



COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

9 JUNE 2015

ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, 10.00AM

Present: Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson)
Mr Steven Agnew
Ms Megan Fearon
Mr Paul Frew
Mr Paul Givan
Mr William Humphrey
Mr Fearghal McKinney

In Attendance: Mr Jim McManus (Assembly Clerk)
Ms Angela McParland (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Nathan McVeigh (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Christopher Jeffrey (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Phil Flanagan (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Gordon Dunne

The meeting began at 10:08am

4. Oral Briefing from NISRA: Economic Data

The Officials joined the meeting at 10:08am

Members received a briefing from Dr David Marshall, Director, NISRA, and Dr James Gillan, Senior Principal Statistician, NISRA, in relation to economic data available on Northern Ireland.

Paul Frew joined the meeting at 10.41am

Megan Fearon joined the meeting at 10.42am

Key issues discussed included: an overview of the role of NISRA, the statutory obligations of NISRA, regulation, the quality of economic statistics and sub-regional economic data.

Agreed: that NISRA provide the Committee with the indicators in relation to the green economy.

5. Oral Briefing from NISRA: Tourism Statistics

The Officials joined the meeting at 10:43am

Members received a briefing from Dr David Marshall, Director, NISRA, Ms Lorraine Fleming, Head of Tourism Policy Branch, DETI, Dr James Gillan, Senior Principal Statistician, NISRA, and Mrs Joanne Henderson, Statistician, NISRA, in relation to tourism statistics.

Key issues discussed included: recent tourism statistics, the methodology for tourism statistics and the accuracy of tourism statistics.

Megan Fearon left the meeting at 11.06am

Steven Agnew left the meeting at 11.14am

The Officials left the meeting at 11:19am

Agreed: to ask the Northern Ireland Hotels Federation for details on the impact the Euro rate has had on hotel occupancy in Northern Ireland.

William Humphrey left the meeting at 11.19am

The meeting was suspended at 11.19am

The meeting recommenced in public session at 11.36am with the following members present:

Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson)

Mr Steven Agnew

Mr Paul Frew

Mr William Humphrey

Mr Fearghal McKinney

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

2. Draft Minutes of Meeting of 2 June 2015

Agreed: the Committee agreed the draft minutes of 2 June 2015.

3. Chairperson's Business

There were no items of Chairperson's Business.

6. Matters Arising

There were no items of Matters Arising.

7. Legislation: SR 2015/254 The Biocidal Products (Fees and Charges) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Members discussed SR 2015/254: The Biocidal Products (Fees and Charges) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Question put and agreed to: that the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment has considered SR 2015/254 The Biocidal Products (Fees and Charges) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and has no objection to the Rule.

8. Written Briefing from DETI: Insolvency Practitioners

Members considered a written briefing from the Department in relation to insolvency practitioners.

Agreed: to ask the Department for details of any dealings it has had with the complainants and any future action in relation to their cases.

9. Written Briefing from DETI: Innovation Strategy for Northern Ireland 2014-2025 – First 6 Month Progress Update

Members considered a written briefing from the Department in relation to the Innovation Strategy for Northern Ireland 2014-2015 – First 6 Month Progress Update.

Agreed: to ask the Department to provide an oral briefing on the Innovation Strategy when the next progress update is due.

Agreed: to ask the Department to provide a written briefing outlining the agreed function of a Chief Scientific Advisor and the work that has been undertaken to date in consideration of how best to fulfil this function.

Agreed: to ask the Department to explain the reason for the amber rating against Action B7, C5, D2 and D4.

Agreed: in regards to Action C6, to ask the Department to provide details of the impact of delays on the time and extent of the completion of the Action, the potential or actual knock-on effect on other parts of the Innovation Strategy and the delivery of objectives relating to the economy.

10. Correspondence

Members noted the following items of correspondence;

- i. Correspondence from Queen's University Belfast inviting members to the Northern Ireland Economy Debate.
- ii. Correspondence from Solace in relation to the review of NILGA.

Agreed: that the Clerk meets with NILGA to discuss this issue.

- iii. Correspondence from the Minister in relation to the Insolvency (Amendment) Bill.
- iv. Correspondence from the Department in relation to the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland Investing Activity Report.

Megan Fearon returned to the meeting at 11.42am

- v. Correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister in relation to Delivering Social Change.
- vi. An invitation from Bombardier to an event on Friday 19 June at the Bombardier Wing Facility to view its C Series aircraft.

11. Forward Work Programme

Members considered the latest Committee Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: the Committee is content that the meeting on 23 June be short to facilitate members' attendance in the Chamber for Committee related business.

Agreed: the Committee is content to hold a meeting in Queen's University Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology.

Agreed: the Committee is content for the oral briefing by the Economic Advisory Group to be postponed.

12. Any Other Business

Agreed: to contact the Utility Regulator and SONI asking for a link of the minutes of meetings held to be sent to the Committee when they become available. The Committee Office will then send the link to Members by way of Member's Info.

13. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **Tuesday 16 June 2015** at **10.00am** in **Room 29, Parliament Buildings**.

The Chairperson informed members that the meeting will be followed by a concurrent meeting with the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development at 12.30pm in the Senate Chamber.

The meeting went into closed session at 11:49pm

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

Members considered the draft 'Report on the Committee's Inquiry into Growing the Economy and Creating Jobs with Lower Corporation Tax'.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.11pm

Mr Patsy McGlone
Chairperson
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

16 June 2015