



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

17 FEBRUARY 2015

ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, 10.00AM

Present:

Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson)
Mr Phil Flanagan (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Steven Agnew
Mr Gordon Dunne
Ms Megan Fearon
Mr Paul Frew
Mr Paul Givan
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:

None

The meeting began at 10:09am

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Chairperson's Business

Members noted that the Department has advised the Committee that the Export Stats and DETI Exports Action Plan scheduled for 03 March should be deferred due to the Department holding a meeting of the Exports Action Plan Working Group which will impact on the briefing.

Agreed: to defer the briefing.

Members noted an invitation from Outreach to all Committee Chairpersons to a roundtable discussion with the Latvian Ambassador on Monday 23 February.

Agreed: that the Chairperson attend this event on behalf of the Committee.

Paul Given joined the meeting at 10:11am

Members noted correspondence to the Chairperson from the Chief Executive of the Progressive Building Society with regards to the Corporation Tax Bill currently being debated in Westminster.

Agreed: Members agreed to ask Assembly Research to urgently prepare a research paper on this issue for the Committee.

Phil Flanagan joined the meeting at 10:15am

3. Draft minutes of meeting of 10 February 2015

Agreed: the Committee agreed the draft minutes of 10 February 2015.

4. Oral briefing from Manufacturing NI: Inquiry into Economic Growth and Job Creation in a Reduced Tax Environment

The representatives joined the meeting at 10:17am

Members received a briefing from Stephen Kelly, Chief Executive, Manufacturing NI, Con O'Neill, Chairman, Manufacturing NI, Niall Irwin, Director, Irwin's Bakery and Mark Cuskeran, Managing Director, SDC Trailers.

Key issues discussed included: Manufacturing NI's manifesto, key priorities for Manufacturing NI members, formation of an executive strategy with

education bodies on manufacturing, energy pricing, water charges, industrial rates secured in legislation, broadband provision, roads infrastructure, transportation costs, sectorial specialisms, and identifying skills gaps.

Megan Fearon and Steven Agnew joined the meeting at 10:19am

Danny Kinahan joined the meeting at 10:25am

Fearghal McKinney left the meeting at 10:27 am

Megan Fearon left the meeting at 11:16 am

Danny Kinahan left the meeting at 11:30am

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir left the meeting at 11:59am

The representatives left the meeting at 11:59am.

5. Assembly Research Briefing: Case Study – Foreign Direct Investment in the Republic of Ireland

Agreed: to defer this item to 3 March 2015.

6. Insolvency (Amendment) Bill: Scrutiny of the Bill

Members considered a Departmental response to the Committee's queries in relation to the Honourable Mr Justice Deeny's comments on the Insolvency Bill and the backlog of insolvency cases. The Committee also considered a copy of the proposed amendment to Clause 13 to be brought by the Department at consideration stage.

The Committee noted that the advised amendments from the Examiner of Statutory Rules to Clause 11 will not be available until the following week.

Agreed: to defer formal clause by clause consideration until next week when the Committee will have received the text of the amendment to Clause 11 from the Department.

7. Matters Arising

Members considered a response from the Department to the Consumer Council's comments regarding the implementation of the Directive on Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Agreed: to forward the response to the Consumer Council for comment.

Members noted a response from the Department to a Committee's query on the European Investment Fund.

Members noted a response from Invest NI to the Committee's query on its collaborative work with universities and NICEP on Horizon 2020 funding.

Members noted a press release from Power NI in regards to price cuts.

Members noted a response from the Department of Finance and Personnel in regards to Research & Development in Northern Ireland.

Paul Frew left the meeting at 12:03pm

Members considered a response to the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister with regards to the European Commission Work Programme 2015.

Agreed: Members agreed to forward the response to the OFMDFM Committee.

Members discussed issues relating to the Utility Regulator.

Agreed: to write to the Utility Regulator asking if, in the light of recent fuel price reductions, it has given any consideration as to how Power NI adopts it's hedging strategy.

8. SL1 –The Employer’s Liability (Compulsory Insurance) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Members discussed the SL1 – The Employer’s Liability (Compulsory Insurance) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

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

9. Written Briefing from Protect Our North Coast

Members considered a written briefing from the Protect Our North Coast Group.

Agreed: to forward the briefing to the Department for its views.

Agreed: to forward the briefing to the Committee for the Environment for consideration of planning and environmental concerns.

Agreed: to commission research by Assembly Research into the proximity of petroleum exploration wells to dwellings.

10. Correspondence

Fearghal McKinney re-joined the meeting at 12:08

Members noted the following items of correspondence:

- i. Correspondence from Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development regarding the Committee's Inquiry into Economic Growth and Job Creation.
- ii. Correspondence from the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure regarding the Health and Safety Executive's role in the provision/regulation of defibrillators.
- iii. Correspondence from the Committee for Social Development regarding the Northern Ireland Sustainable Energy Programme.

Agreed: to forward to the Department advising it to respond directly to the Committee for Social Development.

- iv. Correspondence from the Minister regarding the proposed UK wide Consumer Rights Bill.
- v. Correspondence from Arts and Business NI regarding the Allianz Arts and Business NI Awards 2015.
- vi. Correspondence from the OFMDFM Committee regarding the Joint Ministerial Council (Europe).
- vii. Correspondence from the OFMDFM Committee regarding The Children's Services Co-operation Bill.

Steven Agnew declared an interest in correspondence item vii. as the sponsor of the Private Members Bill.

Agreed: Steven Agnew to provide a written briefing for the next meeting on aspects of the Bill relating to the Committee.

- viii. Correspondence from the Department regarding the Registry of Credit Unions and Industrial and Provident Societies Annual Report 2013/14.

11. Any Other Business

There were no additional items of business.

12. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **Tuesday 24 February 2015 at 10.00am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.**

The meeting concluded at 12.11pm.

Mr Patsy McGlone
Chairperson
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

24 February 2015