



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

11 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
Ms Megan Fearon
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 Christopher Jeffrey (Clerical Officer)
Mr Peadar Ó Lamhna (Bursary Student)

The meeting began at 10.15 am

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Máirtín Ó Muilleoir to the Committee and informed members that a copy of the Register of Interests for Mr Ó Muilleoir will be provided to members when it becomes available.

Mr Ó Muilleoir had no specific interests to declare in relation to the meeting.

Members noted the Executive's agreement to the Department bringing the Legislative Consent Motion for the UK Small Business, Enterprise & Employment Bill to the Assembly.

Members agreed to the Committee receiving the next stage of financial scrutiny training, which will focus on the budget process, at the meeting on 25 November 2014.

3. Draft minutes of meeting of 4 November 2014

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft minutes of 4 November 2014.

4. Oral briefing from DETI: Insolvency (Amendment) Bill

The representatives joined the meeting at 10:18am

Fearghal Mc Kinney left the meeting at 10:30am

Danny Kinahan joined the meeting at 10:55am

Members received an oral briefing from Mr Richard Monds, Director, Insolvency Service, and Mr Jack Reid, Deputy Principal, Insolvency Services.

Key issues discussed included: outline of the bill and key provisions, licencing matters, code of conduct for insolvency practitioners, appeal mechanism to the Lord Chief Justice, the use of electronic signatures and the fast track system.

Agreed: to add to the list of those asked to give written evidence: The Law Society of Northern Ireland; The Institute of Chartered Accountants; and The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland.

The representatives left the meeting at 10:58am

Owing to a Remembrance Service within Parliament Buildings, the meeting was suspended at 10:58am.

The meeting resumed at 11:08am with all members present apart from Mr Fearghal Mc Kinney and Mr Danny Kinahan.

5. Oral Briefing from DETI: Legislative Consent Memorandum-Deregulation Bill

The representatives joined the meeting at 11:08am

Members received an oral briefing from Mr Diarmuid McLean, Head of Economic Policy Division, and Mr Martin Graham, Deputy Principal, Economic Policy Unit.

Key provisions of the Bill include repealing legislation no longer in use and tidying up the current legislation and spans DETI, DARD and DEL. Key issues discussed included: health and safety legislation, safety helmets, in hazardous occupations.

The representatives left the meeting at 12:18am

Agreed: to write to the Department seeking clarification as to who is liable should an individual receive an injury if that individual has opted out of wearing a safety helmet.

6. Oral Briefing from Invest NI: Half Yearly Progress Report 2014/15

The representatives joined the meeting at 11:19am

Patsy McGlone (Chairperson) left the meeting at 12:02pm.

Phil Flanagan (Deputy Chairperson) took the Chair at 12:02pm

Paul Frew left the meeting at 12:02pm

Fearghal McKinney re-joined the meeting at 12:13pm

Meagan Fearon left the meeting at 12:15pm

Sydney Anderson left the meeting at 12:26pm

Danny Kinahan re-joined the meeting at 12:50pm

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir left the meeting at 1:14pm

Members received an oral briefing from Mr Alastair Hamilton, Chief Executive, and Mr Mark Ennis, Chairman, Invest NI.

Key issues discussed included: recent job announcement within Northern Ireland, Research and Development investments, challenges facing Invest NI including the reduction in its budget, corporation tax, grade A office space, regional imbalances, foreign direct investment, SMEs and local firms, skills development and Invest NI organised trade missions abroad.

The representatives left the meeting at 1:16pm

7. Matters Arising

Members considered an update from DETI on Interreg IVa and V.

Agreed: to forward the paper to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation.

Members considered a response from DETI regarding the recent Committee query in relation to the Renewable Heat Incentive scheme and NIEA ammonia testing.

Agreed: to forward the response to DOE and NIEA for a response.

Members considered a response from The Consumer Council regarding the DETI briefing on Alternative Dispute Resolution Directive.

Agreed: to await the Westminster Government's response to the consultation exercise before considering this matter further.

Members noted correspondence from the Almac Group on the experience of the Almac Group and Almac Discovery at BIO and the benefits they gained from attendance.

Members noted a response from the Chief Executive of UK Trade and Investment regarding the Committee's request for information on UKTI's work with Northern Ireland.

Members noted correspondence from Coleraine Borough Council regarding renewable energy micro-grid storage in the Coleraine region.

8. Consultation: The Biocidal Products (Fees and Charges) Regulations 2015 – Proposed Change to Charging Structure

Members noted correspondence from the Minister in relation to the consultation phase of the Biocidal Products (Fees and Charges) Regulations 2015.

9. Written Briefing from DETI: Horizon 2020

Members noted a written briefing from the Department on Horizon 2020.

Agreed: to consider this briefing again when the Horizon 2020 Contact Points brief the Committee on 25 November 2014.

10. Written Briefing from DETI: Update on Executive's European Priorities 2014/2015 Targets and 6 Months Progress

Members considered a written briefing from the Department regarding the Executive's European Priorities 2014/15 Targets and 6 Months progress

Agreed: to forward the briefing to the Assembly EU Officer for information.

11. Written briefing from the Consumer Council: Update on ‘Switching Week’

Members considered a written briefing from the Consumer Council providing an update on ‘Switching Week’.

12. Correspondence

Members noted the following items of correspondence:

- i. From the Minister to the Chairperson of the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure regarding funding for the Ulster Orchestra
- ii. From Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful inviting Members to attend its Diamond Jubilee on Thursday 20 November 2014.

Agreed: to contact the Committee Office by 13 November 2014 if they wish to attend.

- iii. From Cookstown and District Motor Cycle Club (Road Racing) Ltd regarding the Tourism Events Fund not being opened for applications in 2015/16.

Agreed: to inform the Club that it is the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment that made the decision, not the Committee.

- iv. From the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding the Draft Budget 2015-16.

Agreed: to ask the Department for a written briefing on the breakdown of the budget allocation across the Department.

Paul Frew re-joined the meeting at 1:22 pm

13. Any Other Business

Members considered three items of additional business:

- i) Going for Growth Strategy

Agreed: to write to the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development regarding scope for joint scrutiny of the Going for Growth Strategy.

ii) AES Announcement

Agreed: to write to the Utility Regulator regarding the cost to consumers of the AES plan to provide additional electricity generation and how the figure has been calculated.

iii) Meeting Start Time

Agreed: the start time of the Committee meetings to remain at 10.00am and members to arrive promptly at 9:45am for the pre-meeting brief.

14. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **Tuesday 18 November at 10.00am** in Room 29, **Parliament Buildings.**

The meeting went into closed session at 1:28pm

15. Electricity Policy Review

Members considered the draft Electricity Policy Review Part III Grid Connection and agreed to formally agree the report at next week's meeting.

The meeting concluded at 1:36 pm

Mr Patsy McGlone
Chairperson
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

18 November 2014