



COMMITTEE FOR THE ECONOMY

RECORD OF DECISIONS

17 FEBRUARY 2021

This Record of Decisions was made under:

Assembly Standing Order 115. Temporary provision for statutory committees

(1) This Standing Order contains temporary provisions relating to committees established under Standing Order 48, and supersedes paragraphs (3) - (6) of Standing Order 46 and paragraphs (5) and (7) of Standing Order 49.

(8) A committee may agree to make decisions (including a decision not to meet) without meeting.

The Committee for the Economy agreed that decisions on business items not addressed, due to time constraints, at its meeting on 2nd December 2020 would be dealt with via email correspondence.

(9) This paragraph applies where a committee has agreed, or proposes to make, a decision without meeting:

a) Before a decision is to be taken, the chairperson must:

(i) inform members of the subject matter of the decision;

(ii) provide members with such supporting information as the chairperson considers relevant;

(iii) allow a reasonable time for members to consider the subject matter and supporting information; and

seek consensus among members on the decision.

This Record of Decisions is made with reference to paragraphs (9) and (12) above and below.

(12) A general record of the proceedings of a committee shall be maintained by the Committee Clerk.

AGREEMENT WAS RECEIVED BY CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Dr Caoímhe Archibald (Chairperson)
Ms Sinéad McLaughlin (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Gordon Dunne MBE
Mr Gary Middleton
Mr John O'Dowd
Mr Christopher Stalford
Mr John Stewart
Mr Stewart Dickson
Ms Claire Sugden

7. Matters Arising

Noted: Members noted a response from the Department regarding the student loans application process.

Noted: Members noted a response from the Department regarding BTEC Level 5 courses.

Agreed: to forward the response onto the original correspondent.

Noted: Members noted a response from the Department regarding support schemes for Chambers of Commerce.

Noted: Members noted a response from the UK Minister for Universities regarding fees, accommodation and mental health.

Noted: Members noted a response from Belfast Metropolitan College regarding reasonable adjustment for BTEC level 5 courses.

Agreed: to forward this response onto the student who raised the issue.

Noted: Members noted a response from the Ulster University regarding the impact of Covid-19 on the “University Experience” and accessing resources.

Agreed: to forward this response onto the student who raised the issue.

Noted: Members noted a Departmental written briefing regarding the outcome of January Monitoring.

Noted: Members noted a response from Stranmillis UC regarding the management of Admissions for September 2021.

Noted: Members noted a House of Commons Library paper on the Shared Prosperity Fund.

12. Correspondence

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Assembly's EU Affairs Manager regarding a Manufacturing NI report of the NI Protocol.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Clerk of the TEO Committee regarding Invest NI.

Agreed: to respond to the TEO Committee indicating that the Committee has not engaged in monitoring of the international offices operated by Invest NI.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Infrastructure regarding broadband provision.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance to the Minister for the Economy regarding Covid-19 support schemes.

Agreed: to respond to the Finance Committee high lightening the work of this Committee in this area.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from Rachael Woods MLA regarding a PMB to legislate on statutory paid leave for victims and survivors of domestic abuse.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from St John's Ambulance NI regarding their annual accounts and issues of getting them verified.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from two students regarding the Student Disruption Bursary.

Agreed: to forward to the Department for comment.

Noted: Members noted the CBI NI's Covid-19 Emergency Working Group notes from 10th February 2021.

Noted: Members noted the Twenty-third Report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules 2020-2021.

Noted: Members noted the Twenty-fourth Report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules 2021-2021.

Noted: Members noted a response from the Minister to the Chair of the Committee for Infrastructure regarding the impact of EU Exit on the retail and haulage sector.

Agreed: to forward this correspondence on to the stakeholders who are briefing the Committee next week.

Agreed: to seek an update from the Department regarding Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications.

Noted: Members noted the CBI NI's Covid-19 Emergency Working Group notes from 12th February 2021.

ENDS

Approved by the Chairperson via correspondence

Dr Caoímhe Archibald
Chairperson
Committee for the Economy

Date: 24th February 2021