



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**14 APRIL 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 Christopher Jeffrey (Clerical Officer)  
Mr Peadar Ó Lamhna (Bursary Student)

Apologies:

None

*The meeting began at 10:16am*

**1. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

**2. Declaration of Interests**

There were no interests declared by members.

**3. Draft Minutes of Meeting of 24 March 2015**

*Agreed:* the Committee agreed the draft minutes of 24 March 2015.

**4. Chairperson's Business**

Members discussed the Committee's visit to Stuttgart.

*Agreed:* to ask the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels to report on the benefits of its participation in the visit.

The Chairperson informed members that an informal meeting with the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Council, to discuss its bid to host the Commonwealth Youth Games in 2021, has been arranged for 27 April 2015.

*Agreed:* members to contact the Committee Office regarding their attendance at the meeting.

Members considered correspondence from the Consumer Council Northern Ireland inviting the Chairperson to participate in its 30 year celebration.

*Agreed:* that the Chairperson participate as suggested in the invitation.

The Chairperson informed members that DETI press releases are currently forwarded to each member by the Committee Office and should any member prefer not to receive the press releases they should inform the Committee Office in order to be taken off the distribution list.

The Chairperson informed members that the Committee visit to CIGA Healthcare has been cancelled due to members' unavailability.

*Paul Frew joined the meeting at 10.20am*

*Phil Flanagan joined the meeting at 10.23am*

**5. Oral Briefing from the Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce: Inquiry into Economic Growth and Job Creation in a Reduced Tax Environment**

*The Officials joined the meeting at 10:24am*

Members received a briefing from Mr Kevin Kingston, President, Mr Stephen McCully, Vice-President, Ms Anne McGregor, Chief Executive, of the Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Ms Maureen O'Reilly, Independent Economist.

Key issues discussed included: corporation tax, jobs, broadband, grade A office and industrial space, infrastructure, access to finance, energy cost and supply, export base, KPIs, European Union membership, R&D investment, quarterly economic survey, enterprise zones, joined up government, promotion of agreed key facts and figures overseas.

*Fearghal McKinney joined the meeting at 10.29am*

*Paul Givan joined the meeting at 11.08am*

*Danny Kinahan joined the meeting at 11.22am*

*Máirtín Ó Muilleoir joined the meeting at 11.26am*

*Steven Agnew joined the meeting at 11.42pm*

*The Officials left the meeting at 11.49am*

**6. Oral Briefing from Northern Ireland Electricity: Inquiry into Economic Growth and Job Creation in a Reduced Tax Environment**

*The Officials joined the meeting at 11.50am*

Members received a briefing from Mr Nicolas Tarrant, Managing Director, Mr Peter Ewing Deputy Managing Director and Director Regulation, Mr Michael Atkinson, Head of Generation Connections and Mr Ian Bailie, Distribution Planning Manager, Northern Ireland Electricity.

Key issues discussed included: grid connection, managed connections for small scale generator connections, stakeholder communication, pressure points on the grid, rural network, forecast model, charging guideline, clusters, heat map, micro-grids, generation/load connections, Competition Commission Review, upfront payments by customers.

*Fearghal McKinney left the meeting at 11.51am*

*Megan Fearon left the meeting at 11.55am*

*Máirtín Ó Muilleoir left the meeting at 11.55am*

*Danny Kinahan left the meeting at 12noon*

*The meeting was suspended at 12.08pm due to a vote in Plenary*

*The meeting recommenced at 12.24pm with the following members present:*

*Mr Patsy McGlone, Chairperson*

*Mr Phil Flanagan, Deputy Chairperson*

*Mr Steven Agnew*

*Mr Gordon Dunne*

*Mr Paul Frew*

*Mr Paul Givan*

*Mr William Humphrey*

*Patsy McGlone left the meeting at 12.35pm*

*Phil Flanagan took the Chair at 12.35pm*

*Steven Agnew left the meeting at 12.44pm*

*The Officials left the meeting at 13.20am*

## **7. Matters Arising**

Members noted a Departmental response to the Committee's queries in respect of the Research Agenda for 2014/15.

Members considered a Departmental response to a query by the Committee in respect of the Moyle Connector.

*Agreed:* to ask the Department for details of costs associated with the repair, how it will be paid for and the expected impact on consumers.

Members noted correspondence from the Secretary of State in response to the Committee's letter of 25 February 2015 regarding the Corporation Tax (Northern Ireland) Bill.

Members noted a chart provided by Tourism Ireland which details their visitor and revenue forecasts for 2014 and their visitor and revenue targets for 2015. Members also noted a copy of Tourism Ireland's presentation promoting Northern Ireland and a copy of a research paper on visitors to Northern Ireland from China.

Members considered a list of issues and associated papers that the Committee had previously suggested raising with the Utility Regulator for the oral briefing on 28 April 2015.

*Agreed:* to replace ‘the design of NISEP’ with the ‘design of I-SEM’ on the list.

*Agreed:* to defer agreeing an Agenda for the Utility Regulator oral briefing to next week’s meeting.

Members considered correspondence in regards to a query by the Group ‘Protect Our North Coast’ on one point within the research paper commissioned by the Committee on the proximity of petroleum exploration wells to dwellings. Members also considered a response from the Department detailing its views on the issues raised by the Group.

*Agreed:* to write to the Group explaining the position in relation to their query on the research paper and also forward to the group the response from the Department.

Members considered a response from Invest NI regarding its decision not to bid for any land at the site of the former St Patrick’s Barracks.

*Agreed:* to discuss further at next week’s meeting.

The Chairperson informed members that a copy of the Insolvency Service Annual Report and Account for year ended 31 March 2014 was available for members to view in the Committee Office.

Members noted correspondence from RaISe regarding its research request on the possible reasons why IDA Ireland did not meet its regional targets.

Members noted a response from Tourism Northern Ireland in regards to its queries on Key Capital Projects.

Members noted a response from HM Treasury regarding the Government’s application to the EU to extend the rural fuel duty rebate scheme.

Members noted a response from the EU Affairs Manager in response to the Committee’s request for further information on the appointment of three EU Funding Ambassadors by the Welsh Government.

## **8. Written Submissions: Inquiry into Economic Growth and Job Creation in a Reduced Tax Environment**

Members considered written submissions to the Inquiry from Belfast City Council and Mid and East Antrim Council.

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

Agreed: to publish all of the Inquiry submissions received by the Committee onto the Committee webpages.

**9. Subordinate Legislation: SR 2015/159 The Insolvency (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 (Consequential Amendments) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015**

Members considered SR 2015/159 The Insolvency (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 (Consequential Amendments) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015.

*Agreed:* that the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment has considered the Statutory Rule SR 2015/159 The Insolvency (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 (Consequential Amendments) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 and has no objection to the Rule.

**10. Subordinate Legislation: SR2015/000 Energy (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015**

Members considered SR2015/000 Energy (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015.

*Agreed:* that the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment has considered the Statutory Rule SR2015/000 Energy (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 and recommends that it be affirmed in the Assembly.

**11. Written Briefing from DETI: Contract for Difference (CFD) Scheme Implementation in Northern Ireland – Strategic Issues Discussion Paper**

Members noted a strategic issues discussion paper for the Contract for Difference Scheme (CFD) Implementation in Northern Ireland.

**12. Written Briefing from DETI: Government Response to Consultation on Adjustments to Sustainability and Reporting Provisions for Biomass**

Members noted the Government Response to the consultation on proposed Adjustments to Sustainability and Reporting provisions for Biomass.

**13. Written Briefing from DETI: Horizon 2020 Progress Update**

Members noted a paper providing a progress update on Horizon 2020.

**14. Correspondence**

Members noted the following pieces of correspondence;

- i. Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Independent Retail Association (NIIRTA) in respect of a joint meeting with the Committee and the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation.

*Agreed:* the Clerk to liaise with the Clerk to the Joint Committee to organise a meeting.

- ii. Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Audit Office providing a copy of its report 'Conflicts of Interest: NIAO Good Practice Guide'.
- iii. Correspondence from Ofcom in relation to its Strategic Review of Digital Communications.
- iv. Correspondence from Enterprise NI in respect of its European research project entitled Value of Failure.
- v. Correspondence from the Committee for Employment and Learning in relation to the Youth Employment Initiative.

#### **15. Forward Work Programme**

Members agreed the Forward Work Programme.

#### **16. Any Other Business**

There were no items of additional business.

#### **17. Date, time and place of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **Tuesday 21 April 2015** at **10.00am** in **Room 29, Parliament Buildings.**

*The meeting concluded at 13.32pm*

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**Mr Patsy McGlone**  
**Chairperson**  
**Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment**

**21 April 2015**