



## RURAL ENTERPRISE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Rural Enterprise Policy Committee met on Thursday 26 March 2015 at SONI Headquarters, Castlereagh, Belfast BT6.

**ATTENDANCE:** B Bell (Deputy President), G Hawkes (Chairman) R Burgess (Vice Chairman) R Campbell, M Harnett, D McElrea, J Watt and C Osborne (Secretary).

**APOLOGIES:** R Craig, J Martin and P Lundy.

### WELCOME:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Matters Arising** – The meeting discussed the role of DARD in Renewable Energy policy. DARD are only food, there are more options than just food. DARD have no renewables. What is DARD policy? Is there a DARD policy in conjunction with the new super councils and planning permission for example.

MA said that DARD need to sell energy and such a move would assist with grid connection. Supportive policy is needed from DARD. Policy would support those on the periphery who are on SDA land for example have no access to the grid, use of biomass. Economic development will be the spur for policy decisions in super councils. What happened to the previous policy? The UFU had effectively written it.

RHI should have DARD policy running it, poultry houses and the RHI.

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

**Action Point One** – Committee asked that the Secretary writes to DARD Minister.

### Solar PV and Insurance

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

### Grid Connection

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry



**Storage**

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry



**RHI**

Tonne of oats example - £130/tonne at the market and £300 to burn it. This obscures the market return when compared with conventional end use. The benefit to the poultry industry is apparent.

**SONI Tour and presentation**

Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

