

**From:** Yim, Sohui

**Sent:** 25 November 2011 13:14

**To:** McCune, David <David.McCune@detini.gov.uk>

**Cc:** McManus, Jim <Jim.McManus@niassembly.gov.uk>; McKee, David <David.McKee@niassembly.gov.uk>; McDowell, Michelle <Michelle.McDowell@niassembly.gov.uk>; 'Murray, John' <John.Murray@detini.gov.uk>; Haughan, Anthony <Anthony.Haughan@detini.gov.uk>; 'Clarke, Rosie' <Rosie.Clarke@detini.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Issues arising from the ETI Committee meeting on 24 November

David,

Please see below the issues arising from the ETI Committee meeting on 24 November:

### **Matters Arising**

- In relation to correspondence from the Minister to the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Mark Hoban MP, regarding credit unions, members agreed to forward the letter to the ILCU and the UFCU.

### **Consultation on Proposed Changes to NIRO in 2012**

- Members agreed to receive details from the Department regarding the differences in the proposed banding in the NIROC versus the GBROC.
- Members agreed to ask the Department why small scale renewable generation could not be included in the overall FIT CfD and why a separate small scale FIT would have to be introduced.
- Members agreed to an oral briefing from the Department on the issue when the consultation has ended.

### **Draft Onshore Renewable Electricity Action Plan and Strategic Environmental Assessment Consultation**

- Members agreed to receive a summary of the outcomes of the consultation when it has ended.

### **Gas Network extension**

- Members agreed to ask the Department how/when it will determine the best way forward in relation to the areas for extension, how it will be financed and how the licensing of the areas will be determined.
- Members requested to be kept informed of all major updates as the project progresses and request a timeline of the project when it is available.

### **Update on progress of the recommendations in the Renewable Energy Inquiry report**

- Members agreed to ask that the Department forward a copy of the cost benefit analysis paper on energy vires and the roadmap for the long-term vision for renewable energy to the Committee following the SEIDWG meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> November.
- Members welcomes the more structured approach to target setting for aspects of the SEF and the establishment of the SEIDWG sub-groups.

- Members agreed to receive more detail on the proposal to organise a seminar on educating the financial sector on the long-term security of renewable energy and to obtain the Department's views on the impact of a Feed-in Tariff on lender confidence in renewable energy projects.
- Members agreed to ask that the Department inform the Committee as soon as the outcome of consideration of the Green New Deal business proposal by the interdepartmental working group is known.

#### **Electricity Market Reform (EMR) Implications for NI**

- Members agreed to schedule an oral briefing with DETI officials regarding the EMR in February or March (**we can discuss during the work programme meeting**).
- Members agreed to request a written briefing on the information that was presented at seminar that was held on 23 November.

#### **Update on the progress of a Renewable Heat Incentive**

- Members agreed to receive details on the development of AD in Northern Ireland since the NIROC was increased for the technology and the extent and scale of the AD market.
- Members agreed to receive a copy of the feasibility study that will be done on the RHI.

#### **Correspondence**

- In relation to a response from DETI regarding Petroleum Licensing in Fermanagh, members agreed to forward this to the Committee for the Environment. Members also agreed to invite the Minister to meet with the Chair and Deputy Chair on the issue and to invite the Minister to come to the Committee next week for an oral briefing on the issue.
- In relation to correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding PEDU, members agreed to write to the Department regarding retained corporate functions – specifically the area of Human Resources, where there is considerable variability in the scale of the retained HR function across departments (**I will send you more information on this early next week**).
- In relation to correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding Post Project Evaluations (PPEs), members agreed to forward the information to the Department and receive the status of its outstanding PPEs (**Please see attached**).
- In relation to proposals from Energy-Saver NI on Voltage Optimisation, members agreed to forward the papers to DETI and the NIAUR for comments (**Please see attached**).

#### **Any Other Business**

- In relation to the draft Economic Strategy, members agreed for the Committee to coordinate responses from the other Committees (**this is a substantive item on the agenda next week**).

## Outstanding requests

### From 27 October meeting:

- In relation to the research and development inquiry; members agreed to ask Invest NI and InterTradeIreland to provide information on appropriate businesses (those that have successfully availed of opportunities for R&D and innovation); as the Committee may invite them to give evidence to the inquiry (still awaiting businesses from InterTradeIreland).

### From 20 October meeting:

- In relation to Invest NI; members agreed to receive information on the new loan scheme for SMEs (announced by Invest NI) that will drawdown EU money. In particular, information as to why interest rates are higher than bank rates and if the EU money existed before or if this is money from a different programme. Members also commented that this announcement should have been made at the floor of the Assembly or brought to the Committee in the first instance.

### From 13 October meeting:

- In relation to the briefing paper from the Department regarding the Boosting Business Initiative; members agree to ask Invest NI to go into more detail on this during its oral briefing in December.

### From 6 October meeting:

- In relation to the October Monitoring Round:
  1. Officials agreed provide details of how they are trying to restructure the Short Term Employment Scheme (perhaps this can be addressed during Invest NI's briefing in December).

### From 30 September meeting:

- In relation to InterTradeIreland:
  1. Officials agreed to forward the results of the business monitoring survey to the Committee.
  2. Officials agreed to forward any current/future research papers in relation to business/economy to the Committee.

### From 22 September meeting:

- Members agreed for the Chair and Deputy Chair to arrange to meet with NITB to see how they can promote a positive attitude to life and living within local communities on which tourism events impact.

### From 15 September meeting:

- In relation to the Renewable Energy Inquiry:
  1. In relation to DETI's planned study into best options for the introduction of a form of "energy supplier obligation" in NI; members agreed to receive this from the Department and forward it to the Committee for Social Development when the reply is received.

- In relation to CAG:
  1. Members agreed to receive a timetable for the Bill.
  2. Members agreed to schedule an oral briefing from the Department on final policy proposals before the Committee Stage of the Bill.
- In relation to the Committee for Finance and Personnel's letter on the end year flexibility scheme; members agreed to forward this letter to the Department to ask how the budget exchange scheme will impact on its work and how the proposal for the Minister for DFP would impact on its work.

**From 30 June meeting:**

- In relation to the Letter from the Minister to the Chair regarding Electricity Market Reform (EMR); members agreed to receive the outcomes of DETI's review on the potential impact of the EMR proposals on NI when they become available.

**From 23 June meeting:**

- In relation to Proposals to Amend the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (NI) 1997 (RIDDOR); members noted and agreed to receive a summary of responses from the Department when they become available.

**From 2 June meeting**

- Members agreed to receive details of substantive reduced requirements from the Department on an on-going basis as and when they inform DFP.
- Members agreed that papers for future monitoring rounds may be at the Committee Office on the Monday prior to the meeting at which they will be considered rather than having to adhere to the 5-day requirement agreed in the Executive's Departmental Guidance on Assembly Committees – with assurances from the Department that they will adhere to this deadline.

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