



Northern Ireland
Assembly

**COMMITTEE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2020

THE SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA (Chairperson)
Mr David Hilditch MLA (Deputy-Chairperson).
Ms Martina Anderson MLA (*via Starleaf*)
Mr Roy Beggs MLA
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Mr Keith Buchanan MLA
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA (*via Starleaf*)
Ms Liz Kimmins MLA
Mr Andrew Muir MLA

Apologies: None

In Attendance: Mrs Cathie White (Assembly Clerk)
Mrs Alison Ross (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Vincent Gribbin (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Johnny Lawless (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr William Kinnear (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced in open session at 10:03 am.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairpersons Business

Agreed: The Committee agreed to the publication of Research Papers after consideration by the Committee.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to receive annual reports by email.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to reschedule its planned visit to Wrightbus until after Halloween Recess pending advice regarding holding external visits during Covid-19 restrictions.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to postpone its planned external meeting on 21 October and to hold the meeting in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings instead.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 30 September 2020.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Correspondence

Correspondence from Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland providing a copy of the Department for Infrastructure Investing Activity Report – September 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed note the report.

Response from Northern Ireland Water to Committee correspondence following the briefing on 16 September 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Correspondence from Translink providing a copy of the Translink – A Responsible Recovery document.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from the Speakers Office providing Guidance on the delivery of the Statutory Instrument element of the EU Exit Transition Period Legislation Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to the correspondence.

Correspondence from Mr Gianfranco Di Maio regarding Department for Infrastructure work on Larne Road, Ballymena.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Department for comment.

Response from the Minister for Infrastructure to issues raised during her briefing on 16 September 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Copy of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, Twenty-Second Report of the 2019-2020 Session.

Agreed: The Committee agreed note the report.

Correspondence from Northern Ireland Water providing a copy of the Northern Ireland Water Summary of Charges update.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the update.

Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Assembly EU Affairs Office providing a copy of the Northern Ireland – Common Frameworks Overview.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

Correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure regarding the planning application for the Adelphi Hotel, Portrush.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from Assembly Committee and Member Support Office providing details of an online workshop on questioning skills.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that Committee staff should schedule a workshop session.

Correspondence from Mr Richard Mezza regarding issues with the Advanced Driving Instructor Part 2.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and forward it to the Department for information and comment.

Correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure regarding the planning decision for the transportation and working of sand and gravel from Lough Neagh.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Copy correspondence from the Committee for the Economy to the Minister for Infrastructure regarding support for the coach and taxi industry.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Copy of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, Twenty-Third Report of the 2019-2020 Session.

Agreed: The Committee agreed note the report.

6. SR 2020-205 The Motorways Traffic (Amendment No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee considered SR 2020-205 The Motorways Traffic (Amendment No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020. The purpose of the Rule is to amend regulation 14(d) of The Motorways Traffic Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008 ("the Motorways Regulations").

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2020-205 The Motorways Traffic (Amendment No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules has no objection to the rule.

7. SR 2020-206 The Coolshinney Park, Magherafelt (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee considered SR 2020-206 The Coolshinney Park, Magherafelt (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020. The purpose of the Rule is to abandon an area of 35 square metres of former turning head commencing at a point directly adjacent to the southeast corner of the boundary of No. 10 Coolshinney Park, Magherafelt and extending for a distance of 17 metres in a north-easterly direction.

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2020-206 The Coolshinney Park, Magherafelt (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020, and, subject to the Examiner of Rules has no objection to the rule.

8. SR 2020-207 The Llewellyn Drive, Lisburn (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee considered SR 2020-207 The Llewellyn Drive, Lisburn (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020. The purpose of the Rule is to abandon an area of 44.5 square metres of road comprising footway commencing at a point 45 metres north-west of the junction of Llewellyn Drive and Llewellyn Avenue, Lisburn.

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2020-207 The Llewellyn Drive, Lisburn (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020, and, subject to the Examiner of Rules has no objection to the rule.

9. SR 2020-208 The Planning (Development Management) (Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee considered SR 2020-208 The Planning (Development Management) (Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020. These Regulations amend the Planning (Development Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 (S.R. 2015 No. 71) to extend the emergency period to 31 March 2021.

Agreed: The Committee considered SR 2020-208 The Planning (Development Management) (Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020, and, subject to the Examiner of Rules has no objection to the rule.

10. Briefing from the Police Service of Northern Ireland – Road Safety

The representatives joined the meeting at 10:13 am.

Assistant Chief Constable John Roberts, Police Service of Northern Ireland
Chief Inspector Diane Pennington, Police Service of Northern Ireland

The representatives provided the Committee with an oral briefing.

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

A question and answer session followed.

Mr Roy Beggs declared an interest as a member of the Carrickfergus Council Road Safety Committee.

Mr David Hilditch declared an interest as a member of the Carrickfergus Council Road Safety Committee.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the PSNI and the Department regarding a timetable for proposed SNAP legislation.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting information on the number of drivers on the roads in Northern Ireland each year for the past 10 years.

Mr Andrew Muir left the meeting at 10:51 am

Agreed: The Representatives agreed to provide details of how funding previously allocated to the RADAR Centre has been reallocated.

Mr Andrew Muir re-joined the meeting at 10:55 am

Mr Liz Kimmins declared an interest as a member of the Policing Board.

Mr Andrew Muir declared that he had previously worked for Translink.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their attendance.

The representatives left the meeting at 11:19 am

11. Departmental Briefing – October Monitoring Round

The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 11:20 am.

Ms Linda MacHugh, Deputy Secretary, Resources, Governance and EU Group
Mr John Irvine, Director of Major Projects
Mr Gary Boyd, Director of Finance
Mr Terry Deehan, Head of Financial Planning and Management

Mrs Delores Kelly joined the meeting at 11:20 am.

The Departmental officials provided the Committee with an oral briefing.

Agreed: The Departmental officials agreed to provide clarification on whether the Covid funding package for the bus, haulage, taxi and coach sectors is retrospective or for future hardship.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from the Departmental Unit implementing the Covid funding package for the bus, haulage, taxi and coach sectors.

Mr Andrew Muir declared an interest stating his step-father is the Quality Manager on the A6 project.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting that schools in high areas are added to the winter gritting schedules and that adequate funding is made available.

Agreed: The Departmental officials agreed to provide a breakdown of the money available for the replacement of street lighting columns by Council area.

Agreed: The Departmental officials agreed to provide an update on its gritting fleet replacement scheme.

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

A question and answer session followed.

The Chairperson thanked the Departmental officials for their attendance.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 12:14 pm.

Ms Liz Kimmins left the meeting at 12:14 pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from the Driver Vehicle Agency on MOTs and Driving Tests.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for information on the timeline and progress on the planned submission to the First Minister and Deputy First Minister to establish vires for the Minister for Infrastructure to bring forward a proposal for Covid funding assistance for the bus, haulage, taxi and coach sectors.

The meeting was suspended at 12:15 pm

The meeting resumed at 12:25 pm

Present: Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA (Chairperson)
Mr David Hilditch MLA (Deputy-Chairperson).
Mr Roy Beggs MLA
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Mr Keith Buchanan MLA
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA (*via Starleaf*)
Ms Liz Kimmins MLA
Mr Andrew Muir MLA

12. Briefing from Assembly Research and Information Service – Decarbonising Transport in Northern Ireland

The research officer joined the meeting at 12:25 pm. by Starleaf

Mr Desmond McKibbin, Assembly Research Officer

The research officer provided the Committee with an oral briefing.

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

A question and answer session followed.

Agreed: The Researcher agreed to provide information on the problems with the technology relating to Electric and Hydrogen Vehicles.

The Chairperson thanked the research officer for their attendance.

The research officer left the meeting at 12:52 pm.

13. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Draft Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme.

14. Any Other Business

None.

15. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be on Wednesday 14 October 2020 at 10:00 am in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Committee adjourned at 12:53 pm

**Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Infrastructure**

14 October 2020