



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**19 SEPTEMBER 2013**

**ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS 10.00AM.**

**Present:**

Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson)  
Mr Phil Flanagan (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mt Steven Agnew  
Mr Sydney Anderson  
Mr Sammy Douglas  
Mr Gordon Dunne  
Mr Paul Frew  
Mr Alban Maginness  
Ms Maeve McLaughlin  
Ms Sandra Overend

**In Attendance:**

Mrs Cathie White (Assembly Clerk)  
Ms Stephanie Mallon (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Nathan McVeigh (Clerical Supervisor)  
Ms Jacqueline Holt (Clerical Officer)

**Apologies:**

Ms Sue Ramsey

*The meeting began at 10.12am in public session:*

**1. Apologies**

Apologies are detailed above.

## **2. Chairperson's Business**

The Chairperson congratulated Ms Maeve McLaughlin on her appointment as Chairperson to the Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

The Chairperson informed members that Mr Sydney Anderson and Mr Sammy Douglas were replacing Mr Stephen Moutray and Mr Robin Newton on the Committee.

*Agreed:* that a letter of thanks will be sent to Mr Moutray and Mr Newton noting their commitment and contribution to the work of the Committee.

The Chairperson informed members that they must declare any interest held by them which are relevant to the work of the Committee.

*Mr Agnew declared an interest as a shareholder in a community wind farm.*

*Mr Douglas declared an interest as a trustee of Titanic Foundation Limited, Director of East Belfast Enterprise and Director of East Belfast Partnership.*

The Chairperson informed members that records of members' attendance were sent to them last week.

The Chairperson informed members that the electronic packs are now available directly to members' tablets.

The Chairperson informed members that Jennifer Pyper has been confirmed as the new Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation.

*Agreed:* to write to Ms Pyper congratulating her on her new position.

*Agreed:* to write to Mr Lynch noting his contribution as Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation.

The Chairperson informed members that the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development are going to carry out a review on what more can be done to improve farm safety.

*Agreed:* that the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development take the lead on this matter.

Members considered a letter from OFCOM regarding co-hosting an event with the Culture, Arts and Leisure Committee.

*Agreed:* that the Committee would co-host this event and for the Chair to open or close the proceedings.

The Chairperson informed members that an invitation has been extended to the Chairperson, deputy Chairperson and Clerk to attend a seminar organised by the Attorney General's office.

*Agreed:* that the Committee is content for those invited to attend the event.

The Chairperson informed members that an invitation has been extended to the Chairperson to attend a Northern Ireland Assembly Business Trust informal dinner.

*Agreed:* that the Committee are content for the Chairperson to attend this event.

The Chairperson informed members that an invitation has been extended to the Committee to attend the Momentum Digital Summit.

The Chairperson informed members that thanks has been received from the CultureTECH organisers for the participation of those members who attended the event in Derry/Londonderry last week.

The Chairperson informed members that the mobile operator Three has abolished international roaming charges between the UK and seven other countries, including the Republic of Ireland.

*Agreed:* to write to Three commending them for their decision and seeking further details, specifically regarding the impact the change will have on those living in border areas and their plans to improve services and upgrade their signal.

The Chairperson informed members that it was necessary to schedule an additional meeting to plan the Forward Work Programme.

*Agreed:* that the Committee will hold an informal meeting to plan the forward work programme on Tuesday 24 September.

### **3. Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 4 July 2013.**

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the meeting on 4 July were agreed.

### **4. Matters Arising**

Members considered the Department's response to Committee queries regarding the Programme for Government Progress Report.

*Phil Flanagan joined the meeting at 10.28am*

*Agreed:* To ask the Department for a breakdown of the locations where jobs are promoted and what type of jobs these are, what work has been done to promote the 13 300 jobs, of the jobs that are promoted, how many become actual jobs, what types of jobs have resulted from the £784m secured, How have INI changed tack considering the economic climate and the presenting factors which have caused the reduction in targets, how accurate are these figures, more information on what the 'slowness' is and how it can be remedied, why is there a significant delay in getting Tourism figures, particularly in comparison to RoI and an update on what engagement has happened on the agri-food strategy between DETI and DARD.

Members considered the Department's response to Committee queries regarding the 2012-13 DETI Operating Plan outturn figures.

*Agreed:* To ask the Department what is being done to mitigate against the slippage and when will it be remedied, which departments is point 2 referring to and what level of commitment has been established with each, more information on the uncertainty in the development of the Enterprise strategy and what the delay is, what the difficulties are in getting baseline information, are farms included as small businesses, what has caused a reduction of 25% and what action has been taken to fill vacancies.

Members considered the Department's response to Committee queries regarding delays in drawing down Research and Development funds.

*Agreed:* To ask the Department to ensure that all correspondence to the Committee has the author clearly listed.

Members considered the Department's response to Committee queries regarding Portadown Diamond Credit Union.

*Agreed:* To ask the Department to provide the assessment and to clarify if there are any historic cases, rather than just those at the time of making the assessment.

Members considered the Department's response to Committee queries regarding the local film and television industry.

*Agreed:* To advise the Department that more should be made of this achievement.

*Agreed:* to forward the response to the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure for information.

Members considered the Department's response to Committee queries regarding trade missions.

*Agreed:* that members are content for Invest NI to co-ordinate the Committee's participation.

Members considered a response from OFMDFM regarding electricity costs.

*Agreed:* that the response is included in the Committee's Electricity Policy Review.

Members considered the Department's response to Committee queries regarding Titanic replacement activity.

*Agreed:* to ask the Department for sight of the legal advice they received.

Members considered the Department's response to Committee queries regarding networks for social entrepreneurs.

*Agreed:* To ask the Department to advise when this report will be ready.

Members considered the Department's response to Committee queries regarding Connecting Europe funding.

*Agreed:* To ask the Department for an update and more details on what they are doing regarding telecoms.

Members considered a letter from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development regarding Horizon 2020.

*Agreed:* to forward the letter to the Agri-food Strategy Board, the UFU and NIAPA for information.

*Agreed:* that the Committee would consider the action plan at its meeting on 7 November when it is due to be briefed by the North-South Steering Group on Horizon 2020.

*Agreed:* to forward the action plan to the Committee for Employment and Learning.

*Agreed:* that the Committee would consider a visit to Dublin to learn more about small business success with Framework Programme 7.

Members considered the Department's response regarding the ni2012 Evaluation Report.

*Agreed:* that this topic would be tabled as a substantive item at a future meeting.

*Agreed:* To ask the Department to give details on how much funding each project was given and for information on which projects were unsuccessful in securing funding.

*Agreed:* To ask the Department to give an update on what is happening to the Free Derry Museum.

Members considered a response from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety regarding connected health.

*Agreed:* that the Committee would consider a visit to the University of Ulster to see the Northern Ireland Connected Health Innovation Centre and hold a Committee meeting there.

*Agreed:* that the Committee would invite members of the Health Committee to join the visit to the Northern Ireland Connected Health Innovation Centre.

## **5. Electricity Policy Review - Oral Briefing from Confederation of Business Industry**

*Representatives joined the meeting at 11.00am*

Members received an oral briefing from Colin Walsh, Vice-Chairman, CBI Northern Ireland, Declan Billington, Managing Director, John Thompsons and Sons and Nigel Smyth, Director, CBI Northern Ireland.

Key issues discussed included: the cost of electricity and the security of supply.

*Agreed:* that an invitation to the Committee to meet the Large Users Forum in CBI would be welcomed and that the CBI representatives are to provide information on what the implications of distortion, caused by two different systems, were for businesses in Northern Ireland.

*Patsy McGlone left the meeting at 11.44am*

*Phil Flanagan took the Chair at 11.44am*

*Patsy McGlone rejoined the meeting at 12.01pm*

*Patsy McGlone resumed the Chair at 12.10pm*

*Phil Flanagan left the meeting at 12.11pm*

*Paul Frew joined the meeting at 12.23pm*

*Representatives left the meeting at 12.28pm*

## **6. Electricity Policy Review - Oral Briefing from Single Electricity Market Operator**

*Representatives joined the meeting at 12.30pm*

Members received an oral briefing from Robin McCormick, General Manager, SEMO and Brendan O'Sullivan, Power Market Consultant.

Key issues discussed included: the cost of electricity and security of supply.

*Representatives left the meeting at 1.15pm*

*Agreed:* that the Committee would produce two separate reports for the Electricity Policy Review as there are two very separate aspects to the Review, namely pricing and security of supply.

*Agreed:* that the Committee would receive a briefing from management representatives of Ballylumford Power Station.

*Agreed:* to ask Action Renewables for a written briefing on the Electricity Policy Review.

*Agreed:* that the Committee would consider an updated Terms of Reference at the next meeting.

**7. Subordinate Legislation SR: 2013/199 The Employers Liability (Compulsory Insurance) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013**

Members considered The Statutory Rule and an explanatory memorandum which is subject to negative resolution.

*Agreed:* That the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment has considered SR 2013/199 The Employers Liability (Compulsory Insurance) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 and has no objection to the rule.

**8. Subordinate Legislation SR: 2013/208 The Electricity and Gas (Market Integrity and Transparency) (Enforcement etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013**

Members considered The Statutory Rule and an explanatory memorandum which is subject to negative resolution.

*Agreed:* That the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment has considered SR 2013/208 The Electricity and Gas (market Integrity and Transparency) (Enforcement etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 and has no objection to the rule.

**9. Subordinate Legislation SR: 2013/206 The Biocidal Products and Chemicals (Appointment of Authorities and Enforcement) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013**

Members considered The Statutory Rule and an explanatory memorandum which is subject to negative resolution.

*Agreed:* That the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment has considered SR 2013/206 The Biocidal Products and Chemicals (Appointments of Authorities and Enforcement) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 and has no objection to the rule.

**10. Subordinate Legislation SR: 2013/207 The Biocidal Products (Fees and Charges) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013**

Members considered The Statutory Rule and an explanatory memorandum which is subject to negative resolution.

*Agreed:* That the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment has considered SR 2013/207 The Biocidal Products (Fees and Charges) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 and has no objection to the rule.

**11. Legislative Consent Motion: Intellectual Property Bill**

Members considered the Legislative Consent Motion.

*Agreed:* that the Committee support the Legislative Consent Motion.

**12. Legislative Consent Motion: Energy Bill**

Members considered the Legislative Consent Motion.

*Agreed:* that the Committee support the Legislative Consent Motion.

**13. Insolvency Bill Consultation - Written Briefing from DETI**

Members considered a proposal to amend the law relating to the licensing of Insolvency Practitioners.

*Agreed:* to ask the Department for a briefing on the outcome of the consultation prior to the introduction of the Bill.

**14. 2014-15 Capital Budget Exercise - Written Briefing from DETI**

Members noted a written briefing from the Department regarding the 2014-15 Capital Budget Exercise.



**15. Annual Progress Report to the Equality Commission 2012-13 - Written Briefing from DETI**

Members noted the Annual Progress Report to the Equality Commission 2012-13.

**16. Onshore Renewable Electricity Action Plan 2013-2020 - Written Briefing from DETI**

Members considered the Onshore Renewable Electricity Action Plan 2013-2020.

*Agreed:* to ask the Department to brief the Committee on the Onshore Renewable Electricity Action Plan 2013-2020.

**17. Northern Ireland Tourist Board NI 2012 Evaluation Report - Written Briefing from DETI**

Members considered the Northern Ireland Tourist Board NI 2012 Evaluation Report.

*Agreed:* to ask the Department to brief the Committee on the Northern Ireland Tourist Board NI 2012 Evaluation Report.

**18. Interconnector financing models – Assembly Research Paper**

Members noted the Assembly Research Paper regarding interconnector financing models.

*Agreed:* to ask the Researcher to brief the Committee on the Interconnector financing models paper.

**19. Correspondence**

***Members noted the following items of correspondence for action***

- i. From the Minister regarding the outcome of the Regional Aid Negotiations and Northern Ireland's Assisted Area Status.

*Agreed:* To write to the Department noting the Committee thanks for all those who worked to retain the 100% Assisted Area coverage and to ask the Department to give its view on what impact the loss of the pre-defined 'c' region designation will have.

- ii. From the CEO of Advice NI regarding the Department's Insolvency Service advertising of Bankruptcy Orders in the Belfast Telegraph and a letter from Advice NI to the Department.

*Agreed:* to ask the Department for a copy of its response to this letter, to clarify the circumstances in which a bankruptcy would be advertised and in which publications and for a breakdown of the costs of advertising bankruptcy in each of the last three years.

- iii. From the Department regarding the prompt payment of invoices.

*Agreed:* to ask the Department for a quarterly update.

- iv. From the Minister regarding the Climate Change levy on natural gas supplies in Northern Ireland.

*Agreed:* to ask the Department to forward copies of responses from business to the Committee and to clarify what support is being given to businesses once the exemption expires.

- v. From the Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce regarding research into the Northern Ireland's export base.

*Agreed:* to ask the Chamber of Commerce and Invest NI to brief the Committee on their findings.

- vi. Members noted correspondence from Northern Ireland Independent Retail Trade Association regarding its members' experiences in banking.

- vii. From Airtricity/SSE responding to questions on income and profitability.

*Agreed:* to discuss this topic with the Utility Regulator.

- viii. Members noted correspondence from the Department of Finance and Personnel regarding the departmental savings delivery plans.

- ix. Members noted correspondence from the Department regarding the final outturn figures and budgetary performance for 2012-2013.

- x. Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Employment and Learning inviting members to a showcase event in the Long Gallery which promotes the role of apprenticeships in the Northern Ireland Economy, both as an alternative route to education and training and to gaining employment.

- xi. Members noted correspondence from the Department regarding the forthcoming Smart Specialisation conference on October 16-17.

- xii. From the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding the completion of Post Project Evaluations by departments.

*Agreed:* to ask the Department for clarification on the projects, their progress and deadlines.

***Members noted the following items of correspondence***

- xiii. From the Minister to the Committee for Education regarding the Renewable Heat Incentive and the potential for schools to avail of this mechanism.
- xiv. From the Minister for Education regarding the NI Science Park Connect report on Knowledge Economy Index research.
- xv. From the Minister for Employment and Learning regarding the NI Science Park Connect report and support for a skilled workforce.
- xvi. From OFMDFM regarding the Science Park Connect report and support for the aims of the research.
- xvii. From the Minister to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills regarding the launch of the three new call for evidence as part of the review of the Balance of Competencies.
- xviii. From the Minister to the Committee for Social Development regarding the call for evidence on the Licensing of Pavement Cafes Bill.

**20. Forward Work Programme**

Members considered the Forward Work Programme.

*Agreed:* to receive an oral briefing from the author of the Third Sector Mapping Report and from NICVA and SENI.

*Agreed:* that the Committee would hold an informal planning meeting on 24 September to consider and plan key areas for the Committee in the coming session.

**21. Any other business**

None

**22. Date, time and place of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **26 September at 10.00 am in Room 30 Parliament Buildings.**

*The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1.33pm*

**Mr Patsy McGlone**  
**Chair**  
**Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment**

**26 September 2013**