



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

25 NOVEMBER 2014

ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, 10.00AM

Present:

Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson)
Mr Phil Flanagan (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Steven Agnew
Mr Sydney Anderson
Mr Gordon Dunne
Mr Paul Frew
Mr William Humphrey
Mr Danny Kinahan
Mr Fearghal McKinney
Mr Máirtín Ó Muilleoir

In Attendance:

Mr Jim McManus (Assembly Clerk)
Ms Angela McParland (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Nathan McVeigh (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Christopher Jeffrey (Clerical Officer)
Mr Peadar Ó Lamhna (Bursary Student)

Apologies:

Ms. Megan Fearon

The meeting began at 10:14am

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

2. Draft minutes of meeting of 18 November 2014

Agreed: the Committee agreed the draft minutes of 18 November 2014.

3. Chairperson's Business

Members received a draft paper on agreed actions arising from the visit of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation.

Agreed: members were content with the agreed actions.

Members considered correspondence from the Minister inviting Committee members to the 'Collaborate to Innovate' conference taking place in Dublin Castle on Wednesday 3 December 2014.

Agreed: members to inform the Committee Office if they wish to attend.

4. Oral Briefing from Northern Ireland Contact Point (NICP) Network

The representatives joined the meeting at 10:18am

Members received an oral briefing from Dr Simon Grattan, NI Horizon 2020 & NI Contact Point Manager, DETI, Ms Teresa Lennon, Head of European Research Development, Ulster University, Mr Tim Brundle, Director of Research and Innovation, Ulster University, Mr Dominic McLarnon, NI Contact Point for Energy, Mr Tom Edgar, Acting Head of European Research, Queen's University, Mr Scott Rutherford, Director of Research and Enterprise, Queen's University and Dr Lydia Lepécuchel, European Research Manager and NI Contact Point Representative, Queen's University.

Key issues discussed included: building awareness, capacity and partnerships within the Horizon 2020 programme in Northern Ireland, promotion of Northern Ireland Universities for research, the role of the Northern Ireland Contact Points, comparisons between the Invest NI and Enterprise Ireland Contact Points, collaboration within the network, collaboration between the Universities and Invest NI, regional economies, marine projects, Horizon 2020 within the education system and the establishment of Science Zones.

Agreed: to ask Invest NI for a written briefing on its collaborative work with the universities and Northern Ireland Contact Points on research and development opportunities within Horizon 2020, with a view to a possible oral briefing to follow.

Paul Frew joined the meeting at 10:27am
Danny Kinahan joined the meeting at 10:38am
Fearghal McKinney left the meeting at 10:44am
Paul Frew left the meeting at 10:47am

The representatives left the meeting at 11:24am

5. Oral Briefing from DETI : NI Economic Strategy Year 1 & 2 Monitoring Reports

The representatives joined the meeting at 11:26am

Members received an oral briefing from Mr Chris Stewart, Head of DETI Policy Group, Mr Diarmuid McClean, Head of DETI Economic Policy Division and Mr Alistair Pyper, Deputy Principal, DETI Economic Policy Division.

Key issues discussed included: corporation tax, job creation for north and west Belfast and west of the Bann, neighbourhood renewal areas, job creation within the Programme for Government, working with the new local authorities, collaboration with the NI Bureau in Brussels and the need to equip young people with skills to make them employable by working with Invest NI, the Department for Employment & Learning and FE colleges.

Agreed: to write to the Department with further questions.

The representatives left the meeting at 12:02pm

The meeting was suspended at 12:02pm for members' development.

The meeting resumed at 12:46pm with the following members present: Patsy McGlone (Chairperson), Steven Agnew, Gordon Dunne, Danny Kinahan and Máirtín Ó Muilleoir

6. Matters Arising

Members considered a response from DETI to the Committee's request for comment on correspondence received from the Body Shop Alliance regarding a campaign to inform customers that they have a choice of which vehicle repairer will carry out repairs to their vehicle following an insured accident.

Agreed: to forward the response to the Body Shop Alliance for information.

Members noted a response from the Department of the Environment addressing the Committee's concerns in regards to technologies used by the NIEA for the testing of ammonia and odour.

Members considered a response from the Committee for Employment and Learning in regards to concerns raised by this Committee following its visit to SDC Trailers.

Agreed: to forward the response to SDC Trailers for information and to ask if they have any comments on the content.

Members discussed the written briefing by the Committee Specialist Advisor which was considered at the meeting on 18 November 2014.

Agreed: to send a copy of Dr Budd's briefing to the Department and to the Committee for Finance and Personnel for their information.

Members discussed the Insolvency (Amendment) Bill.

Agreed: to ask the Department for the reasons why two issues will be addressed in a future Insolvency Bill rather than in the current Insolvency (Amendment) Bill.

The Committee noted that the Department hopes to provide a written briefing to the Committee on the January Monitoring Round on Monday 1 December for the meeting on Tuesday 2 December with officials on standby for an oral briefing for the meeting on 9 December.

7. Subordinate Legislation: Statutory Rule on The Health and Safety (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

Members noted that the Examiner of Statutory Rules has considered this Statutory Rule and has indicated in his report that he has no points to raise by way of technical scrutiny.

Agreed: that the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment has considered the Statutory Rule - The Health and Safety (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and has no objection to the Rule.

8. Subordinate Legislation: Statutory Rule – The Guarantees of Origin of Electricity Produced from High-efficiency Cogeneration (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

Members noted that the Committee has yet to receive confirmation from the Examiner of Statutory Rules on whether he has anything to raise by way of technical scrutiny.

Agreed: that the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment has considered the Statutory Rule - The Guarantees of Origin of Electricity Produced from High-efficiency Cogeneration (Amendment) Regulations

(Northern Ireland) 2014 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report, has no objection to the Rule.

9. Written Briefing from Hardscape Products Ltd and Ethical Trading Initiative: Responsible Product Procurement

Members noted a written briefing from Hardscape Products Ltd and Ethical Trading Initiative containing a response to Central Procurement Directorate on the ethical procurement of natural stone.

10. EU Matter Newsletter – November 2014

Members noted the EU Matters Newsletter compiled by the Assembly's European Officer.

11. Correspondence

Members noted the following items of correspondence:

- i. Correspondence from the Minister regarding an update in relation to the proposed Energy Bill and Common Arrangements for Gas (CAG) Bill.
- ii. Correspondence from the Minister regarding the Insolvency (Amendment) Rules.
- iii. A briefing paper from the Department regarding an application for a Mineral Prospecting Licence submitted by Islandmagee Storage Ltd.
- iv. Correspondence from the Deputy Chair of the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister to the Minister regarding a proposal by the Belfast Islamic Centre to build a new community centre in the Belfast area.
- v. Correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel requesting to be kept updated in regards the proposal for a Legislative Consent Motion for the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill: Assignment of Receivables.

Agreed: to write to the Committee for Finance and Personnel agreeing to keep it informed of any developments.

- vi. Correspondence from the Irish Central Border Area Network enclosing a copy of a letter to the Minister regarding telecoms improvement for the central border region.

- vii. A press release and briefing from the Financial Conduct Authority regarding the RBS/Ulster Bank IT failing.
- viii. A press release from Ulster Bank regarding FCA and PRA fine to RBS of £56m for IT failures.

12. Any Other Business

There were no items of additional business.

13. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **Tuesday 2 December** at **10.00am** in Room 29, **Parliament Buildings**.

The meeting concluded at 12:54pm

Mr Patsy McGlone
Chairperson
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

2 December 2014