



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**3 NOVEMBER 2015**

**ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, 10:00am**

**Present:**

Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson)  
Mr Conor Murphy (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Gordon Dunne  
Ms Megan Fearon  
Mr Paul Girvan  
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 Michael Greer (Clerical Supervisor)  
Ms Marion Johnson (Clerical Officer)

**Apologies:**

Mr Adrian Cochrane-Watson  
Mr Steven Agnew

*The meeting began at 10:13am*

**1. Apologies**

Apologies as noted above.

**2. Declaration of Interests**

Members noted a copy of the Declaration of Interests for Adrian Cochrane-Watson, Paul Girvan and Conor Murphy.

**3. Draft Minutes of Meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

*Agreed:* the Committee agreed the draft minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

**4. Chairperson's Business**

The Chairperson informed members that Departmental Officials will brief the Committee at next week's meeting on the consultation on the closure of the NIRO to onshore. The Chairperson also informed members that the Department and Tourism Ireland will now brief the Committee on the Tourism Strategy in January 2016 instead of the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

*Agreed:* the Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group (NIRIG) will brief the Committee on the report 'Onshore Wind: Economic Benefits in Northern Ireland' on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

The Chairperson informed members that the scheduled visit to Kingspan Environmental Headquarters on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015 has been cancelled due to members' availability.

*Agreed:* to rearrange for the visit to take place on a Wednesday as soon as possible.

The Chairperson informed members that the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson received an invitation to meet the Ambassador for the Republic of Mauritania on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November.

*Agreed:* the Chairperson will attend. The Deputy Chairperson is unable to attend due to prior engagements.

*Paul Givan left the meeting at 10:20am*

**5. Legislation: Credit Unions and Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Bill**

*The Officials joined the meeting at 10:20am*

The Committee considered correspondence from Co-operatives UK. DETI Officials who were on standby were called to give evidence to the Committee. The Officials were Keith Brown, Principal Officer, Company Law Branch, DETI and Richard Scott, Staff Officer, Company Law Branch, DETI.

The Officials agreed to provide a response to the Committee regarding Clause 15 by next week.

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

*Agreed:* members agreed the draft motion to extend the Committee stage of the Bill.

*Agreed:* to publish all written submissions received by the Committee for the Bill onto the Committee web pages.

## **6. Oral Briefing from DETI: Inquiry into Growing the Economy and Creating Jobs in a Reduced Tax Environment**

*The Officials joined the meeting at 10:25am*

Members received a briefing from Diarmuid McLean, Head of DETI Economic Policy Division, Shane Murphy, Senior Principal, DETI Analytical Services Unit, and Jeremy Fitch, Manager Director, Business International, Invest NI.

Key issues around the Departmental response to the Committee Inquiry were discussed.

The Officials agreed to: an oral briefing from Invest NI to provide an overview of its programmes; forward to the Committee the comments made by the Economic Advisory Group (EAG) on cuts to the Department for Employment and Learning's budget, as well as details of how often the EAG meets and the date of its last meeting; an update regarding the Department of Finance and Personnel's social clauses in Public Services contracts; and to share the Terms of Reference, once agreed, on DETI's partnership with Oxford Economics.

*Agreed:* to ask the Department for a review of the remit of the Economic Advisory Group and the Committee's view on its membership.

*Agreed:* to ask the Department for an update on the examination of the social-economic linkages in a refocused Economic Strategy.

*Agreed:* to ask the Department for an update on the opportunities provided by the refocus of the Economic Strategy as outlined.

*Agreed:* to ask the Department for an update on the consideration of what type of study would be most appropriate to identify the economic impact on Northern Ireland of a UK exit from the EU.

*Agreed:* to ask the Department for an update on the work of the international advisor who has been appointed by Invest NI. The advice provided and the action taken as a result of that advice.

*Agreed:* to ask the Department for an update on the work of the DETI/DEL/Invest NI Liaison Group and the Invest NI/DEL Operational Oversight Group.

*Agreed:* to ask the Department for an update on how sector partnerships will and are being used to develop curriculum content and promote apprenticeships within their particular sector.

*Paul Girvan joined the meeting at 10:47am*

*Megan Fearon left the meeting at 10:48am*

*Máirtín Ó Muilleoir joined the meeting at 11:06am*

*Conor Murphy left the meeting at 11:08am*

*The Officials left the meeting at 11:41am*

## **7. Oral Briefing from Visit Belfast: The Impact of Tourism in Belfast**

*The representative joined the meeting at 11:41am*

*William Humphrey declared an interest as a past Board member of Visit Belfast.*

Members received a briefing from Gerry Lennon, Chief Executive Officer, Visit Belfast.

The key issues discussed were on the impact of tourism in Belfast and the wider impact on Northern Ireland tourism.

*The representative left the meeting at 12:33pm*

## **8. Matters Arising**

*William Humphrey left the meeting at 12:34pm*

Members noted a Departmental response on the Strategic Energy Framework update.

Members noted a response from NIE to the Committee's queries regarding zero export connections and requirements for planning permission as a pre-requisite for application to connect.

Members considered a response from Invest NI on the support provided to companies in the export chain.

*Agreed:* to consider the response again when Invest NI briefs the committee on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

Members noted a section from the latest EU Matters Newsletter regarding the Juncker Plan.

Members noted information from Gordon Dunne MLA that had been provided to the Mobile Network Operators.

#### **9. Westminster Enterprise Bill: Small Business Commissioner – Legislative Consent Motion**

Members discussed correspondence from the Minister regarding the Legislative Consent Motion from the Small Business Commissioner.

*Agreed:* to await consideration of the Legislative Consent Memorandum.

#### **10. Written Briefing from DETI: Final Update on INTERREG**

Members noted a written briefing from the Department on the final update on INTERREG.

#### **11. Written Briefing DETI: INTERREG VA Programme**

Members noted a written briefing from the Department on the INTERREG VA Programme.

#### **12. Correspondence**

Members noted the following items of correspondence;

- i. Correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding a briefing by Carnegie UK Trust on the Wellbeing Framework Report.
- ii. Correspondence from the Employment and Learning Committee regarding a Colleges Northern Ireland Showcase event.
- iii. Correspondence from the Centre for Cross Border Studies inviting members to attend a briefing event to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

*Agreed:* members to contact the Committee Office if they wish to attend.

- iv. Invitation from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to a ‘Creating First Jobs Opportunities in Northern Ireland’ event.

*Agreed:* members to contact the Committee Office if they wish to attend.

- v. Correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme.

- vi. Correspondence from the Committee for Employment and Learning on the National Minimum Wage.

*Agreed:* to ask the Department to copy the Committee into its response to the letter of 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

### **13. Any other Business**

Members discussed the breaking news regarding the closure of the Michelin tyre factory in Ballymena

*Agreed:* to request an urgent meeting with the Minister and to also meet with union representatives. To arrange an urgent meeting with the Minister for Employment and Learning.

### **14. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 10.00am 29, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:43pm*

---

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

**10 November 2015**