



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE ECONOMY**

**RECORD OF DECISIONS**

**14 APRIL 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Mervyn Storey  
Mr Gary Middleton  
Mr John O'Dowd  
Mr Christopher Stalford  
Mr John Stewart  
Mr Stewart Dickson  
Ms Claire Sugden

### **7. Matters Arising**

**Agreed:** to write to the Finance Minister to ask what input his Department has to the design and distribution of the Community Renewal Fund and what approach is being taken in the other devolved regions.

**Noted:** Members noted a response from the Department on the status of maintenance grants.

**Noted:** Members noted a a response from the Department regarding what contact the Department has had with its counterpart in the South regarding the status of Erasmus.

**Noted:** Members noted a response from the Department regarding the Committee's request for a more detailed update on the work of the Economic Advisory Group.

**Noted:** Members noted response from Invest NI regarding the Committee's request for further information on Invest NI offices outside NI.

**Agreed:** to share the response with TEO Committee which expressed an interest.

**Noted:** Members noted response from the Department regarding the request for support from the NI Takeaway Association.

**Agreed:** to forward the response to the NI Takeaway Association.

**Noted:** Members noted a response from the Department regarding the proposed ring-fenced skills fund including whether it will sit across a number of departments.

**Noted:** Members noted a press release from the Department regarding the funding commitment for the Economic Recovery Action plan.

**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from the Department on the review of Voluntary Exit Schemes in FE Colleges funded under the Public Sector Transformation Fund.

**Noted:** Members noted a response from the Executive Office on the issues arising following the end of the EU Exit Transition period.

**Noted:** Members noted a response from the Executive Office regarding click and collect services highlighting that it has worked with retail bodies on click and collect arrangements and as part of the Pathway to Recovery.

**Noted:** Members noted a response from the Department for Finance regarding financial support for students.

**Noted:** Members noted a response from the Department for Finance regarding the establishment of a Fiscal Council and Fiscal Commission.

**Agreed:** to write to the Finance Committee to request the Committee receive a copy of the Hansard of the oral briefings once they are available.

**Noted:** Members noted a response from the Department for Finance providing further information on the NICS Apprenticeship Scheme and what is being done to promote careers within the NICS.

**Noted:** Members noted a response from HMRC following the recent oral briefing providing clarification on how the number of businesses that might use the TSS was estimated.

**Agreed:** to share the response with the AERA and Infrastructure Committees.

**Noted:** Members noted a response from HMRC regarding how the Shared Prosperity Fund will operate in the North.

**Noted:** Members noted a response from the Chief Executive of Belfast International Airport regarding the impact of EASA Professional Pilots Licences and Air Traffic Controller Licences requirements post EU Exit.

**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from an individual regarding financial support for exam invigilators.

**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from the University and Colleges Union regarding comments made by the Minister in correspondence to the Committee regarding the lecturer's campaign.

**Noted:** Members noted a copy of the SONI Governance Consultation published on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

**Agreed:** to include the consultation as part of next week's oral briefing from the Utility Regulator and to consider any further actions following that briefing.

**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from the Labour Relations Agency regarding a consultation on its Corporate Plan for 2021-25.

**Noted:** Members noted a copy of the Hansard of the Committee for the Executive Office oral briefing on Post-Brexit Transition.

## 8. Energy Strategy Policy Options Consultation

Members considered the Energy Strategy Policy Options Consultation paper.

**Agreed:** request a briefing once the analysis of consultation responses is available

## 16. Correspondence

**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure regarding her decision on a reserved matters application on 'Alterations and Extension to provide a bar/restaurant, landscaping and associated works at Ebrington Square, Derry.

**Noted:** Members noted a consultation from the Department on the Review of the NI Postgraduate Tuition Fee Loan.

**Agreed:** to respond to the Department indicating that the Committee notes the consultation and will consider the results of the consultation once they are available.

**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Justice seeking written evidence on the Damages (Return on Investment) Bill by 30<sup>th</sup> April.

**Noted:** Members noted a correspondence from the Committee for Finance regarding the British Government's Guaranteed Loan Recovery Scheme.

**Agreed:** to ask for a copy of the response from the Department of Finance once it is received.

**Agreed:** to write to the Department for the Economy asking for its assessment of how the Loan Recovery Scheme will apply in Northern Ireland and how businesses might be impacted.

**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance providing a copy of a letter it issued to the Executive Office seeking an update on the Executive Office's ongoing assessment of the nature and the quantity of EU legislation which is to be adopted in order to maintain the North's position in the EU's Single Market.

**Agreed:** to ask for a copy of the response from the Department of Finance once it is received.

**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from the Chair of the Finance Committee regarding budget scrutiny by Statutory Committees.

**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance regarding scrutiny of the banking sector and requesting a concurrent meeting on the provision of banking services.

**Noted:** Members noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for Communities to the Economy Minister regarding concern over access to postgraduate studentships for those individuals with a disability.

**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Communities to the Department for the Economy regarding the bid to host the World Cup in 2030.

**Noted:** Members noted a copy of the HSENI Retention and Disposal Schedule.

**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from the Renewable Heat Association regarding the University of Exeter Report on Energy Governance for the North.

**Agreed:** to arrange an informal meeting with RHANI.

**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from an individual providing a copy of their response to the consultation on the future of the Non-Domestic RHI Scheme.

**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from a business owner providing a copy of their response to the consultation on the future of the Non-Domestic RHI Scheme.

**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from the Fermanagh Beekeeper's Association regarding the importation of Italian-bred 'Buckfast Bees' into Britain via Northern Ireland by means of the Protocol.

**Agreed:** to forward to the Department for comment on the issues raised.

**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from an exam invigilator regarding lack of financial support.

**Noted:** Members noted a copy of the Airport Operators Quarterly Update.

**Noted:** Members noted correspondence from an individual regarding the payment to be made to universities and colleges to administer student support grant payments.

**Noted:** Members noted a report from Pivotal regarding ‘Retaining and Regaining Talent in Northern Ireland’.

**Noted:** Members noted a copy of the South West College Annual Report and Financial Statements.

**Noted:** Members noted a copy of the CBI Covid Working Group notes for March 2021.

**Noted:** Members noted a copy of the ISNI Investing Activity Report for the latest quarter.

**Noted:** Members noted copies of the Examiner of Statutory Rules Thirty-First, Thirty-Second and Thirty-Third Reports.

*ENDS*

*Approved by the Chairperson via correspondence*

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**Dr Caoímhe Archibald**  
**Chairperson**  
**Committee for the Economy**

**Date: 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021**