



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

30 JANUARY 2014

ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS 10.00AM.

Present:

Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson)
Mr Phil Flanagan (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Sydney Anderson
Mr Steven Agnew
Mr Sammy Douglas
Mr Gordon Dunne
Mr Paul Frew
Mr Fearghal McKinney
Mr Mitchel McLaughlin
Ms Sandra Overend

In Attendance:

Mr Jim McManus (Assembly Clerk)
Ms Angela McParland (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Nathan McVeigh (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Jacqueline Holt (Clerical Officer)

Apologies:

Ms Megan Fearon

The meeting began at 10.18am in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted, as listed above.

2. Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 23 January 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft minutes of 23 January 2014.

3. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson informed members that he received an invitation from Nation Museums Northern Ireland to attend the opening of ELEMENTS.

4. Assembly Consent Motion: The Public Bodies (Abolition of the National Consumer Council and Transfer of the Office of Fair Trading's Functions in Relation to Estate Agents Etc.) Order 2014

Members considered an Assembly Consent Motion regarding the Public Bodies (Abolition of the National Consumer Council and Transfer of the Office of Fair Trading's Functions in Relation to Estate Agents Etc.) Order 2014.

Agreed: to consider the matter further during the oral briefing from the Consumer Council.

5. The role of the Consumer Council – Oral Briefing from the Consumer Council

The representatives joined the meeting at 10.26am

Richard Hill declared an interest as a board member of the National Consumer Council

Members received an oral briefing from Aodhan O Donnell, interim Chief Executive, Consumer Council NI and Richard Hill, Chairperson of the Consumer Council.

Key issues discussed included: the value of the Consumer Council to the Northern Ireland economy and the work the Consumer Council carries out on behalf of consumers.

Paul Frew joined the meeting at 11.06am

Gordon Dunne left the meeting at 11.31am

Agreed: that the Consumer Council provide the Committee with examples of responses to the GB consultation supporting the Consumer Council NI model, information on regulations regarding air travel for disabled people, a briefing on the car insurance market and a copy of the Stubbs report.

The representatives left the meeting at 11.31am

Agreed: To write to the Department asking when the Committee can expect to receive the Summary of Consultation Responses in relation to the CCNI

Agreed: to ask the Department for clarification regarding the remit of the planned remit of the Consumer Council in relation to the Public Bodies (Abolition of the National Consumer Council and Transfer of the Office of Fair Trading's Functions in Relation to Estate Agents Etc.) Order 2014 and whether the Consumer Council's remit will be the same as other GB consumer bodies.

Agreed: to check the Official Report of the meeting regarding comments made by a member.

Gordon Dunne returned to the meeting at 11.31am

6. Matters Arising

Members considered a letter from the Special EU Programmes Body in response to the Committee's request for further information on the INTERREG IVA programme forecast and delays to draw down of UK member state match funding to the projects.

Agreed: to follow up responses to Committee queries on this issue from SEUPB and the Department of Finance and Personnel.

Agreed: to forward the letter to the Department asking for a response regarding any of those projects that relate to the Department where there may have been a potential delay.

Members considered a letter from the Minister for Employment and Learning in response to correspondence from the Committee on the proposed closure of Exploris.

Agreed: to forward the letter to the Department for information.

Agreed: to write to the relevant departments supporting, in principle, Ards Borough Council proposal as reported in the press.

Members noted an excerpt from an article regarding the Chancery and Probate Liaison Committee.

Members considered a response from the Department to the Committee's request for information on the extent to which energy issues, including electricity, are discussed at North South Ministerial Council meetings.

Agreed: to consider this item under agenda item 12.

Members considered a response from Assembly Research to the Committee's request for views on the design and content of the DETI website.

Agreed: to forward the response to the Department.

7. Legislation: SL1 Renewables Obligation (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014

Members considered an SL1 regarding the Renewables Obligation (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Agreed: to receive an oral briefing from the Department regarding this SL1.

8. Topics within the remit of the European Commission Enterprise and Industry Directorate General – Written Briefing from Assembly Research

Members noted an Assembly Research Report regarding topics within the remit of the European Commission Enterprise and Industry Directorate General.

9. Correspondence

Members noted the following items of correspondence for action;

- i. From the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding an update from the Department of Finance and Personnel on the monitoring of Departmental Savings Delivery Plans for September 2013.

Agreed: to ask the Department for an oral briefing in regards to the rationale behind reduced marketing investment, through Tourism Ireland, to support firms through InterTradeIreland's Innovation and Trade Programmes.

- ii. From the solar PV company, SALIS.

Agreed: the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson to meet with SALIS and other members who wish will attend.

- iii. Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure regarding its Inquiry into 'Inclusion in the Arts of Working Class Communities'.

- iv. From the Committee for Employment and learning regarding its Inquiry into 'Post School Provision for Individuals with Learning Disabilities'.

Agreed: to ask the Department to copy its submission to the Committee.

- v. From a representative of the corporate law firm A&L Goodbody and WhiteRock Capital Partners.

Agreed: to schedule an oral briefing on the Growth Loan Fund and a written briefing on how NI companies can avail of the opportunities in China in the coming years.

- vi. From the Consumer Council raising concerns about the European Commission proposals concerning the rights of passengers in instances of flight cancellations and delays and cases of denied boarding.

Agreed: to write to the three Northern Ireland MEPs to state that the Committee supports the proposals and asking them to also support them.

Members noted the following items of correspondence;

- i. From the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure to the Chair of the Committee for Regional Development regarding the latter's Inquiry into the 'Benefits of Cycling to the Northern Ireland Economy'.

Members agreed to move to agenda item 13.

The meeting went into closed session at 11.53am

Patsy McGlone left the meeting at 11.58 and Phil Flanagan took the Chair.

Patsy McGlone returned to the meeting at 11.58am

The meeting recommenced in public session at 11.59am

13. Roaming - Oral Briefing from EU Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology

Members received an oral briefing from Mr Vesa Terava, Senior Official.

Key issues discussed included: inadvertent roaming charges.

The meeting was suspended at 12.16pm

The meeting recommenced at 12.21pm

Steven Agnew left the meeting at 12.31pm

Members agreed to move to agenda item 10

10. Any other business

Members discussed the planned visit to the Northern Ireland Science Park on 13 February.

Agreed: the Committee to ask NISP to show the short film shown at the ‘Stem is Cool’ event organised by the Committee for Education when the Committee visits.

11. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **6 February 2014** at **10.00am** in **Room 30, Parliament Buildings**.

The meeting went into closed session at 12.35pm

12. Electricity Policy Review – Closed Session

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

Gordon Dunne left the meeting at 12.55pm

Fearghal McKinney left the meeting at 12.56pm

Sydney Anderson left the meeting at 12.57pm

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12.59pm

Mr Patsy McGlone
Chairperson
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

6 February 2014