



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ECONOMY

RECORD OF DECISIONS

25 August 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 25th August 2021 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 Caoimhe Archibald (Chairperson)
Ms Sinéad McLaughlin (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Peter Weir
Mr Stephen Dunne
Mr John O'Dowd
Mr Keith Buchanan
Mr Mike Nesbitt
Mr Stewart Dickson
Ms Claire Sugden

5. Matters Arising

Noted: Members noted the Minister's response indicating he is keen to engage with student representatives as soon as possible.

Noted: Members noted the Minister's response regarding the Financial Services Union briefing.

Noted: Members noted a Departmental response to FSB's views on the reform of youth training.

Noted: Members noted a Departmental response regarding the reform of youth training.

Agreed: Members noted a Departmental response regarding ESF 3 Match Funding and agreed to forward it to correspondents who had raised issues.

Noted: Members noted a Departmental response regarding an investment conference.

Noted: Members noted a Departmental response regarding the Aviation Kickstart Scheme.

Noted: Members noted a Departmental response to a Committee query regarding current furlough numbers.

Noted: Members noted the Departmental view on the Small Scale Green Energy Bill introduced by John O'Dowd.

Noted: Members noted the Review of the Financial Accounting process which sees the Department having greater financial reporting accountability for its NDPBs and sponsored bodies.

Noted: Members noted the Final Outturn for 2020-21.

Agreed: Members noted an update on the Presbyterian Mutual Society and agreed to seek an update on the current status of an £18.5 million shortfall that was provided for in the January Monitoring Round as an Expected Credit Loss.

Noted: Members noted a Departmental analysis paper regarding the current state of the economic recovery.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Education Committee regarding the Student Covid Payment.

Noted: Members noted information from the Finance Committee regarding NICS vacancy management.

Noted: Members noted the Committee for Finance Report on its inquiry into an Independent Fiscal Council for the North.

Noted: Members noted the Chancellor's response to the Committee's request to extend the CJRS and SEISS beyond the end of September.

Noted: Members noted a UKG response regarding the need for a Tier 5 visa for language students to come here from the EU/EEA.

Agreed: Members noted a briefing from Ulster University regarding guidance for the beginning of term and agreed to ask the Department to engage with the HEIs on the return of students to campus in September.

Noted: Members noted correspondence regarding branch closures from the AIB.

Noted: Members noted holding response from the CMA regarding increases in freight costs.

Noted: Members noted a Ministerial response on the High Street Voucher Scheme.

Noted: Members noted a Departmental response regarding bureaucracy surrounding the movement of organic goods to the Belfast Food Group, and to note the DAERA response to the Group.

Agreed: to forward onto the AERA Committee and note their response.

Noted: Members noted two Ministerial responses regarding the English Language Training sector scheme.

Agreed: to continue to pursue this issue.

Noted: Members noted a response from Invest NI regarding the English Language Training sector.

Agreed: Members noted a Ministerial response regarding the Covid Student Support payment and agreed to bring the issue back to the Committee for discussion.

Agreed: Members noted Ministerial correspondence regarding an LCM on the Higher Education Cheating Services Prohibition Bill and agreed to seek the local HEIs and student representatives' views on the content of the Bill and whether they are content for NI to be included in the scope of the Bill. The Committee Office to prepare the skeleton of an LCM Report.

Noted: Members noted a Departmental response regarding the CCEA paper on a local Vocational Qualifications system.

Agreed: to seek a briefing from officials in the Autumn.

Agreed: Members noted a Departmental response regarding the introduction of the Subsidy Control Bill at Westminster and agreed to bring the issue back to Committee for discussion.

Noted: Members noted a response to the Committee's query regarding The Education (Student Fees Amount), Loan repayment & Support (etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2021 will apply to part-time students.

Agreed: Members noted a Departmental response regarding the Tourism Voucher Scheme and agreed to request a briefing on the issue.

Agreed: Members noted a UKG response regarding the UK Community Renewal Fund and agreed to forward the response to the Minister for his view.

Agreed: Members noted a UKG response regarding the EU Settlement Scheme and agreed to seek an update on the situation.

Agreed: Members noted a NIO response regarding UKG Funds extended to NI and agreed to forward the correspondence to the Minister for his view.

Agreed: Members discussed a visit to Magee Campus and agreed that the Committee Office to develop an itinerary.

9. Correspondence

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Committee for AERA regarding the Climate Change Bill No.2 Bill Call-for-Evidence.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from an Individual regarding the High Street Stimulus Scheme.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Chair of the Lords' Sub-Committee on the Protocol to Victoria Prentis MP regarding GI of spirit drinks.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Chair of the Lords' Sub-Committee on the Protocol to the Rt Hon Jesse Norman MP regarding electronic systems.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Chair of the Lords' Sub-Committee on the Protocol to Rebecca Pow MP regarding Waste batteries.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Chair of the Lords' Sub-Committee on the Protocol to Penny Mordaunt MP regarding Critical entities.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Chair of the Lords' Sub-Committee on the Protocol to Paul Scully MP regarding Machinery products.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Chair of the Lords' Sub-Committee on the Protocol to Paul Scully MP regarding dust accumulations.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Chair of the Lords' Sub-Committee on the Protocol to Paul Scully MP regarding Cosmetic products.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Chair of the Lords' Sub-Committee on the Protocol to Mims Davies MP regarding labelling and packaging.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Chair of the Lords' Sub-Committee on the Protocol to Matt Warman MP regarding Harmonised rules on AI.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Chair of the Lords' Sub-Committee on the Protocol to Jesse Norman MP regarding VAT.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Chair of the Lords' Sub-Committee on the Protocol to Baroness Vere regarding Vehicle safety requirements.

Noted: Members noted correspondence the Chair of the Lords' Sub-Committee on the Protocol to Baroness Vere regarding vehicle security.

Noted: Members noted the Forty-fifth Report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules.

Noted: Members noted the CBI NI July 21st 2021 Covid-19 Working Group Notes.

Noted: Members noted the HoL Sub-Committee NI Protocol Introductory Report.

Noted: Members noted the ONIEB Brussels Report April from June 2021.

Noted: Members noted the Northern Ireland Civic Voice report on Civic Giants.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Justice on the Call for Evidence regarding the Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Bill.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the EU Affairs Manager regarding ESCOM Critical Infrastructure.

Noted: Members noted a Justice Committee letter to the Economy Minister regarding DA Special Leave.

Noted: Members noted the latest ISNI Investment Activity Report.

Noted: Members noted the latest Departmental Monthly Economic Update.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Minister regarding Market Surveillance (NI) Regulations 2021.

Noted: Members noted LRA Annual Report and Accounts 2020-21.

Noted: Members noted the Departmental HE Statistical Fact Sheets.

Noted: Members noted the NI Chamber of Commerce QES Report for Q2.

Noted: Members noted the latest Departmental Monthly Economic Update.

ENDS

Approved by the Chairperson via correspondence

Dr Caoimhe Archibald
Chairperson
Committee for the Economy

Date: 15th September 2021