The Lake Street, Lurgan (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the proposal for the statutory rule.

8. SL1 - The Common, Markethill Road, Newtownhamilton (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021

The Committee considered the SL1 - The Common, Markethill Road, Newtownhamilton (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the proposal for the statutory rule.

9. Subordinate Legislation - SRs - Not Subject to Assembly Proceedings

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

- SR 2021-77 The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Londonderry) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021



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- SR 2021-78 The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Carrickfergus) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021
- SR 2021-79 The Parking Places, Loading Bays and Waiting Restrictions (Coleraine) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021
- SR 2021-80 The Road Races (Knockagh Hill Climb) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the Statutory Rules.

10. SR 2021-57 The Planning (Development Management) (Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021

The Committee considered SR 2021-57 The Planning (Development Management) (Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021. These Regulations amend the Planning (Development Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 (S.R. 2015 No. 71) to extend the emergency period to 30 September 2021.

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2021-57 The Planning (Development Management) (Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021, and has no objection to the rule.

11. SR 2021-62 The Bus Operator (Coronavirus, Financial Assistance) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021

The Committee considered R 2021-62 The Bus Operator (Coronavirus, Financial Assistance) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021. These regulations provide for the setting up of a further Scheme under which the Department for Infrastructure may



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make financial assistance payments to eligible licensed bus and coach operators who have suffered because of the exceptional circumstances identified.

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2021-62 The Bus Operator (Coronavirus, Financial Assistance) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021, and has no objection to the rule.

12. Briefing from Waterways Ireland

The representatives joined the meeting at 10:31 am.

Mr John McDonagh, Chief Executive Officer
Mr Joe McMahon, Director of Technical Services
Mr Joe Gillespie, Northern Regional Manager

The representatives provided the Committee with an oral briefing.

A question and answer session followed.

Agreed: The representatives agreed to provide the Committee with further information on the 6.5% of funding it receives from alternative sources and how this impacts on Waterways Ireland's funding figures.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their attendance.

The representatives left the meeting at 12:09 pm.



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13. Briefing from Northern Ireland Local Government Association - EU Successor Funding in Northern Ireland

Agreed: The Committee agreed to postpone the briefing and rearrange in the forward work programme.

14. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Draft Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme.

15. Any Other Business

None.

16. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be on Wednesday, 21 April 2021 at 10:00 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.



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The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 pm.

Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Infrastructure

21 April 2021