



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for Infrastructure

Minutes of Proceedings

26 February 2025

Meeting Location: Room 29, Parliament Buildings

Present:

- Mrs Deborah Erskine MLA (Chairperson)
- Mr John Stewart MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
- Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
- Ms Nicola Brogan MLA
- Mr Keith Buchanan MLA
- Mr Stephen Dunne MLA
- Mr Andrew McMurray MLA
- Mr Peter McReynolds MLA

Apologies: None

Via Video Conference: Mr Mark Durkan MLA

In Attendance:

- Ms Barbara Love (Assembly Clerk)
- Mr Phil Pateman (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
- Mr Jonathan Lawless (Clerical Supervisor)
- Mr William Kinnear (Clerical Officer)



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The meeting commenced in open session at 9:59 am.

1. Apologies

None.

2. Declaration of Interests

Mrs Deborah Erskine declared an interest as having family members who own land along the A5 route.

Mr Cathal Boylan declared an interest as having a family member who works for the Department for Infrastructure.

Mr Mark Durkan joined the meeting at 10:00 am.

3. Ministerial Priorities and Legislative Programme – Minister for Infrastructure

The following Minister and Permanent Secretary joined the meeting at 10:00 am:

- Ms Liz Kimmins, Minister for Infrastructure; and
- Mr Denis McMahon, Permanent Secretary, Department for Infrastructure.

The Minister provided the Committee with an update on her Ministerial Priorities and Legislative Programme.

The evidence session was reported by Hansard.

The Minister and Permanent Secretary left the meeting at 11:20 am.

Agreed: To write to the Department requesting copies of historical reports examining the suitability of funding models for Northern Ireland Water



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and detail of the ring-fencing of funding for rural road maintenance as reference in the evidence.

4. Chairperson's Business

The Committee considered a Written Ministerial Statement from the Minister of Finance regarding completing the implementation of the RHI Inquiry recommendations.

Agreed: To write to the Minister for Infrastructure to draw to her attention the recommendations contained within the associated action plan, and to seek her commitment to adhering to these requirements in particular to recommendation 39.

5. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 19 February 2025.

6. Matters Arising

None.

7. Correspondence

Response from the Minister for Infrastructure to Committee correspondence requesting further details and numbers of re-consultations on planning applications received across the system.



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Agreed: To write to the Department requesting that it keeps the Committee updated on the ongoing work to review the data and to provide the information requested when available.

Correspondence from Andrew McMurray MLA and member of the All Party Group (APG) requesting for the Water Sports Alliance to present oral evidence to the Committee.

Agreed: To write to Mr McMurray in his capacity as a member of the APG on Sport and Physical Recreation to request a written submission in the first instance that is copied to the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to inform consideration of any future evidence.

Response from the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors to Committee correspondence regarding qualification requirements for land agents.

Agreed: To write to Land and Property services to seek clarity on whether it has any requirements on the qualifications of land agents appointed by landowner who are subject to a vesting order for the acquisition of owned land.

Agreed: To schedule an oral evidence session at an appropriate time in the forward Work Programme.

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

- Response from the Minister for Infrastructure to Committee correspondence requesting further detail on the areas of spend in relation to the additional capital allocation of £3.8m to Translink;
- Response from the Minister for Infrastructure to Committee correspondence requesting an update on the planned legislative programme including the associated timescales;
- Response from the Minister for Infrastructure to Committee correspondence requesting further detail of the steps taken to engage and consult in the course of the development of the Rule (SR 2025-12), with whom, and a map of the affected area;



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- Response from the Minister for Infrastructure to Committee correspondence requesting information on how the Department is encouraging stakeholders to respond to the consultation to provide the perspective of those operating in NI;
- Response from the Minister for Infrastructure to Committee correspondence requesting a breakdown of how the remaining funding of £154.2m will be allocated;
- Response from the Minister of Finance to Committee correspondence thanking him for his work as former Minister for Infrastructure;
- Correspondence from the Committee for Education sharing the response from the Department of Education with regard to zero emissions vehicles and fleet management; and
- Press Release from McCann Public Relations regarding the delay in court proceedings for the North South Interconnector.

8. Draft Budget 2025-26 - Consideration of draft response to the Committee for Finance

The Committee considered its draft response to the Committee for Finance on the Draft Budget 2025-26.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the response as amended and to forward it to the Committee for Finance.

9. SR 2025-16 The Kinard Park, Garvagh (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2025

The Committee considered SR 2025-16 The Kinard Park, Garvagh (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2025.

Agreed: That the Committee for Infrastructure has considered SR 2025-16 The Kinard Park, Garvagh (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2025 and has no objection to the rule.



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10. Subordinate Legislation – SL1s Not subject to Assembly Procedure

The Committee noted the following proposal for a Statutory Rule, which is not subject to Assembly Proceedings:

- SL1 - The Prohibition of Right-Hand Turn (Carrickfergus) Order (Northern Ireland) 2025.

11. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the draft Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: To proceed with the scheduled evidence as set out in the draft Forward Work Programme, subject to any changes agreed during the meeting.

12. Any Other Business

None.

13. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 5 March 2025 at 10:00 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 am.



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Mrs Deborah Erskine
Chairperson, Committee for Infrastructure
5 March 2025