



COMMITTEE FOR THE ECONOMY

RECORD OF DECISIONS

21 OCTOBER 2020

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 1st July 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

5. Matters Arising

Noted: Members noted the statement by the First and Deputy First Ministers on actions to reduce Covid-19 transmission rates.

Noted: Members noted a response from the Department of Finance on the disposal of public funds.

Noted: Members noted a Clerks Memo Clerk's on the informal meeting with LAMP.

Agreed: to write to the Minister regarding the issues raised.

Noted: Members noted several items of correspondence from LAMP.

Noted: Members noted a complaint to DfE in regards to the abuse of the petroleum licensing process.

Agreed: to write to the Minister seeking an urgent response.

Noted: Members noted the meeting agenda for the NI Business and Human Rights Forum.

Noted: Members noted an update from the Department regarding the NIRO.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Minister for Finance regarding support for the Coach and Taxi industry.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from Social Enterprise NI regarding the new restrictions.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the NI Chamber of Commerce regarding the new Covid-19 restrictions.

Agreed: Members agreed to forward the correspondence onto the Finance Minister highlighting the issues raised.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the NI Hotels Federation regarding the new Covid-19 restrictions.

Agreed: to write to the First Minister and deputy First Minister highlighting the issues raised.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Londonderry Chamber of Commerce regarding the new Covid-19 restrictions.

Agreed: to write to the First Minister and deputy First Minister highlighting the issues raised.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the FSB regarding the new Covid-19 restrictions.

Agreed: to write to the First Minister and deputy First Minister highlighting the issues raised.

6. Results 2020 and Covid-19

Members considered a number of papers in relation to the impact Covid-19 has had on students attending local Universities and Colleges at this time.

Agreed: Members agreed to write to the Minister highlighting the issues raised in the correspondence and informal meetings, and to urge the Minister to co-ordinate with Executive colleagues to ensure that students receive guidance.

Agreed: Members agreed to Write to the Health Minister regarding the need for guidance and raising mental health issues.

Agreed: Members agreed to Write to the Communities Minister to highlight the issues around Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs).

7. Departmental Consultation - Legislative measures to transpose Gas Directive 2009/73/EC as amended by Directive 2019/692 and implement consequential amendments to NI energy legislation from the end of the transition period following the UK's exit from the EU

Members noted the Departmental Consultation on the Legislative measures to transpose Gas Directive 2009/73/EC as amended by Directive 2019/692 and implement consequential amendments to NI energy legislation from the end of the transition period following the UK's exit from the EU.

Agreed: Members agreed to write to the Department to indicate that the Committee will act as "super consultee" and will seek an oral briefing on the results on the consultation prior to legislation coming before the Assembly.

8. Departmental Written Briefing: Energy Strategy

Noted: Members noted a written briefing from the Department regarding the Energy Strategy.

9. NIAO Report - Generating Electricity from Renewable Energy

Noted: Members noted The NIAO Report – Generating Electricity from Renewable Energy.

10. The General Consumer Council for Northern Ireland Annual Report and Accounts - 2019-2020

Noted: Members noted The General Consumer Council for Northern Ireland Annual Report and Accounts - 2019-2020.

11. Correspondence

Noted: Members noted a response from the Minister in regards the Heat Network (Metering and Billing) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 and the intention from the BEIS to bring forward the mentioned UK-wide legislation to ensure full compliance of the EU Energy Efficiency Directive 2012.

Noted: Members noted a response from the DALO on the update on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications.

Agreed: Members agreed to write to the FM and dFM to highlight the lack of progress on MRPQs in negotiations.

Agreed: to forward the update onto the Finance and AERA Committees.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance in regards to the provision of financial support for travel agents.

Noted: Members noted a correspondence from the Committee for Finance in regards to EU funding that has not been received yet.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance in regards to the proposed amendments of the Building Regulation (Northern Ireland) 2012.

Noted: Members noted a RalSe paper on the economic implications of Covid-19.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from a lecturer from the Ulster University in regards to requesting a meeting with the Committee to discuss the threat to part-time courses in the UU due to a proposed rise in fees.

Agreed: Members agreed to have an informal meeting with the lecturer to discuss the issues they have raised.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from an individual in regards to the possible under reporting of Covid-19 in the University Sector.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the National Museum of the Royal Navy in regards to HMS Caroline and concerns about the impact of such a long closure.

Agreed: Members agreed to have an informal meeting with the National Museum of the Royal Navy.

Noted: Members noted the Twenty-fifth Report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules 2019-2020.

Noted: Members noted correspondence from the NIA EU Affairs Manager regarding the future of EU Structural Funds.

Noted: Member noted the PAC Committee report on Major Capital Projects.

Noted: Members noted further correspondence from an individual in regards to the possible under reporting of Covid-19 in the University Sector.

Noted: Members noted the NI Hotel Federation report “Hotel Market in Northern Ireland”

12. Any Other Business

There were no items of business,

13. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Wednesday 4th November 2020 in Room 30, Parliament Buildings at 10am.

14. Issues impacting on the role of the University College Union Northern Ireland

Members considered correspondence from the University College Union Northern Ireland on issues impacting on its role.

Agreed: Members agreed to write to the UCU and the Colleges indicating that it would be inappropriate for the Committee to involve itself in a trade dispute at this point and to urge the parties to re-engage in negotiations.

Agreed: Members agreed to write to the Minister seeking an urgent update on the issues highlighted.

ENDS

Approved by the Chairperson via correspondence

Dr Caoímhe Archibald
Chairperson
Committee for the Economy

Date: 4th November 2020