

From: [Partridge, Jeff](#)
To: [Aiken, Glynis](#)
Cc: [Private Office DETI](#); [Stevenson, Valerie \(DETI Private Office\)](#); [Rooney, Eugene](#); [Cooper, Trevor](#); [Ross, Alastair](#); [Brankin, Bernie](#); [Sterling, David](#); [Thomson, David](#)
Subject: FW: ADDITIONAL BRIEFING FOR SUPPLY RESOLUTION DEBATES
Date: 03 February 2014 12:07:26
Attachments: [Sub to Minister - ADDITIONAL BRIEFING FOR SUPPLY RESOLUTION DEBATE 2014.doc](#)
[Annex A - SSE 2013-14 Additional Briefing.docx](#)

Glynis,

I forwarded additional briefing on Friday morning (31 January) for the SSE debate, which included an update on Mivan.

A further update on Mivan has now been received from Invest NI, and I have therefore revised the submission.

Grateful if you could replace Friday's submission and Annex with the update version attached.

Thanks,

Jeff

From: Partridge, Jeff
Sent: 31 January 2014 09:22
To: Private Office DETI
Cc: Sterling, David; Rooney, Eugene; Thomson, David; Ross, Alastair; Aiken, Glynis; Brankin, Bernie; Cooper, Trevor
Subject: ADDITIONAL BRIEFING FOR SUPPLY RESOLUTION DEBATES

Private Office

Please see attached from Trevor Cooper.

Many thanks

Jeff

Jeff Partridge

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Please consider the environment - do you really need to print this e-mail?

Copy Distribution List Below

FROM: Trevor Cooper
DATE: 31 January 2014
TO: 1. Andrew Crawford
2. Arlene Foster MLA

ADDITIONAL BRIEFING FOR SUPPLY RESOLUTION DEBATES

Issue: DFP has commissioned briefing material, to be used by the Finance Minister for the Supply Resolution Debate in the Assembly in support of the Budget Bill and the 2013/14 Spring Supplementary Estimates scheduled for the Assembly on 10 February 2014.

Timing: **URGENT.** DFP has asked for additional briefing material and updates to some of the previous material that was cleared by you on 28 January 2014. The DFP Minister requires this in advance of the Debate.

Need for referral to the Assembly N/A. We are providing background briefing for the DFP Minister.

Presentational Issues: The briefing covers topical issues.

Freedom of Information: Disclosable.

Programme for Government /PSA Implications: None identified at this stage.

Financial Implications: Assembly approval is required to provide the appropriate authority for departmental spending in 2013/14.

Legislation Implications: Assembly approval required for Budget Bill and Spring Supplementary Estimates. DFP is in the lead.

Statutory Equality: Considered in budget settlement and as part on in-year monitoring. HLIA's are completed for changes made through in-year monitoring.

Recommendation: That you consider and approve the attached briefing material.

Background

1. DFP have asked for briefing material to be used by the Finance Minister for the Supply Resolution Debates in the Assembly, in support of the Budget Bill and the 2013/14 Spring Supplementary Estimates, which is scheduled to take place on 10February.
2. Estimates set out the detailed spending plans of Northern Ireland departments and form the basis for the authorisation by the Assembly of sufficient funding and resources for services as detailed in the corresponding Budget Act.
3. Debates on the Supply Resolution and Budget Bill tend to be wide ranging as questions can be raised on any services covered by the Estimates.

Briefing Material

4. You have already approved briefing material for this debate. However, DFP Supply has now asked for briefing on a number of energy-related topics and updated briefing on Mivan, broadband provision and UK City of Culture. The additional new briefing is attached at **Annex A**, along with updated briefing in which amendments are shown in red.

Recommendation

5. That you consider and approve the briefing material at **Annex A** for the Supply Resolution Debate in the Assembly.
6. There may be further requests for briefing on current topics as we approach the day of the debates. Any additional briefing will be forwarded at a later date for you clearance.



TREVOR COOPER

cc David Sterling
Eugene Rooney
David Thomson
Alastair Ross, MLA, Assembly Private Secretary
Bernie Brankin
Jeff Partridge

ANNEX A

INDEX

**ADDITIONAL BRIEFING FOR SUPPLY RESOLUTION DEBATE
2013/14**

- 1. Energy – Gas Network Extension**
- 2. Energy – Utility Regulator Information Paper – Electricity Prices**
- 3. Energy – Northern Ireland Electricity Price Control (RP5)**
- 4. Energy – Renewable Energy Targets**
- 5. Energy – Cost of Renewables to the Customer**
- 6. Invest NI – Mivan - Update**
- 7. Telecoms – Current Broadband Provision**
- 8. NITB – UK City of Culture 2013**

POINT RAISED BY: ENERGY

TOPIC: GAS NETWORK EXTENSION

LINES TO TAKE:

- The NI Executive has committed to supporting gas extension to towns in the West and North-West up to a maximum of £32.5 million.
- Towns to include Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt, Coalisland, Omagh, Enniskillen/Derrylin and Strabane.
- The Utility Regulator launched a licence competition earlier this month*, with formal licence award scheduled for early Autumn 2014.

(scheduled for early February - will confirm prior to debate)*

POINT RAISED BY: ENERGY

**TOPIC: UTILITY REGULATOR INFORMATION PAPER -
ELECTRICITY PRICES**

LINES TO TAKE:

- Recent analysis by the Utility Regulator shows costs paid by our Industrial and Commercial sector are among the highest in Europe.
- The Regulator, with input from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, is conducting further analysis to look at the reasons for this.
- Ultimately any reduction in prices for one customer group will have implications for others and may breach European Commission State Aid guidelines.

POINT RAISED BY: ENERGY

TOPIC: NORTHERN IRELAND ELECTRICITY PRICE CONTROL

(RP5)

LINES TO TAKE:

- The Competition Commission delivered its Provisional Determination on 8 November 2013, and under the prevailing legislative framework must deliver its Final Determination by 29 April 2014.
- It is important that the Final Determination supports the delivery of an efficient grid, at least cost impact to consumers, and in a manner that allows Northern Ireland Electricity to fund its operations.

POINT RAISED BY: ENERGY

TOPIC: RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGETS

LINES TO TAKE:

Renewable Electricity

- The Strategic Energy Framework (SEF 2010) target is for 40% of electricity consumption to be from renewable sources by 2020, with an interim Programme for Government target of 20% by 2015.
- For the twelve months ending December 2013, approximately 17% of electricity was generated by renewables.
- We are on track to meet the 20% renewable electricity consumption target by 2015.

Renewable Heat

- The Renewable Heat target is for 10% of heat from renewable sources by 2020, with an interim target of 4% by 2015.
- The primary lever to achieve this is the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) which provides financial incentives to installers of renewable heat technologies.

POINT RAISED BY: ENERGY

TOPIC: COST OF RENEWABLES TO THE CONSUMER

LINES TO TAKE:

- The move to more renewable energy brings many benefits, including investment, exports and jobs.
- Most importantly it improves our security of supply by reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.
- There is a need to take a long term view on energy prices. Increasing the amount and diversity of renewables in our energy mix will insulate against future cost increases of wholesale oil and gas prices.
- The cost of not integrating renewables into the energy mix could be even higher in the long term. Investing in renewables now will mean cheaper energy in the longer term for the next generation of electricity consumers.

POINT RAISED BY: INVEST NI

TOPIC: MIVAN - UPDATE

Update on Administration and liquidation of Mivan (No1) Ltd

Lines to take

- Brian McConville owner of MJM Marine Ltd purchased the assets of Mivan on 30 January 2014.
- Mr McConville has advised he intends to operate Mivan as a separate limited company and has indicated his intention to employ 40 to 50 of Mivan staff and rebuild the company.
- The assets of Mivan include the Antrim factory, equipment, other property, and the firm's trading name.
- MJM is a strong player in fit out and specialist joinery sector and potentially this will provide a platform for new jobs to be created.
- MJM employs approximately 140 people and specialises in marine interiors and fitting-out cruise ships, which was also one of Mivan's main businesses.

Impact on creditors and subcontractors?

Line to Take

- The administrator is reviewing the situation but at this stage it is too early to say.

Could more have been done to save the business?

Lines to Take

- Invest NI did have discussions with the company.
- Under EU State Aid rules Mivan, as a large company, was out of scope for Invest NI's assistance for companies in difficulty.

What are the opportunities for the existing workforce?

Lines to Take

- To date 242 employees have been made redundant. A skeleton staff of 40 remains to complete contracts.
- DEL is engaged in the process and workshops took place on 22 and 29 January for the staff impacted by redundancies.
- I have been informed that a considerable number of staff have already been approached by local companies that have expansion plans.

POINT RAISED BY: TELECOMS

TOPIC: CURRENT BROADBAND PROVISION

LINES TO TAKE:

- Broadband services are available to all premises via a mix of technologies.
- Over £45m has been invested since 2008 to encourage private sector upgrade to networks, some £21m of which was specifically targeted at rural areas.
- There have been over 163,000 superfast connections to date.
- 78% of households currently access the Internet (Comparable to UK figures), of which 74% do so through a broadband connection:
- Broadband speeds in Northern Ireland are continuing to increase - the average download speed now stands at 20.4 Megabits per second (Mbps), the highest of any UK nation.
- **DETI estimates 83% of premises in Northern Ireland can access fixed-line superfast broadband services.**

RAISED BY: NORTHERN IRELAND TOURIST BOARD

TOPIC NAME: UK CITY OF CULTURE 2013

LINES TO TAKE:

- DETI is proud to have played a central role in Londonderry's success as the UK City of Culture and we look forward to building on the legacy of all the events and promotion that took place across 2013.
- All our support has been designed to create memorable experiences, derive maximum tourism benefit and create a legacy for tourism in Londonderry.
- Recent consumer and tourism industry feedback supports our belief that the UK City of Culture year has helped change perceptions in Northern Ireland and successfully conveyed the essence of our brand – that Northern Ireland is confidently moving on.

BACKGROUND NOTE

- NITB support included:
 - Funding contribution towards the five major events (Return of Colmcille; Walled City Tattoo; Fleadh; Turner Prize and Lumiere);
 - World Host service training to over 3,500 people in hospitality, tourism and leisure;

- A significant program of national and international media visits in conjunction with Tourism Ireland was organised, these to date have generated £8.8m in weighted PR. PR activity with local press was overseen by the Culture Company, and the Culture Company's agency Kindred will also contribute to the PR target;
 - TV, radio, outdoor and direct mail marketing campaigns;
 - £2.75 million funding towards the Guildhall refurbishment; and
 - £1.4 investment in the Walled City Lighting Strategy which has permanently illuminated the city walls, Apprentice Boys Memorial Hall, First Derry Presbyterian church, the Guildhall, the Playhouse Theatre, St Columb's Cathedral and Aras Colmcille.
-
- 13,699 spectators attended the Walled City Tattoo event and the event generated 911 commercial bed nights.
 - 42,452 spectators attended the Return of Colmcille. This was made up of 33,828 different people (i.e. a number of spectators attended on both days of the Event).
 - The attendance figures for the Fleadh, Lumiere and Turner Prize are not available at present. However, anecdotal evidence would indicate that attendance at all of these was very strong.