



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

19 MAY 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 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 in closed session at 10:12am

Members began with Agenda Item Number 14

14. Committee Report: Inquiry into Growing the Economy and Creating Jobs in a Reduced Tax Environment

Members discussed the draft report, key issues and findings and recommendations for the Committee Inquiry into Growing the Economy and Creating Jobs.

Agreed: to include the NILGA paper and the press release on the Agri-Food Competence Centre in evidence for the Inquiry.

Agreed: to forward the draft Report to the Committee Specialist Advisor for comment.

The Meeting moved to Public Session at 10:28am

Steven Agnew left the meeting at 10:28am

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

2. Draft Minutes of Meeting of 12 May 2015

Agreed: the Committee agreed the draft minutes of 12 May 2015.

3. Chairperson's Business

Members considered an invitation to the Colleges NI Showcase Event 'Further Education – Key Driver in the NI Economy' which was taking place from 12:30 in the Long Gallery.

Members noted that a copy of the publication 'Our Global Future: The Business Vision for a Reformed EU', referred to by the CBI in their evidence session last week, is available in the Committee Office.

Members noted a request from OFMDFM for a copy of the report by the Committee's Specialist Advisor on the potential impacts of a British exit from the European Union. Members noted that the Head of the Civil Service and the Department have also asked to view the report.

Agreed: the report to be published on the Committee pages of the Assembly website and the interested parties informed.

Phil Flanagan joined the meeting at 10:30am
Máirtín Ó Muilleoir joined the meeting at 10:30am
Megan Fearon left the meeting at 10:30am

Members considered an Invitation to the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson from the Competition and Markets Authority to a reception with Board members on Monday 22 June 2015 at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Belfast.

Agreed: that the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson attend the event.

4. Oral Briefing from Invest NI : End of Year Report 2014/15

The Representatives joined the meeting at 10:31am

Members received a briefing from Mr Alastair Hamilton, Chief Executive, Invest NI and Mr Mark Ennis, Chairman, Invest NI.

Key issues discussed included: promotion of jobs, results achieved by Invest NI, job creation in the legal and professional services, cyber security job opportunities, Jobs Fund, jobs created outside of Belfast, investment in research and development, Regional Aid Guidelines (RAG), clustering, median wage, return on investment, monitoring of redundancies in Invest NI supported companies, combining tourism and trade when promoting Northern Ireland, youth unemployment, corporation tax, Grade A office accommodation and historical client companies.

Steven Agnew re-joined the meeting at 11:01am
Fearghal McKinney left the meetings at 11:02am
Gordon Dunne left the meeting at 11:02am

The representatives left the meeting at 11:34am

5. Matters Arising

Members considered proposed changes to the Forward Work Programme. The Department informed the Committee that they are unlikely to have Ministerial clearance for the Export Strategy in time for the proposed oral briefing on 9 June and NISRA is unable to brief the Committee on 2 June regarding Tourism Statistics but can attend on 9 June.

Agreed: to receive a written briefing on the Export's Strategy before summer recess and that the briefings on Tourism Statistics and Accommodation Policy be moved to 9 June.

6. Written Briefing from DETI: Proposed Amendments to the Insolvency (Amendment) Bill at Consideration Stage.

Members noted a written briefing from the Department with regards to the proposed amendments to the Insolvency (Amendment) Bill at Consideration Stage.

7. DETI Regulation of Insolvency Practitioners

Members noted correspondence from the Department regarding the Regulation of Insolvency Practitioners.

Agreed: to ask the Department for a written briefing summarising the issues raised in the case, the Department's view of the issues, the current status of the case and any expected future progress and solution.

8. Legislation SL1: Classification, Labelling and Packaging of Chemicals (Amendments to Secondary Legislation) Regulations (NI) 2015

Members discussed the SL1 Classification, Labelling and Packaging of Chemicals (Amendments to Secondary Legislation) Regulations (NI) 2015.

Agreed: the Committee is content with the policy proposals at this stage.

9. Assembly Research Paper: ETI Committee Stakeholder Event – Growing the Economy and Creating Jobs in a Reduced Tax Environment

Members considered an Assembly Research Paper regarding the ETI Committee Stakeholder Event.

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

10. Assembly Research Paper: Northern Ireland's Global Competitiveness in Comparison

Members considered an Assembly Research Paper regarding Northern Ireland's Global Competitiveness.

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

Paul Frew left the meeting at 12:25pm

11. Correspondence

Members noted the following items of correspondence;

- i. Correspondence from the Ad hoc Committee on the Public Services Ombudsperson Bill requesting an evidence submission.

Agreed: to forward a nil response to the Ad hoc Committee.

- ii. Correspondence from Inform Communications on behalf of RES Ltd and other representatives of the renewables sector.

Agreed: to inform the organisation that the Committee will consider the matter following the Consultation.

- iii. Correspondence from an individual regarding competition issues in Northern Ireland in relation to phone and broadband services.

Agreed: to ask Ofcom to copy its response to the Committee and to respond to the individual to let him know that the Committee is doing this.

- iv. Correspondence from the Minister regarding the outcome of a UK-wide consultation on implementation of EU Regulation 1257/2013 on Ship Recycling and Making of Ship Recycling Facilities Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

- v. Correspondence from the Minister to the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure in relation to Northern Ireland Screen.

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 26 May 2015** at **10.00am** in **Room 29, Parliament Buildings.**

The meeting concluded at 11:39pm

Mr Patsy McGlone
Chairperson
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

26 May 2015