



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

20 JANUARY 2015

ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, 10.00AM

- Present:
- Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson)
 - Mr Steven Agnew
 - Mr Gordon Dunne
 - Ms Megan Fearon
 - Mr Paul Frew
 - Mr Paul Givan
 - Mr William Humphrey
 - Mr Fearghal McKinney
 - Mr Máirtín Ó Muilleoir
- In Attendance:
- Mr Jim McManus (Assembly Clerk)
 - Mr Nathan McVeigh (Clerical Supervisor)
 - Mr Christopher Jeffrey (Clerical Officer)
 - Mr Peadar Ó Lamhna (Bursary Student)
- Apologies:
- Mr Phil Flanagan (Deputy Chairperson)
 - Mr Danny Kinahan

The meeting began at 10:20am

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

2. Draft minutes of meeting of 13 January 2015

Agreed: the Committee agreed the draft minutes of 13 January 2015.

3. Chairperson's Business

Members discussed a press article in relation to the rural road fuel rebate scheme.

Agreed: to write to the Treasury to ask what criteria were used and whether Northern Ireland was assessed.

Agreed: to forward a copy of the correspondence to the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development for information

Members noted a scheduling change to the Forward Work Programme

The Committee moved to Agenda Item Number 6

Fearghal McKinney joined the meeting at 10:25am

6. Committee Inquiry into Economic Growth and Job Creation in a Reduced Tax Environment

Members considered a proposal for the Committee Inquiry into Economic Growth and Job Creation in a Reduced Tax Environment.

Agreed: Members were content with the draft Inquiry proposal.

Members considered a draft request for evidence.

Agreed: To issue a request for evidence to the stakeholders identified in the proposal.

Members considered a draft public notice.

Agreed: To issue the public notice in the main newspapers and the Committee website.

Members considered a draft Inquiry timeline.

Agreed: Members were content with the draft Inquiry timeline.

Members considered correspondence from the Institution of Civil Engineers in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: To include the correspondence in evidence for the Inquiry

Agreed: Members agreed for the Chair to arrange a meeting with Alastair Hamilton, CEO of Invest NI to discuss the Inquiry.

Agreed: For the Committee Office to liaise with Assembly Research to issue a survey through Survey Monkey.

4. Oral briefing from Assembly Research: Foreign Direct Investment

The officials joined the meeting at 10:32am.

Members received a briefing from Mr Aidan Stennett, Research Officer, RaISe and Mr Daniel Donnelly, Bursary Student, RaISe.

Key Issues discussed included: Factors businesses consider when planning Foreign Direct Investment, difference of factors in developed and developing economies, economic clusters, knowledge transfer, quality of life and how European Regions manage their Foreign Direct Investment propositions.

The Meeting was suspended at 10:52am due to a plenary vote and statement by the Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Investment

The Meeting resumed at 11:52 am with the following members present: Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson), Mr Steven Agnew, Mr Gordon Dunne, Mr Paul Frew, Mr Fearghal McKinney and Mr Máirtín Ó Muilleoir.

Agreed: Members agreed to include the research papers in evidence for the Growth and Jobs Inquiry.

Mr Daniel Donnelly left the meeting at 11:55am

Paul Given joined the meeting at 11:55am

5. Oral Briefing from Assembly Research: Access to Banking

Members received a briefing from Mr Aidan Stennett, Research Officer, RaISe on Non-branch access to Banking Services.

Key Issues discussed included: Post Office Banking, Credit Union Services, Mobile Banks, Internet Banking and Telephone Banking

Mr Aidan Stennett left the meeting at 12:11pm

Agreed: Members agreed to arrange a meeting with Danske Bank officials regarding access to banking in areas affected by bank closures.

7. Matters Arising

Members considered a response from DETI to the Committee's request for further information regarding the Northern Ireland Economic Strategy Year 1 & 2 Annual Monitoring Reports.

Agreed: To forward the response to the Committee's Specialist Advisor.

Agreed: To forward the response to the Committee for Employment and Learning in relation to points 1&2.

Agreed: To forward the response to the Committee for Finance and Personnel in relation to point 5.

Members noted responses from DETI regarding the Committee's request for further information about the January Monitoring Round and Budget 2015-2016.

Members noted a response from the Department of Employment and Learning regarding the Committee's request for information arising out of the US Trade Mission in June 2014.

Members noted a response from the Department of Education regarding the US Trade Mission in June 2014.

Members noted correspondence from the Examiner for Statutory Rules regarding points of technical scrutiny for SR 2015/1 Gas and Electricity Order.

8. Written Briefing from DETI: Updates on the Report on the Inquiry into Renewable Energy and the Strategic Energy Framework Implementation Plan.

Members noted a written briefing from DETI regarding updates on the Report on the Inquiry into Renewable Energy and the Strategic Energy Framework Implementation Plan.

9. Written Briefing from DETI: Assessment on the Importance to Northern Ireland of Hosting the 2013 G8 Summit

Members noted the SIB Assessment Report of the Impact of the G8 Summit to Northern Ireland.

10. Correspondence

Members noted the following items of correspondence:

- i. Correspondence from BT and TG4 in relation to Northern Ireland customer access to the RTE Player and the TG4 Player.

Agreed: Members agreed to forward correspondence to OFCOM for an outline of the technical issues that ISPs need to do to resolve.

- ii. Correspondence from an individual regarding renewable energy.
- iii. Correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First and deputy First Minister regarding the Joint Ministerial Committee on the European Union.
- iv. Correspondence from the Committee for the Environment regarding the collapse of a wind turbine at the Screggagh Wind Farm in Co Tyrone.
- v. An invitation from the Department to the launch of the MATRIX Life and Health Sciences Foresight Report.

Agreed: Members to inform the Committee office if they wish to attend.

11. Forward Work Programme

Members considered the Committee forward work programme.

Members noted that an oral briefing from Tourism Ireland has been scheduled for the meeting on 24 February.

12. Any Other Business

There were no additional items of business.

13. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **Tuesday 27 January 2015 at 10.00am in The Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.**

The meeting concluded at 12:20pm

Mr Patsy McGlone
Chairperson
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

27 January 2015