



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**14 NOVEMBER 2013  
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS 10.00AM.**

- Present:
- Mr Phil Flanagan (Deputy Chairperson)
  - Mr Steven Agnew
  - Mr Sydney Anderson
  - Mr Sammy Douglas
  - Mr Gordon Dunne
  - Mr Paul Frew
  - Ms Maeve McLaughlin
  - Mr Mitchel McLaughlin
  - Ms Sandra Overend
- In Attendance:
- Mr Jim McManus (Assembly Clerk)
  - Ms Stephanie Mallon (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
  - Mr Nathan McVeigh (Clerical Supervisor)
  - Ms Jacqueline Holt (Clerical Officer)
- Apologies:
- Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson)
  - Mr Fearghal McKinney

*The meeting began at 10.07am in public session.*

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies are detailed above.

### **2. Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 5 November 2013 and Thursday 7 November 2013.**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft minutes of 5 November 2013 subject to an amendment.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft minutes of 7 November 2013.

### **3. Chairperson's Business**

Members considered a report on Financial Inclusion from Liverpool John Moores University.

*Agreed:* that the Committee will consider the report during the Committee stages of the Credit Unions Bill.

The Deputy Chairperson informed members that the Chairperson has indicated that he would like to issue Christmas cards on behalf of the Committee to all those who gave evidence to the Committee in the past year.

*Agreed:* that the Committee is content with this approach.

The Deputy Chairperson informed members that a planning meeting to consider the Forward Work Programme for January to April has been scheduled for 3 December at noon in room 144.

The Deputy Chairperson informed members that the Chairperson met with representatives of the Open University.

*Agreed:* to forward the Committee schedule for its visit to Dublin to the Open University.

The Deputy Chairperson informed the members that a Letter of Offer is pending with the Museum of Free Derry.

Members considered a letter from Invest NI asking for the Chairperson's input on research into stakeholders' views in Invest NI.

*Agreed:* that the Committee is content for the Chairperson to participate.

Members noted an embargoed written statement from the Minister expressing her intention to review the Tourist Board.

*The Committee agreed to move to agenda item 6*

## **6. Matters Arising**

Members noted a response from the Department regarding Mineral Prospecting Licenses.

Members noted a response from the Department regarding the planned work programme for the SEIDWG.

Members noted a response from the Department regarding legal advice relating to Titanic replacement activity.

Members considered a response from the Department regarding renewable generation installations.

*Agreed:* to forward the response to the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development.

Members considered a response from Northern Ireland Electricity to the Committee's request for further information as a result of their oral evidence.

*Agreed:* that the Committee is content to include the response in the Electricity Policy Review.

Members considered the Terms of Reference for a special advisor on economic issues.

*Agreed:* to receive an updated paper from Assembly Research on potential sources of economic policy advice to the Committee.

Members considered the draft programme and business case for the Committee visit to Dublin on 5 December.

*Agreed:* members were content with the programme.

Members noted correspondence regarding Exploris Aquarium.

Members noted a letter from the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee to the Committee for Finance and Personnel outlining the Terms of Reference for its inquiry into banking.

Members considered a response from the Department regarding the proposed consultation document on the review of RIDDOR.

*Agreed:* to forward the response to ICTU and RoSPA.

*The Committee agreed to move to agenda item 3*

### **3. Half Year Results - Oral Briefing from Invest NI**

*Representative joined the meeting at 10.19am*

Members received an oral briefing from Alastair Hamilton, Chief Executive.

Key issues discussed included: the positive and encouraging results, jobs promoted, jobs created and exports.

*Paul Frew joined the meeting at 10.35am*

*Maeve McLaughlin left the meeting at 12.06pm*

*Agreed:* Invest NI to provide the Committee with further information regarding the 'exports to Great Britain, comparison in wages in real terms, breakdown in SME jobs, Trade Missions opportunities and accessing the Invest NI app.

*Representatives left the meeting at 12.08pm*

### **4. Oral Briefing from Glenfield Renewables**

*Representatives joined the meeting at 12.09pm*

Members received an oral briefing from John Boyd, Technical Sales Consultant, Glenfield Renewables and Richard Love, Chairperson, Northern Ireland Solar Trade Association.

Key issues discussed included: planning application delays and cost and the benefits of renewable energy.

*Sammy Douglas left the meeting at 12.32pm*

*Paul Frew left the meeting at 12.43pm*

*Sydney Anderson left the meeting at 12.43pm*

*Representatives left the meeting at 12.50pm*

*Agreed:* to forward the Glenfield Renewables briefing paper to the Department asking for comment on the points raised and asking for the reasons for the variance in processes.

*Agreed:* to forward the Glenfield Renewables briefing paper to Northern Ireland Electricity and the Utility Regulator asking for a written briefing on this subject.

*The Committee agreed to move to agenda item 7*

*Sydney Anderson returned to the meeting at 12.51pm*

**7. Northern Ireland Electricity Limited Price Determination – Written Briefing**

Members noted a summary of the Competition Commission report and a Competition Commission press release.

**8. Rugby World Cup 2023 – Written Briefing from DETI**

Members considered a written briefing from the Department regarding the Rugby World Cup 2023.

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

**9. Tourism Events Strategy 2014-2020 – Written Briefing from DETI**

Members considered a written briefing from the Department regarding Tourism Events Strategy 2014-2020.

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

**10. Draft EQIA on Gas Network Extension – Consultation**

Members noted the Draft EQIA on Gas Network Extension.

**11. Designation of provision of EU Regulations No 714/2009 and No 715/2009 as relevant requirements – Consultation**

Members noted the Designation of provision of EU Regulations No 714/2009 and No 715/2009 as relevant requirements consultation

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**12. Correspondence**

*Members noted the following items of correspondence for action*

- i. Members noted correspondence from the Department regarding Reach Enforcement Regulations.

- ii. From Resolute Public Affairs regarding a request to brief the Committee on the NI Hotels Federation Tourism 2020 report.

*Agreed:* that the Committee is content to add to future items in the Forward Work Programme for consideration after recess.

- iii. From the Committee for Employment and Learning inviting members to attend the Higher Education Showcase Event in the Long Gallery over lunch on Tuesday 19 November.

*Agreed:* that members contact the Committee Office if they wish to attend.

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

- iv. From the Committee Review Group regarding the review of the Committee System of the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- v. From the CBI regarding the publication of 'Our Global Future' report.

**13. Any other business**

The Deputy Chairperson informed members that there was an additional item of business.

*Agreed:* that the additional item of business would be considered in closed session.

The Deputy Chairperson informed members that the Assembly All Party Group on Science and Technology are holding an event on November 19<sup>th</sup> which includes a debate on security of supply.

*Agreed:* that the Committee Office will forward details of this event to members.

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

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **28 November** at **10.00am** in **Room 30, Parliament Buildings**.

The Deputy Chairperson reminded members that next week's meeting will be a members' development session with Politics Plus and will take place on **21 November** at **10.15am** in **Room 30, Parliament Buildings**.

*The meeting went in to closed session at 12.54pm*

**15. Electricity Policy Review – Closed Session**

Members considered the draft report for the Committee Electricity Policy Review.

**16. Lowlands Health and Energy Ltd – Connaught Carbon Neutral CHP and Balneotherapy – Closed Session**

Members considered confidential papers relating to Lowlands Health and Energy Ltd.

*Agreed:* to ask the Department for a redacted version of the papers for public release.

*Agreed:* to contact SEUPB to determine the number of economic appraisals undertaken by the initial appraiser for SEUPB; details of the rationale for the decision not to proceed with the first economic appraisal; information on what transpired to enable the second economic appraisal to be undertaken on the same project; and details of other projects for which second economic appraisals have been undertaken.

*The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1.39pm*

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

**28 November 2013**