



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**THURSDAY, 19 MARCH 2015**

**SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Ms Anna Lo MLA (Chairperson)  
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA  
Mr Colum Eastwood MLA  
Mr Alban Maginness MLA  
Mr Barry McElduff MLA  
Mr Ian Milne MLA  
Lord Morrow MLA  
Mr Peter Weir MLA

In Attendance: Mrs Sheila Mawhinney (Assembly Clerk)  
Mrs Ciara McKay (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Neil Sedgewick (Assistant Clerk)  
Miss Allison Ferguson (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Ian McCrea MLA  
Mrs Sandra Overend MLA

*The meeting began at 10.13am in public session.*

**1. Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill - Consideration of Draft Report**

The Committee considered the draft Committee Report on the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill.

The Committee considered the Executive Summary and Conclusions and Recommendations sections of the report.

*Agreed: The Committee was content with the Executive Summary and Conclusions and Recommendations sections as drafted.*

The Committee considered the Summary of Recommendations section of the report.

*Agreed: The Committee was content with the Summary of Recommendations as drafted.*

The Committee considered the Introduction section of the report.

*Agreed: The Committee was content with the Introduction as drafted.*

The Committee considered the Key Issues of the Bill section of the report.

*Agreed: The Committee was content with the Key issues of the Bill as drafted.*

The Committee considered the Clause-by-Clause Scrutiny section of the report.

*Agreed: The Committee was content with the Clause-by-Clause Scrutiny section of the report as drafted.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider all appendices together.*

The Committee considered Appendix 1 to 6 of the draft Report.

*Agreed: The Committee was content with all Appendices as drafted.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for the Chair to approve an extract from the minutes of this meeting to be included in its report.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that the report should be ordered to print.*

## **2. Apologies**

Apologies were indicated as above.

## **3. Chairperson's Business**

The Committee noted correspondence from Action Renewables inviting the Chairperson to Chair its Round Table discussion at the Action Renewables Association Awards lunch on Friday 27th March.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chairperson would attend the event on behalf of the Committee.*

## **4. Minutes**

The minutes from the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015 were agreed.

## **5. Matters Arising**

*Mr Cathal Boylan joined the meeting at 10.22am*

The Committee noted an update from the Department on the Sustainable Utilisation of Poultry Litter (SUPL) project.

The Committee noted a response from the Department regarding the European Commission's REFIT Programme.

**6. Consultation on the Implementation of EU Regulation 165/2014 on Tachographs in Road Transport.**

The Committee noted a UK-wide consultation on the Implementation of EU Regulation 165/2014 on Tachographs in Road Transport.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a synopsis of responses from the Department once available.*

**7. Synopsis of responses on the Third Driving Licence Directive - One Person One Licence.**

The Committee noted a synopsis of responses to a consultation on the One Person One Licence amendment in relation to the transposition of the Third Driving Licence Directive.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for the Department to prepare the SL1 for this legislation.*

**8. SL1- The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. Departmental briefing.**

The Committee was briefed by:

Mr Ken Bradley      Environmental Protection Division

Mr Simon Kirk      Planning Division

Ms Irene Kennedy      Planning Division

*Mr Alban Magennis left the meeting at 10.28am.*

The Committee considered an SL1 on the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

*Agreed: The Committee was content for the Department to make the Rule.*

**9. SL1- The Marine Conservation (Fixed Monetary Penalties) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered an SL1 on the Marine Conservation (Fixed Monetary Penalties) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to request an oral briefing from the Department on the draft Rule.*

**10. SL1- The Planning (Conservation Areas) (Consultation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered an SL1 on the Planning (Conservation Areas) (Consultation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

*Agreed: The Committee was content for the Department to make the Rule.*

**11. SL1 - The Planning (Amount of Fixed Penalty) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

*Mr Alban Magennis rejoined the meeting at 10.33am.*

*Mr Peter Weir left the meeting at 10.33am.*

The Committee considered an SL1 on the Planning (Amount of Fixed Penalty) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to request an oral briefing from the Department on the draft Rule.*

**12. SL1 - The Planning (Simplified Planning Zones) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered an SL1 on the Planning (Simplified Planning Zones) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

*Agreed: The Committee was content for the Department to make the Rule.*

**13. SL1 - The Planning (Inquiry Procedure) Rules (Northern Ireland) 2015.**

*Mr Peter Weir rejoined the meeting at 10.35am.*

*Mr Barry McElduff left the meeting at 10.35am.*

*Mr Iam Milne joined the meeting at 10.36am.*

The Committee considered an SL1 on the Planning (Inquiry Procedure) Rules (Northern Ireland) 2015.

*Agreed: The Committee was content for the Department to make the Rule.*

**14. SL1 - The Planning (Modification and Discharge of Planning Agreements) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.**

The Committee considered an SL1 on the Planning (Modification and Discharge of Planning Agreements) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

*Agreed: The Committee was content for the Department to make the Rule.*

**15. SL1 - The Planning (Avian Influenza) (Special Development) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered an SL1 on the Planning (Avian Influenza) (Special Development) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015.

*Agreed: The Committee was content for the Department to make the Rule.*

**16. SL1 - The Certificates of Alternative Development Value Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee considered an SL1 on the Certificates of Alternative Development Value Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

*Agreed: The Committee was content for the Department to make the Rule.*

The Committee noted the correspondence from both Pubs of Ulster and Disability Action regarding Taxi Regulations.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite Disability Action and IMTAC to brief the Committee on 16th April 2015 on the draft Taxi Accessibility Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.*

**17. SL1 - The Taxi Licensing Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 - Departmental briefing**

The Committee was briefed by:

Mr Iain Greenway	Director, Road Safety and Vehicle Regulation
Mr Michael O'Neill	Road Safety and Vehicle Regulation

*Mr Colum Eastwood joined the meeting at 10.52am.*

*Lord Morrow joined the meeting at 10.53am.*

*Mr Barry McElduff returned to the meeting at 11.34am.*

The Committee considered an SL1 on the Taxi Licensing Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

The following motion was put:

*“The Committee for the Environment proposes that the Department makes single tier licensing operational from midnight.”*

The Committee divided: Ayes 6; Noes 3; Abstentions 0

Ayes:

Mr Cathal Boylan, Mrs Pam Cameron, Mr Barry McElduff, Lord Morrow, Mr Ian Milne, Mr Peter Weir.

Noes:

Mr Colum Eastwood, Ms Anna Lo, Mr Alban Magennis.

The motion was carried.

*Agreed: Department officials agreed to amend the single tier licensing time from 11om to midnight.*

*Agreed: The Committee was content for the Department to make the Rule, subject to the Department amending the single tier licensing time from 11pm to midnight.*

**18. SL1 - The Taxi Operators Licensing (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 - Departmental briefing**

The Committee was briefed by:

Mr Iain Greenway	Director, Road Safety and Vehicle Regulation
Mr Michael O'Neill	Road Safety and Vehicle Regulation

The Committee considered an SL1 on the Taxi Operators Licensing (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

*Agreed: The Committee was content for the Department to make the Rule.*

**19. SL1 - The Taxi Accessibility Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 - Departmental briefing**

The Committee was briefed by:

Mr Iain Greenway	Director, Road Safety and Vehicle Regulation
Mr Michael O'Neill	Road Safety and Vehicle Regulation

The Committee considered an SL1 on the Taxi Accessibility Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the Rule until its next meeting on 16th April 2015.*

*Mr Cathal Boylan left the meeting at 11.50am.*

*Mr Peter Weir left the meeting at 11.52am.*

**20. SL1 - The Local Government (Executive Arrangements) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 - Departmental briefing**

The Committee was briefed by:

Ms Linda MacHugh	Director, Local Government Policy Division
Ms Julie Broadway	Local Government Policy Division
Mr John Murphy	Local Government Policy Division

The Committee considered an SL1 on the Local Government (Executive Arrangements) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

*Agreed: The Committee was content for the Department to make the Rule.*

**21. SR 2015/44 The Local Government (Executive Arrangements) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee agreed the following question:

*'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2015/44 The Local Government (Executive Arrangements) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.'*

**22. SR 2015/66 The Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee agreed the following question:

*'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2015/66 The Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.'*

- 23. SR 2015/70 The Planning (General Permitted Development) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015**
- The Committee agreed the following question:
- 'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2015/70 The Planning (General Permitted Development) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 and has no objection to the Rule.'*
- 24. SR 2015/72 The Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015**
- The Committee agreed the following question:
- 'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2015/72 The Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.'*
- 25. SR 2015/73 The Planning (Fees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**
- The Committee agreed the following question:
- 'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2015/73 The Planning (Fees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.'*
- 26. SR 2015/74 The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**
- The Committee agreed the following question:
- 'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2015/74 The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.'*
- 27. SR 2015/84 The Planning (Trees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**
- The Committee agreed the following question:
- 'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2015/84 The Planning (Trees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.'*
- 28. SR 2015/85 The Planning (Management of Waste from Extractive Industries) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**
- The Committee agreed the following question:
- 'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2015/85 The Planning (Management of Waste from Extractive Industries) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.'*

**29. SR 2015/106 The Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee agreed the following question:

*'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2015/106 The Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and has no objection to the Rule.'*

**30. SR 2015/107 The Planning (Conservation Areas) (Demolition) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee agreed the following question:

*'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2015/107 The Planning (Conservation Areas) (Demolition) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.'*

*Mr Peter Weir returned to the meeting at 12.09pm.*

**31. SR 2015/108 The Planning (Listed Buildings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee agreed the following question:

*'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2015/108 The Planning (Listed Buildings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.'*

*Mr Peter Weir left the meeting at 12.13pm.*

**32. SR 2015/125 The Local Government (Transitional Incidental Consequential and Supplemental Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

The Committee agreed the following question:

*'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2015/125 The Local Government (Transitional Incidental Consequential and Supplemental Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.'*

**33. Budget 2015/2016**

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department providing an update on its Budget for 2015/16.

*Mr Cathal Boylan rejoined the meeting at 12.21pm.*

*Mr Peter Weir rejoined the meeting at 12.21pm.*



*Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to: express disappointment that officials were not present to brief the Committee on the Budget; express concern that the Budget has not been finalised particularly given the uncertainty around budget planning for voluntary and community organisations. The Committee also agreed to ascertain when the budget will be finalised and available to the Committee; when the Department will clarify the funding position for stakeholder organisations and when these organisations will be notified; and to seek clarification regarding how the carrier bag levy can be configured into the final budget and request an update on the voluntary redundancy scheme including the impact it will have on the final budget.*

*Agreed: The Committee agreed to send copies of correspondence from Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust and Strangford Lough and Leacle Partnership to the Minister, seeking his assessment on the wider impact for all organisations.*

*Lord Morrow left the meeting at 12.27pm.*

**34. Correspondence.**

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade & Investment regarding Petroleum Exploration.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department regarding the Launch of motorcyclist safety campaigns.

The Committee noted the Department's response to the Committee for the Office of the First Minister & deputy First Minister regarding its European Priorities for 2014/15.

The Committee noted guidance from the Department on the application of the Councillors Code of Conduct regarding Planning Matters.

**35. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

**36. Any Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

**37. Date, Time and Place of next meeting**

The Committee agreed that its next meeting will be held at 10.00am on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015 in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12.31pm.*

**Anna Lo, MLA**  
**Chairperson, Committee for the Environment**  
**16 April 2015**