



**ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**10 APRIL 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 Mr Paul Frew Mr Fearghal McKinney Mr Mitchel McLaughlin Ms Sandra Overend
Also Present	Mr Daithí McKay, Committee for Finance and Personnel, Chairperson (part of)
In Attendance:	Mr Jim McManus (Assembly Clerk) Ms Ciara McKay (Assistant Assembly Clerk) Ms Jacqueline Holt (Clerical Officer)
Apologies:	Ms Megan Fearon

*The meeting began at 10.15am in public session.*

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were noted, as listed above.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that Members of the Finance and Personnel Committee could ask questions to officials during oral briefings from IBOA and Ulster Bank.

## **2. Minutes of meetings held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014.**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014, subject to one amendment to paragraph 7 to include Lightsource.

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

The Committee noted the invite from The Duncairn Centre for Culture and Arts to its official launch on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014.

The Committee noted the media report on the new appointees to Invest NI's Board.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write a letter of congratulations to the new appointees to Invest NI's Board.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to sponsor an event on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014 to launch the Manufacturing NI book on Industrial Rates.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to delegate the authority to respond to Freedom of Information issues to the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, over Easter Recess.

*Mrs Sandra Overend joined the meeting at 10.20am.*

The Committee noted the arrangements to ensure all tablet devices are updated over Easter Recess.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule briefings from both NIRIG and Action Renewables on the Electricity Review Part III on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule an oral briefing from NICVA on the roundtable discussion on Economic Data.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to consider its Forward Work Programme to summer recess on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write a thank you letter to Bangor Aurora Aquatic and Leisure Complex following the Committee's visit.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to consider an oral briefing from Phil McDonagh, Economist, following his presentation to the NIABT, when agreeing the Forward Work Programme after recess.

The Committee noted an invitation to the European Advisory Panel meeting on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014 on Horizon 2020.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to consider Agenda Item 7 – Written briefing from DETI: Application by Tamboran Resources Pty Ltd for a 6-month extension to the date for the completion of Part 1 of the Work Programme under Petroleum Licence PL2/10.

**4. Written Briefing from DETI - Application by Tamboran Resources Pty Ltd for a 6 month extension to the date for the completion of Part 1 of the Work Programme under Petroleum Licence PL2/10**

Members considered a written briefing from the Department on an Application by Tamboran Resources Pty Ltd for a 6-month extension to the date for the completion of Part 1 of the Work Programme under Petroleum Licence PL2/10.

*Agreed:* to request Legal Advice on: whether there was any obligation on the Minister to inform the Assembly regarding the granting of an extension to the date for completion of Part 1 of Tamboran's work programme; and whether there was any requirement for this matter to be referred to the Executive.

*Agreed:* that the Clerk will check the Hansard of a previous Ministerial briefing to the Committee to ascertain whether the Minister gave a commitment to keep the Committee updated.

*Agreed:* to consider meeting over Easter recess, should the Legal Advice be received before the Committee's next scheduled meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014.

*Agreed:* to receive all correspondence between the Department and Tamboran.

**5. The Future of Ulster Bank – Oral briefing from IBOA**

Members received an oral briefing from Larry Broderick, General Secretary, and Séamas Sheils, Communications Manager.

Key issues discussed included: the impact that Ulster Bank's review will have on jobs, customers and local branches; concerns regarding outsourcing IT; and its outstanding report following IT failures in 2012.

*Mr Paul Frew left the meeting at 11.16am.*

*The representatives left the meeting at 11.18am.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to consider Agenda Items 6: Matters Arising and 8: Written briefing from the Consumer Council: Transfer of Responsibilities from Consumer Futures to the Consumer Council.

## **6. Matters Arising**

*Mr Paul Frew returned to the meeting at 11.20am.*

The Committee noted a written briefing from Royal Mail on its efficiency programme.

The Committee considered correspondence from NIPSA responding to the Committee's request to brief it on the review of the Consumer Council.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from NIPSA on the Consumer Council review when the Ministerial decision is known.

The Committee noted the Farm Safety Action Plan.

The Committee considered correspondence from the Minister on a proposed extension to other work places of the exemptions for Turban wearing Sikhs in relation to head protection.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to support the Minister in bringing forward a Legislative Consent Motion on exemptions for Turban wearing Sikhs in relation to head protection.

The Committee noted a briefing from DETI on Deep Geothermal Heat and Power Generation.

The Committee noted DETI's response clarifying the Committee's queries in relation to DETI's drawdown of funds and transparency of EU funding.

The Committee noted OFMDFM's response to the Committee's queries on the \$30m Pension Fund Investment.

The Committee noted the response from DOE to a Committee query on DVA job losses.

The Committee considered information from DETI on linear cycling tracks and the World Police and Fire Games legacy.

*Agreed:* to ask NITB what it is doing to develop cycling tracks; to forward a copy of the correspondence to the Committee for Regional Development as part of its inquiry into the benefits of cycling; and to ask DCAL for a copy of the World Police and Fire Games legacy report.

## **7. Written Briefing from the Consumer Council – Transfer of Responsibilities from Consumer Future to the Consumer Council**

Members noted a written briefing from the Consumer Council on the Transfer of Responsibilities from Consumer Future to the Consumer Council.

## **8. The Future of Ulster Bank – Oral Briefing from Ulster Bank**

*The representatives joined the meeting at 11.27am.*

Members received an oral briefing from Jim Brown, Chief Executive, and Ellvena Graham, Head of Ulster Bank Northern Ireland.

Key issues discussed included: the review of Ulster Bank and the impact on jobs, customers and local branches; investment in digital technology; and the on-going dialogue with RBS and the Regulator following IT failures in 2012.

*Mrs Sandra Overend left the meeting at 11.41am.*

*Mr Fergal McKinney left the meeting at 11.43am.*

*Mr Sydney Anderson left the meeting at 11.48am.*

Mr Sammy Douglas made a declaration that he is an Ulster Bank customer.

*Mrs Sandra Overend returned to the meeting at 12pm.*

*Mr Sydney Anderson returned to the meeting at 12.03pm.*

*Mr Daithí McKay left the meeting at 12.04pm.*

*Agreed:* Representatives agreed to provide to the Committee with a breakdown of its lending figures.

*Mr Sydney Anderson left the meeting at 12.18pm.*

*The Chairperson, Mr Patsy McGlone, left the meeting at 12.28pm. The Deputy Chairperson, Mr Phil Flanagan, took the Chair.*

*Mr Mitchel McLaughlin left the meeting at 12.38pm.*

*Agreed:* Representatives agreed to provide to the Committee with its total balance sheet.

*Mr Sandra Overend left the meeting at 12.51pm.*

*Agreed:* Representatives agreed to provide to the Committee with details on its staff incentive schemes.

*Agreed:* Officials agreed to consider the impact on Ulster Bank's ATMs from problems relating to Windows XP.

*The representatives left the meeting at 13.01pm.*

*Agreed:* to ask the Regulator for an update on its review of the IT failures of the Ulster Bank in 2012.

**9. Written Briefing from Assembly Research – Report on the Roundtable Discussion on Economic Data**

Members considered a written briefing from Assembly Research on its Report of the roundtable discussion on Economic Data.

*Agreed:* to forward the paper to the Department; and raise issues within the report with Invest NI during its briefing on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

**10. Correspondence**

*Members noted the following items of correspondence:*

- i. From SEUPB on Lowlands Health and Energy Ltd:

*Agreed:* to ask SEUPB for clarity regarding its figure of 3% for heat usage;

- ii. From a Member of the Public on Shale Gas Exploration:

*Agreed:* to ask the Department to forward its response to the Committee;

- iii. From Manufacturing NI on the Utility Regulator's consultation on NIE's payment security policy arrangements with suppliers:

*Agreed:* to ask the Utility Regulator to address its consultation during its briefing to the Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2014;

- iv. From the Consumer Council regarding its Personal Current Account Manifesto;

- v. From the Committee for Regional Development to the Department, requesting an oral briefing on its inquiry into the benefits of cycling;

- vi. From WRAP to provide a joint briefing to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment and the Committee for the Environment on an EU funded project looking at novel technologies to remove materials from a range of waste streams:

*Agreed:* to ask WRAP for a written briefing.

**11. Any other business**

Members considered the issues discussed during the oral briefing from the Ulster Bank.

*Agreed:* to write to RBS outlining the key points and commitments made by Ulster Bank during its briefing to the Committee.

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

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **1 May 2014** at **10.00am** in **Room 30, Parliament Buildings.**

*The Deputy Chair adjourned the meeting at 13.08pm.*

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**Mr Patsy McGlone**  
**Chairperson**  
**Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment**  
**1 May 2014**