



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**27 FEBRUARY 2014**

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

Present:	Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson) Mr Phil Flanagan (Deputy Chairperson) Mr Steven Agnew Mr Sydney Anderson Mr Sammy Douglas Mr Gordon Dunne Ms Megan Fearon Mr Paul Frew Mr Fearghal McKinney Mr Mitchel McLaughlin Ms Sandra Overend
In Attendance:	Mr Jim McManus (Assembly Clerk) Mr Nathan McVeigh (Clerical Supervisor) Mr Jonathan Lawless (Clerical Supervisor) Ms Jacqueline Holt (Clerical Officer)
Apologies:	None

*The meeting began at 10.18am in public session.*

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were noted, as listed above.

**2. Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 20 February 2014.**

*Agreed:* The Committee Office to clarify a point on the draft minutes and return to the Committee for consideration at the next meeting.

**3. Chairperson's Business**

Members considered a revised agenda for the meeting.

*Agreed:* that members are content with the revised agenda.

Members considered correspondence from Lightsource regarding the proposed change to the NIRO for ground mounted solar PV.

*Agreed:* The Committee is to meet with Lightsource on this issue.

**4. Credit Union and Industrial and Provident Societies Bill – Oral Briefing from DETI**

*The officials joined the meeting at 10.22am*

*Phil Flanagan joined the meeting at 10.24am*

*Megan Fearon joined the meeting at 10.29am*

Members received an oral briefing from Jackie Kerr, Head of Business Regulation Division and Marie Turner, Deputy Principal, Company Law.

Key issues discussed included: the proposals contained within the Bill.

*Sammy Douglas left the meeting at 10.45am*

*Mitchel McLaughlin left the meeting at 10.52am*

*Agreed:* the Department to provide the Committee with further information in relation to deferred shares and the common bond and clarity on church based organisations being eligible to apply.

*The officials left the meeting at 10.53am*

**5. The work of the North South Steering Group on Horizon 2020 – Oral Briefing from the North South Steering Group on Horizon 2020**

*The officials joined the meeting at 10.54am*

Members received an oral briefing from Aidan Gough, InterTradeIreland, Ciaran McGarrity, DETI and Simon Grattan, DETI

Key issues discussed included: the role, targets and work of the North South Steering Group on Horizon 2020.

*Sammy Douglas returned to the meeting at 11.36am*

*Megan Fearon left the meeting at 11.42am*

*Fearghal McKinney left the meeting at 12.05pm*

*Sydney Anderson left the meeting at 12.21pm*

*Paul Frew left the meeting at 12.24pm*

*Sandra Overend left the meeting at 12.24pm*

*Agreed:* the Department to provide the Committee with an update on the progress of the implementation of the actions in the 2013 Horizon 2020 Action Plan.

*Agreed:* the Department to provide a copy of the Horizon 2020 Calendar of events when it is developed.

*Agreed:* the Department to provide details of the total value of FP7 projects involving Northern Ireland, the total value of FP7 projects involving both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and the amount of funding drawn down by Northern Ireland organisations in each of the above and details on the number of staff working in the two Departments, North and South, who have responsibility for Horizon 2020.

*The officials left the meeting at 12.29pm*

## **6. Matters Arising**

Members considered a letter from the CEO of the Ulster Bank indicating he is content to provide an oral briefing to the Committee on 10 April.

Members considered correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding the future of the Ulster Bank.

*Agreed:* to receive a briefing from the Ulster Bank CEO on 10 April and to invite members of the Committee for Finance and Personnel to attend this briefing and the briefing from the IBOA.

Members considered correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding its Inquiry into the Barroso Taskforce.

*Agreed:* the Committee draft a response to the Inquiry and consider at a future meeting.

Members noted a response from the Consumer Council to Committee queries following the briefing on 30 January 2014.

Members considered a response from Dr John Bradley regarding sub-regional economic data.

*Agreed:* the Committee Office to collate all information the Committee has considered relating to sub-regional economic data.

*Sandra Overend returned to the meeting at 12.39pm*

Members considered a response from the Department of Finance and Personnel to Committee queries on potential opportunities within the public sector for energy efficient projects.

*Agreed:* to forward the response to the Green Investment Bank, Carbon Trust, Energy Savings Trust and the Bryson Group for information.

Members considered a response from the Department to Committee queries on potential job losses regarding Teleperformance Newry.

*Agreed:* to forward the response to Dominic Bradley MLA for information.

**7. 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 – Assembly Consent Motion**

Members considered an Assembly Consent Motion relating 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, a Committee report on the Assembly Consent Motion and a response from the Department to Committee queries relating to the Assembly Consent Motion.

*Agreed:* that the Committee is content with the draft report and for the report to be published on the Committee pages of the Assembly website and a link forwarded to all members.

**8. Legislation – Consumer Rights Bill**

Members considered a written briefing from the Consumer Council relating to the Consumer Rights Bill, Consumer Council response to BIS consultation and a summary of consultation responses which includes the Department's proposed post-consultation decision.

*Agreed:* that the Committee is content with the proposals for the Legislative Consent Motion.

## **9. Electricity Policy Review: Part III Grid Connections – Terms of Reference**

*Agreed:* that this item of business is deferred to a future meeting.

## **10. Correspondence**

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

- i. From Assembly Outreach inviting members to meet with members of the Economy Committee from the Parliament of Jordon on 5 March.

*Agreed:* the Committee Office to confirm the date of the visit and email members with this information.

- ii. Members noted correspondence from the Minister regarding the transfer of the function of registrar of Northern Ireland credit unions and industrial and provident societies from the Department to the appropriate United Kingdom authority.

- iii. From the Chairperson's Liaison Group regarding cancelled briefings and late papers.

*Agreed:* to consider a draft Committee response at next week's meeting.

- iv. Members noted correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding a summary of the Joint Ministerial Committee meeting of 2 December 2013.

- v. Members noted correspondence from the Department to the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development regarding the Rural Broadband Infrastructure Programme.

- vi. From Antrim Borough Council inviting the Committee to hold a meeting in Antrim Castle Gardens.

*Agreed:* to add a meeting in Antrim Castle Gardens and Mid-Ulster to the list of future visits in the forward work programme.

**10. Any other business**

There were no additional items of business.

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

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **6 March 2014** at **10.00am** in **Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency, Newry.**

*The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12.45pm*

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

**6 March 2014**