



COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

10 MARCH 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 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:
- Mr Danny Kinahan

The meeting began at 10:11am

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

2. Draft Minutes of Meeting of 3 March 2015

Agreed: the Committee agreed the draft minutes of 3 March 2015.

3. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson advised members that the Committee is scheduled to visit the Centre for Cell Biology and Cancer Research at Queen's University Belfast on Thursday 12 March.

Agreed: to reschedule the visit due to members having other commitments.

Members noted a provisional draft itinerary for the Committee's visit to Stuttgart.

Members noted a draft invitation to the stakeholder event for the Committee's Inquiry, to be held on Tuesday 14 April in the Long Gallery.

Agreed: to issue the invitation through the Northern Ireland Assembly and Business Trust.

Phil Flanagan joined the meeting at 10:15am

The Chairperson informed members that the Department has advised that the paper on corporation tax from the Ulster University Economic Policy Unit, which was due with the Committee after the Christmas recess, is not finalised and is currently with the Ulster University.

The Chairperson updated members on the outcome of his recent meeting with the DETI Permanent Secretary regarding papers being provided late to the Committee.

Members considered the Assembly Research paper entitled 'Corporation Tax (Northern Ireland) Bill: Excluded Building Societies and Mutuals, including Credit Unions' which was tabled for members' information at last week's meeting.

Agreed: to forward the research paper to the Committee for Finance and Personnel for information.

The Committee considered an invitation to the Chairperson to attend the Irish League of Credit Unions' Annual General Meeting. The Chairperson informed the Committee that he would not be able to attend.

Agreed: the Deputy Chairperson to inform the Committee Office of his availability to attend.

The Committee considered changes to the Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: to make the changes and to review the Forward Work Plan at next week's meeting.

Members noted that the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee agreed its Report 'Northern Ireland: Banking on Recovery?' and that embargoed copies will be issued on Friday 13 March ahead of publication on 16 March.

The Committee moved to Agenda Item Number 5

5. Written Submissions: Committee Inquiry into Economic Growth and Job Creation in a Reduced Tax Environment

Members noted written submissions to the Inquiry which were received from: the Committee for Employment and Learning, the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development, the Committee for the Environment, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Department for Employment and Learning, the Department for Regional Development, the Department of Education, GrowNI, the Institute of Directors Northern Ireland, the Campaign for the Economic Regeneration of the Former Visteon Site and Mid Ulster District Council. Members noted a presentation by PriceWaterhouseCoopers to the Quarry Products Association on Northern Ireland corporation tax.

Agreed: to include the submissions in the evidence for the Inquiry.

6. Matters Arising

Members noted correspondence from NIE with regards to the Fair Head Tidal Generation Commercial Demonstration Project.

Agreed: to write to NIE to ask why the information requested is commercially sensitive and to inform NIE that the Committee is content to consider any commercially sensitive information as confidential.

Members noted correspondence from the Consumer Council regarding the Alternative Dispute Resolution Directive.

Agreed: to forward the papers to the Department for a response to the Committee.

Members noted correspondence from Moyle Interconnector Ltd regarding the Moyle Interconnector.

Agreed: to copy to the Department and to point out that the repair will be ahead of schedule and to ask for an assessment on the impact of the repair on the requirement for additional generation capacity post 2016.

Members noted correspondence from DETI with regards to the Northern Ireland Sustainable Energy Programme.

Members noted that the Committee had requested a point of contact in BT who has responsibility for the strategic planning of where green boxes are placed. BT has now provided details of a new point of contact and members received the necessary details by email.

Members noted correspondence from Ian Paisley MP and Jim Shannon MP in relation to the Committee's letter to the Northern Ireland Office regarding the impact of corporation tax devolution on Credit Unions and Mutuals.

7. Retention and Disposal Schedule for Employee Records for the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Members considered the Retention and Disposal Schedule for Employee Records for the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment.

Agreed: that the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment has considered the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment Retention and Disposal Schedule and has no objection to the Schedule.

8. Assembly Research Paper: Proximity of Petroleum Exploration Wells to Dwellings.

Fearghal McKinney joined the meeting at 10:31am

Members noted a research paper from Assembly Research regarding the proximity of petroleum exploration wells to dwellings.

Agreed: to forward to the Committee for the Environment for information and also to Protect Our North Coast and to upload the document onto the Committee's Hydraulic Fracturing web page.

9. Correspondence

Members noted the following pieces of correspondence;

- i. An Executive Summary of the North-South Tourist Retail Spend Survey from the Northern Ireland Independent Retail Trade Association (NIIRTA).
- ii. The latest report from the Department detailing electricity consumption and renewable generation in Northern Ireland.
- iii. Correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding the Northern Ireland Civil Service Voluntary Exit Scheme.

10. Any Other Business

There were no items of additional business.

The meeting was suspended at 10:34am

*The meeting resumed at 10:59am with the following members present:
Patsy McGlone, Chairperson, Gordon Dunne, Paul Frew and William Humphrey.*

4. Oral Briefing from the Institute of Directors Northern Ireland: Inquiry into Economic Growth and Job Creation in a Reduced Tax Environment

The representatives joined the meeting at 11:00am

Members received a briefing from Mrs Linda Brown, Director, Institute of Directors, Mr Mervyn McCall, MNV Limited and past Chairman of IoD Northern Ireland and Mr Bill Beers, Beers Engineering Consultancy and Member of IoD Northern Ireland.

Key issues discussed included: Welfare Reform, the IoD jobs plan, energy infrastructure, jobs in rural areas, skills deficit, political instability, transport infrastructure, communications infrastructure and public procurement.

Megan Fearon joined the meeting at 11:05am

Paul Givan joined the meeting at 11:20am

Paul Frew left the meeting at 11:40am

Paul Givan left the meeting at 11:56am

The representatives left the meeting at 11:59am

11. Date, time and place of next meeting

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

The meeting concluded at 12.00pm

Mr Patsy McGlone
Chairperson
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

24 March 2015