



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

23 JUNE 2015

ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, 10.00AM

Present:

Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson)
Mr Phil Flanagan (Deputy Chairperson)
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)

Apologies:

Mr Danny Kinahan

The meeting began at 10:09am

4. Oral Briefing from Consumer Council: Research into Online Parcel Deliveries to Northern Ireland

The Officials joined the meeting at 10:10am

Members received a briefing from Ms Kellin McCloskey, Head of Postal Policy, Consumer Council NI and Ms Kathy Graham, Director of Policy, Consumer Council NI.

Key issues discussed included: the cost and availability of postal services to Northern Ireland, key findings of the research and the transparency of delivery costs on retailers websites.

Fearghal McKinney joined the meeting at 10.28am

The Officials left the meeting at 10:46am

Agreed: to write to Trading Standards asking what involvement they have had in relation to the issues raised in the research and what they are doing to improve the situation and to ensure consumers in Northern Ireland are getting a fair deal from online retailers.

Agreed: to write to the Consumer Council asking for the data used to compile the research report and asking if they intend to respond to the EU consultation on this matter.

Agreed: to forward the research to the Council of the Isles asking if this issue falls within its remit.

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item 1.

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

2. Draft Minutes of Meeting of 16 June 2015

Agreed: the Committee agreed the draft minutes of 16 June 2015.

3. Chairperson's Business

There were no items of Chairperson's Business.

5. Matters Arising

Members noted a response from the Department to Committee queries in relation to the June Monitoring Round.

6. Legislation: SL1 Amendment to the Electricity (Single Wholesale Market) (Northern Ireland) Order 2007

Members discussed SL1 Amendment to the Electricity (Single Wholesale Market) (Northern Ireland) Order 2007.

Megan Fearon joined the meeting at 10.52am

Agreed: that the Committee is content with the policy proposals.

Agreed: to ask the SEM Committee to notify the Committee when minutes of its board meetings are published.

7. Consultation: Draft Weights and Measures (Food) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Members considered a consultation document in relation to Draft Weights and Measures (Food) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

Agreed: to ask the Department for a summary of responses following consultation.

8. Consultation: Proposed Revised Health and Safety Approved Codes of Practice Summary of Responses

Members noted a consultation document in relation to Proposed Revised Health and Safety Approved Codes of Practice Summary of Responses.

9. Correspondence

Members noted the following items of correspondence;

- i. Correspondence from Full Circle Power regarding the Bombardier Waste to Energy Project.

Agreed: to forward the correspondence to the Minister in advance of the meeting this afternoon.

- ii. Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group in relation to the implementation of Contracts for Difference.

Agreed: to write to the Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group to inform them that the Committee will consider this following its

consideration of consultation responses when they become available from the Department.

Agreed: to write to the Minister asking how the decision to continue with ROCs will affect the Northern Ireland Executive financially and what impact the withdrawal of Great Britain from the scheme will have on industry and consumers.

10. Any Other Business

Agreed: to ask the Utility Regulator what the imperfection allowance has been in each of the last 10 years, the actual imperfection charge, what is the K-factor for each of the last 10 years and how has this been brought into the system to bring the tariff down and what has the effect been on the tariff.

11. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **Tuesday 30 June 2015** at **10.00am** in **Room 29, Parliament Buildings.**

The meeting went into closed session at 11:04am

12. Committee Report: Inquiry into Growing the Economy and Creating Jobs in a Reduced Tax Environment – informal consideration

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

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir joined the meeting at 11.18am

Patsy McGlone joined the meeting at 11.20am

Patsy McGlone took the Chair at 11.20am

Paul Givan joined the meeting at 11.35am

The meeting was suspended at 11.36am

The meeting recommenced in closed session at 1.02pm with the following members in attendance:

Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson)

Mr Phil Flanagan (Deputy Chairperson)

Mr Gordon Dunne

Ms Megan Fearon

Mr Fearghal McKinney

Mr Máirtín Ó Muilleoir

William Humphrey joined the meeting at 1.04pm

Agreed: to make amendments to the report.

Megan Fearon left the meeting at 1.16pm

13. Committee Report: Inquiry into Growing the Economy and Creating Jobs in a Reduced Tax Environment – formal consideration

William Humphrey left the meeting at 1.56pm

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

Agreed: the Committee is content that the list of Membership and Powers stands part of the Report?

Agreed: the Committee is content that the Table of Contents stands part of the Report?

Agreed: the Committee is content that the list of Abbreviations stands part of the Report?

Agreed: the Committee is content that the Executive Summary stands part of the Report?

Agreed: the Committee is content that the Summary of Recommendations stands part of the Report?

Agreed: the Committee is content that the Introduction stands part of the Report?

Agreed: the Committee is content that the Key Issues and Findings stands part of the Report?

Agreed: the Committee is content that the Conclusions and Recommendations stands part of the Report?

Agreed: the Committee is content that the extract of the Minutes of Proceedings at Appendix 1 stands part of the Report?

Agreed: the Committee is content that the Minutes of Evidence (Hansards) at Appendix 2 stands part of the Report?

Agreed: the Committee is content that the Written Submissions at Appendix 3 stands part of the Report?

Agreed: the Committee is content that the Research Papers at Appendix 4 stands part of the Report?

Agreed: the Committee is content that the Other Papers at Appendix 5 stands part of the Report?

Agreed: the Committee is content that the List of Witnesses at Appendix 6 stands part of the Report?

Agreed: the Committee is content for the Chairperson to approve an extract from today's minutes which reflect the read through of the report.

Agreed: the Committee is content with the draft motion.

Agreed: the Committee is content that the debate on the report is scheduled for 7 September 2015 or the earliest Monday available following that date.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 2.01pm

Mr Patsy McGlone
Chairperson
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

30 June 2015