



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

03 FEBRUARY 2015

ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, 10.00AM

Present: Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson)
Mr Phil Flanagan (Deputy Chairperson)
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)
Mr Nathan McVeigh (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Christopher Jeffrey (Clerical Officer)
Mr Peadar Ó Lamhna (Bursary Student)

Apologies: None

The meeting began at 10.14am

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Draft minutes of meeting of 27 January 2015

Agreed: the Committee agreed the draft minutes of 27 January 2015.

3. Chairperson's Business

Members noted correspondence and an invitation from OFCOM regarding its Annual Plan Consultation event taking place in Parliament Buildings on Thursday 10 February.

Agreed: Members were content for the Chair and Deputy Chair to attend the event.

Members agreed to move to Agenda Item 5

5. Oral briefing from DETI: Insolvency Amendment Bill

The representatives joined the meeting at 10.15am.

Members received a briefing from Mr Richard Monds, Director, Insolvency Service and Mr Jack Reid, Deputy Principal, Insolvency Service

Danny Kinahan joined the meeting at 10.24am

Phil Flanagan left the meeting at 10.25am

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir joined the meeting at 10.31am

Fergal McKinney joined the meeting at 10.34am

Key issues discussed included: A proposed new clause on Insolvency Practitioner Regulation being included in the Bill, a wider spectrum of sanctions available to DETI against Insolvency Practitioners, an update on work done by the Department since the last briefing on the Bill to the Committee.

The representatives left the meeting at 10.37am

Agreed: to forward a copy of the proposed new clause and a copy of the Hansard of the briefing to Mr Jim Allister QC MLA.

Agreed: to include the correspondence from the Department in the Committee report.

Agreed: Members are content that the issues raised under Clause 11 and Clause 14 have been addressed.

4. Oral Briefing from DETI: Innovation Survey of Micro-Businesses

The Representatives joined the meeting at 10.40am

Phil Flanagan re-joined the meeting at 10.40am

Phil Flanagan left the meeting at 10.43am.

Megan Fearon joined the meeting at 10.46am.

Members received an oral briefing from Mr Alan McClelland, Principal Statistician, Analytical Services Unit, DETI and Mr Thomas Byrne, Principal Economist, Analytical Services Unit, DETI.

Key Issues discussed included: Results of a new survey conducted by DETI, innovation amongst microbusinesses, barriers to innovation and partnership in innovation.

Agreed: Members agreed to raise the research with Alastair Hamilton, CEO of Invest NI when the Chairperson next meets with him.

William Humphrey left the meeting at 11.20am

The representatives left the meeting at 11.26am

6. Legislation: SL1 The Electricity and Gas (Ownership Unbundling) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Members considered the SL1 The Electricity and Gas (Ownership Unbundling) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 which is subject to negative resolution with a proposed date of operation during April 2015.

Agreed: Members are content with the policy proposals at this stage.

7. Matters Arising

Members noted a response from DETI to the Committee's request for further information regarding Security of Supply. Members also noted that the full Capacity Statement is available from the Committee Office.

Members discussed a response from DETI to the Committee's request for further information on Domestic PV Arrays.

Agreed: Members agreed to forward the correspondence to the Utility Regulator and to arrange a meeting with the Utility Regulator as soon as possible.

Members noted correspondence from the Department of the Environment regarding a response to the Committee for the Environment's request for further information from the Health and Safety Executive.

Members noted a response from DETI regarding the Committee's request for further information about Post project Evaluations.

Members discussed a response from the NIABT regarding the Inquiry into Economic Growth and Job Creation.

Agreed: Members agreed to hold a stakeholder event along with the NIABT as part of the Inquiry on Tuesday 14th April in the Long Gallery.

8. Consultation: Proposed Mines Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Members considered a consultation on Proposed Mines Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Agreed: to receive a summary of response following consultation.

9. Consultation: Approved Codes of Practice – Diving at Work

Members considered a consultation on new Approved Codes of Practice for Diving at Work

Agreed: to receive a summary of response following consultation.

10. Consultation: Approved Codes of Practice – Petrol Tankers

Members considered a consultation on new Approved Codes of Practice for Petrol Tankers.

Agreed: to receive a summary of response following consultation.

11. Consultation: Government response to Small Scale Banding Review Consultation

Members considered a consultation on a Government response to Small Scale Banding Review Consultation.

Agreed: Members agreed to forward the document to NISTA and Action renewables for comment.

12. Written Briefing from Consumer Council: Operating Plan 2014-15

Members noted a written briefing from The Consumer Council regarding their Operating Plan for 2014-15.

13. Correspondence

Members noted the following item of correspondence:

- i. Correspondence from the Minister regarding responses to Northern Ireland Farm Groups in relation to the Agri-Food Strategy Board.

Agreed: The Committee would raise this issue with the Minister at next week's Committee Meeting.

14. Any Other Business

There were no additional items of business.

15. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **Tuesday 10 February 2015 at 10.00am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.**

The meeting concluded at 11.41am

Mr Patsy McGlone
Chairperson
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

10 February 2015