

From: Jim McManus
Committee Clerk
Committee for Enterprise, Trade & Investment

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To: Alban Maginness
Chairperson

cc Daithí McKay

Date: 15 December 2011

**CHAIR'S BRIEF FOR THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE,
TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS AT 10.30AM.**

Agenda Item 1 – Apologies

1. **Welcome** and remind members and the public that the meeting will be held in **public session** and that all mobile phones and electronic devices should be switched off as, even in silent mode, phones interfere with the recording system.
2. **Inform** members that apologies have been received from Phil Flanagan. **Ask** members if they have any further apologies.

Agenda Item 2 – Minutes of meeting held on 8 December 2011

3. **Inform** members that copies of these minutes have been included in their papers at **Tab 1**. **Ask** members if they are content with the draft minutes.

Agenda Item 3 – Chairperson's Business

4. **Advise** members that papers in this item are at **Tab 2**.
5. **Ask** members if they are content to write to the Minister offering condolences on the loss of her father, John, William Kelly.
6. **Inform** members that in papers is the introduction to the report from the FSA on the regulation of credit unions in Northern Ireland and a letter from the FSA to the Chair relating to the report. **Advise** members that the full report is in the Committee office if members wish to see it.
7. **Inform** members that **tabled today** is a response from the Department in relation to extending the group membership provision to Northern Ireland. The Department states in its response that it intends to bring forward proposals in the current mandate for legislation to mirror those measures, including group, within the proposed GB legislation. **Ask** members are they content, given the prolonged time scale to date for introducing credit union reform, to write to the Minister to request that this legislation be given a high priority in the Department's legislative programme.

8. **Inform** members that in papers is an invitation to the Chair from the Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group to give the keynote address at its conference on Thursday 26th January.

Agenda Item 4 - Matters arising from 8 December 2011 meeting

9. **Inform** members that in papers in this item are at **Tab 3**.
10. **Inform** members that in papers is a letter from Ian Paisley MP regarding the Committee's visit to Ballymena Council last week.

(10.45am) Agenda Item 5: Draft Economic Strategy

11. **Advise** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 4** and include correspondence from the Committee for OFMDFM regarding the Draft PFG and Investment Strategy. The 3 draft strategies are in members Green folders.
12. **Advise** members that briefing the Committee today is David Thomson, Deputy Secretary; Phil Rodgers, Principal, Strategic Policy Unit; and Alistair Pyper, Deputy Principal, Strategic Policy Unit.

Agenda Item 6 - January Monitoring Round: Written Briefing from DETI

13. **Inform** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 5** and include a briefing from DETI on Stage 1 of the January Monitoring Round Process. The Clerk has provided a briefing paper with background and analysis. **Advise** members that the Department has informed the Committee Office that papers relating to Stage 2 of the process will not be made available for Committee scrutiny before they are due for submission to DFP.

Note to Chair: you may wish to inform members that, because papers on January Monitoring have not been made available, you requested that Department officials come to today's meeting to brief the Committee and explain the reason for the delay and for other delays in sending departmental papers to the Committee.

14. **Tabled today** is an email from the Department stating that the Minister has instructed officials that there is no need to attend today's meeting as work on the Department's Stage 2 position in relation to January Monitoring is on-going and will not be completed until the DFP deadline.
15. **Ask** members if they have any comments.

Agenda Item 7 - Better Regulation Strategy – Annual Report: Written Briefing

16. **Advise** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 6** and include the Northern Ireland Better Regulation Strategy report. The Assistant Clerk has provided a briefing paper with background and summary of content.
17. **Ask** members if they have any comments. **Ask** members if they are content to note.

Agenda Item 8 - HSENI Proposals for Health and Safety (Fees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012: Written Briefing

18. **Advise** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 7** and include the HSENI Consultation document. The Assistant Clerk has provided a briefing paper with background and summary of content.
19. **Ask** members if they have any comments. **Ask** members if they are content to note.

Agenda Item 9 – Correspondence

20. **Advise** members that you wish to draw their attention to the following items of correspondence at **Tab 8**:

- i. Correspondence from DETI regarding Sickness Absence rates in the NICS. **Ask** members if they have any comments.
- ii. Correspondence from the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development regarding the Reservoirs Bill. **Ask** members if they are content to note.
- iii. **Tabled today** is a letter to the Chair from the Minister regarding Insolvency Rules for Building Societies along with correspondence from the Committee for Justice on a Joint SL1 on insolvency rules for building societies. This will bring Northern Ireland into line with the regime currently in operation in England and Wales. **Ask** members if they are content to forward the Minister's letter to the Committee for Justice and the Committee for Finance & Personnel for information and to welcome the legislation as it is designed to act in the interests of depositors and to achieve the best results for creditors.

- iv. **Tabled today** is a response from DETI to the Environment Committee on Renewable District Heating Schemes and Renewable Fuel Targets. **Ask** members are they content to note.
- v. **Tabled today** is a letter to the Clerk from Craigavon Industrial Development Organisation (CIDO) inviting the Committee to visit their Innovation Centre in Portadown. **Ask** members are they content to schedule this visit for next year.
- vi. **Tabled today** is a response from the Department in relation to a number of issues raised by the Committee on energy matters. **Advise** members that Annex B of the document is marked "Restricted Policy" and should be treated accordingly. **Ask** members if they are content to note.
- vii. **Tabled today** is correspondence from the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure regarding the Lagan Canal Trust. **Ask** members if they have any comments.

Agenda Item 10 - Any Other Business

- 21. **Advise** members that there is one additional Item of business.
- 22. **Inform** members that **tabled today** is the InterTradeIreland report on cross border cooperation in the agri-food sector which members had requested. **Ask** members if they have any comments. **Ask** members if they are content to note.
- 23. **Ask** members if they have any additional items of business.

Agenda Item 11 - Date, time and place of next meeting

- 24. The next meeting of the Committee will be on **12 January 2012 in Room 30, Parliament Buildings at 10.30am.**
- 25. **Note to Chair: You may wish to wish members a happy Christmas and a happy New Year and thank them for their hard work during the session.**