



Committee for Infrastructure

Minutes of Proceedings

2 June 2021

Meeting Location: The Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings

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

Present by Video or Teleconference:

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

Apologies: None

In Attendance: Mrs Alison Ross (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Vincent Gribbin (Assembly Clerk)



Mr William Kinnear (Clerical Supervisor)

The meeting commenced at 10:03 am in open session

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairpersons Business

The Members discussed the informal meeting with Bus and Coach NI Ltd and Coach Operators NI regarding financial support for the bus and coach industry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Ministers for Economy, Finance and Infrastructure requesting that rolling support is provided for the Bus and Coach Industry.

3. Draft Minutes.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26 May 2021.

4. Matters Arising

None.



5. Correspondence

Response from the Special European Programmes Body to Committee correspondence regarding the FASTER Project.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note response.

Correspondence from the Committee for Finance regarding an Independent Fiscal Council for Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write back to the Committee for Finance in respect of a possible role for an Independent Fiscal Council in multi-year budgeting; in progress with the Infrastructure Commission; and in formulating a more sustainable funding model for NI Water.

Correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure regarding a statement on the North / South Ministerial Council (NSMC) Transport meeting held on 5 May 2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Electric Vehicle Association Northern Ireland (EVANI) thanking the Committee for the opportunity to brief on the decarbonisation inquiry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from The Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels providing a copy of the Brussels Report from January – March 2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure regarding the delivery of courses for drink drive offenders.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department seeking updates on its progress on the review of the Careless Driving Fixed Penalty Law; on a review of legal definitions concerning the use of mobile phones



while driving to reflect advances in mobile phone technology; and the Road Safety Strategy.

Response from the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) providing additional information following the briefing on the Review of the Implementation of the Planning Act 2011.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the House of Lords regarding Delegated Regulation.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Response from the Minister for Infrastructure to issues arising from the Committee for Infrastructure meeting on 12 May 2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department seeking an update on progress with the levelling-up fund and details on how the Department is taking advantage of the limited bidding window to access funding mechanisms and engaging with Councils on the opportunity for funding.

Mrs Kelly joined the meeting at 10:16.

Agreed: The Committee noted that during the Assembly debate on 1 June 2021 on un-adopted roads there was recognition of the adverse impact of workforce reductions and resource pressures on service delivery in the Department for Infrastructure and agreed to keep this issue under consideration during future briefing on the work of the Department particularly in terms of this year's budget and monitoring rounds.



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6. SR 2021-136 The Motor Vehicles (Driving Instruction) (Trainee Licence) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021

The Committee considered SR 2021-136 The Motor Vehicles (Driving Instruction) (Trainee Licence) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021. The purpose of the Rule is to extend the period of time that a trainee has to apply for the trainee licence after passing the driving instruction theory test from two years to three years where the normal two-year period has expired or will expire between 31st May 2020 and 31st August 2021.

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2021-136 The Motor Vehicles (Driving Instruction) (Trainee Licence) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021, and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the rule.

7. SR 2021-137 The Motor Vehicles (Driving Instruction) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021

The Committee considered SR 2021-137 The Motor Vehicles (Driving Instruction) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021. The purpose of the Rule is to amend the Motor Vehicles (Driving Instruction) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 in order to extend from two to three years, in certain cases, the period of time that a person wishing to become an approved driving or motorcycle instructor has to apply for the final instructional ability and fitness test after passing the initial driving instructor theory test.

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2021-137 The Motor Vehicles (Driving Instruction) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021, and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the rule.



8. Briefing from Bus & Coach NI Ltd and Hannon Coach - Commercial Bus Service Permits & Transport Integration

The representatives joined the meeting at 10:21 am.

Mrs Karen Magill, Chief Executive, Bus & Coach NI Ltd
Mr Niall McKeever, Chairman, Bus & Coach NI Ltd
Mr Eamon Rooney, Owner, Rooney International Coach
Mr Owen McLaughlin, Group Marketing Manager, Hannon Coaches

The representatives provided the Committee with an oral briefing.

A question and answer session followed.

Mrs Kelly left the meeting at 11:00 am.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their attendance.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to raise the issues articulated by the witnesses with Departmental officials at its meeting on 9 June 2021.

The representatives left the meeting at 12:00 pm.

Mrs Kelly joined the meeting at 12.00 pm.

9. Departmental Briefing – Review Planning Policy and Low Carbon Energy

The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 12:00 pm.

Mr Angus Kerr, Chief Planner & Director of Regional Planning
Ms Joy Hargie, Principal Planning Officer
Mr Philip McGowan, Principal Planning Officer

The Departmental officials provided the Committee with an oral briefing.

A question and answer session followed.



Mr Buchanan left the meeting at 12:01 pm.

The Chairperson thanked the Departmental officials for their attendance.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 12:48 pm.

10. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Draft Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme.

11. Any Other Business

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department seeking an update on the legal challenge it faces on Roads Maintenance contracts.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister requesting an update on the Northern Ireland Concessionary Fare Scheme half-fare concession.

12. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be on Wednesday, 9 June 2021 at 10:00 am in room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.



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Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Infrastructure

9 June 2021