

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

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To: Alban Maginness
Chairperson

cc Daithí McKay

Date: 12 January 2012

CHAIR'S BRIEF FOR THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS ON 12 JANUARY 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 Robin Newton and Stephen Moutray has indicated that he will be late. **Ask** members if they have any further apologies.

Agenda Item 2 – Minutes of meeting held on 15 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. **Inform** members that in papers is a letter from Queen's University Belfast to the Chair requesting an interview for a research project for the delivery of renewable energy under devolution.
6. **Advise** members that in papers is a request from the NI Government Affairs Group to the Chair to address the Group's members in a meeting on issues relating to the ETI Committee.
7. **Advise** members that, in papers is an invitation to the Chair from the Tourist Board to the launch of Northern Ireland tourism events for 2012..

Agenda Item 4 – Matters arising from 15 December 2011 meeting

8. **Inform** members that in papers in this item are at **Tab 3**.

9. **Inform** members that in papers is a letter from the Utility Regulator regarding the Common Arrangements for Gas (CAG) project. **Remind** members that the Committee wrote to the Regulator with concerns about the consultation period for this and other projects after the issue was raised by the Consumer Council. **Ask** members if they are content to note.

(10.45am) Agenda Item 5 – Tourism Ireland: Oral briefing

10. **Advise** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 4** and include a briefing from Tourism Ireland.
11. **Advise** members that briefing the Committee today is Brian Ambrose, Chairman, Niall Gibbons, Chief Executive; Shane Clarke, Director of Corporate Services & Policy; and Aubrey Irwin, Head of Northern Ireland and Produce.

Agenda Item 6 – January Monitoring, 2nd Stage: Oral briefing

12. **Advise** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 5** and include a briefing paper from the Department. The Clerk has provided a briefing paper with background and summary of content.
13. **Advise** members that briefing the Committee today is Trevor Cooper, Head of Finance Division, DETI; Bernie Brankin, Head of Finance Branch, DETI; and Mel Chittock, Managing Director, Corporate Services, Invest NI.

Agenda Item 7 – Subordinate Legislation: SR 2011/427 Employers Liability (Compulsory Insurance) (Amendment) Regulations Northern Ireland 2011

14. **Advise** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 6** and include the Statutory Rule and an explanatory memorandum. There is a cover note with the background and purpose of the Rule. The Rule is subject to **negative resolution**. **Remind** members that the Committee discussed this Rule at SL1 stage at its meeting on 1 December 2011 and had no comment on the Rule. The rule will come into operation on 13 January 2012.
15. The Examiner of Statutory Rules' report is not included in papers, as his first report is not due until 13 January 2012. However, the Committee Office has been in contact with the Examiner and included in papers are his initial comments; he has indicated that he will have no points to raise by way of technical scrutiny.
16. The Rule will introduce a new Schedule to be substituted for Schedule 2 to the 1999 Regulations which specifies those employers exempt from employers' liability insurance under the 1972 Order.
17. **Note to Chair: If members are content with the SR please put the following question:**

18. *“That the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment has considered SR 2011/427 Employers Liability (Compulsory Insurance) (Amendment) Regulations Northern Ireland 2011 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules’ report, has no objection to the rule.”*

Agenda Item 8 – Draft NI Economic Strategy: Draft Comprehensive Action Plan: Written Briefing

19. **Advise** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 7** and include letters from the Minister, responses from the Committees for Agriculture and Rural Development and Social Development regarding the Draft Economic Strategy, and the draft comprehensive action plan for the draft economic strategy.
20. **Ask** members if they have any comments.
21. **Remind** members that Committees and stakeholders are due to respond to the draft action plan by the end of January. **Ask** members if they are content to await submissions and consider the issue again at the meeting on 9th February.

Agenda Item 9 - Agri Food: A Study for Cross-Border Co-Operation: Written briefing

22. **Advise** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 8** and include the Agri-Food Report.
23. **Remind** members that this was discussed at the last committee meeting and members agreed to consider the issue again this week.
24. **Ask** members if they have any comments.
25. **Ask** members if they are content to invite InterTradeIreland to brief the Committee on the Agri-Food Study.

Agenda Item 10 – Draft Forward Work Programme 2012

26. **Advise** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 9** and include the Draft Forward Work Programme and correspondence from NI Science Park.
27. **Advise** members that the NI Science Park has invited members to visit its premises. There is also a list of organisations that the Committee has agreed to visit and/or hold a meeting. **Ask** members if they are content to schedule a meeting and a visit to South Eastern Regional College (SERC) and Almac as part of the Inquiry.

28. **Advise** members that it is envisaged that most oral evidence sessions for the Research and Development inquiry will be scheduled during February and March. As there are no oral briefings scheduled for next week, a discussion and planning session for the inquiry is scheduled in closed session at next week's meeting. **Ask** members if they are content with this approach.
29. **Ask** members if they have any comments. **Ask** members if they are content with the Draft Forward Work Programme.

Agenda Item 11 – Correspondence

30. **Advise** members that following items of correspondence are at **Tab 10**:

- i. A letter to the Chair from the Chair of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Jobs, Special Protection and Education. **Ask** members if they are content to schedule this meeting in the Spring.
- ii. Responses from the Department on Committee queries regarding:
 - Retained HR functions in DETI – **Ask** members if they are content to note.
 - NITB Masterclass event – **Ask** members if they're content to forward this to the GAA, the original inquirer.
 - Responses from DETI and the Utility Regulator on Voltage optimization – **Ask** members if they are content to forward the responses to Energy Saver NI.
- iii. Correspondence from DETI regarding Remote Broadband Service Contract. **Ask** members if they are content to note.
- iv. Correspondence to the Culture, Arts and Leisure Committee from DETI regarding the Creative Industries. **Ask** members if they are content to forward the information to the Culture, Arts and Leisure Committee.
- v. Response from DETI to the Committee for the Environment, copied to this Committee, on the North/South Interconnector. **Ask** members if they are content to note.
- vi. Correspondence from the NI Oil Federation regarding the Consumer Council's draft Customer Charter. **Ask** members if they are content to note.
- vii. Correspondence from Phoenix Gas regarding extending the Natural Gas Network in NI. **Ask** members if they are content to note.

- viii. Correspondence from a member of the public regarding a local development's heating system. **Ask** members if they are content to forward to the correspondence to the Department and ask that they respond to the inquirer.
- ix. Invitation to members from the All Party Group on Co-operatives and Mutuels to a reception in the Member's Dining Room at 1pm following this meeting.
- x. Invitation to members from the NI Assembly and Business Trust to a business breakfast with the Confucius Institute on Tuesday, 17 January.
- xi. **Tabled today** is an invitation from Semta to members to the launch of Semta NI at Thales Air Defence in Belfast on Tuesday, 24 January.

Agenda Item 12 - Any Other Business

31. **Advise** members that there are no additional items of business. **Ask** members if they have any additional items of business.

Agenda Item 13 - Date, time and place of next meeting

32. The next meeting of the Committee will be on **19 January 2012 in Room 30, Parliament Buildings at 10.30am.**

From: Glenn Gibson [mailto:Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry]
Sent: 04 January 2012 10:13
To: +Comm. ETI Public Email; +Comm. of the OFMDFM Public Email; peter.robinson.mp@btconnect.com; McGuinness, Martin
Subject: Heating system

I was suggested by local MLA was to contact yourselves about our eco-system heating system. I would ask that you read the email below and if there is anyway that you could intervene I would ask that you would. They have given us the 31st January as a cut off date.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you in connection with the development I live in and an ongoing issue with have with the heating system. I live in Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry in the eco-village, known as wood brook on the Ballinderry Road, Lisburn. We have a self contained heating system that is run by a company called Vital Energy. They have run the heating system on site since the development first began.

We received a letter to inform us that they intend to put the price up per unit from 3.5 to 8.5 a unit, an increase of over 100% and our monthly contributions will jump from £12 to £30.50. This is totally unacceptable and well above the inflation rate.

To add to the pressure of this they have said that will turn the heating system off if we don't agree to the terms as well as handing over the land they are using. These are unfair demands.

I live with my wife and bought our house over two years ago, we don't believe that it is fair that we should be punished because Carville, who built the houses, have went into administration and it is them who owe money to the energy company. They should be going through Price Waterhouse Cooper not coming to the home owners to pay the debts.

On top of this Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry and therefore to have no heating or reduced heating due to the extra cost would have Irrelevant information redacted by the RHI Inquiry. Also houses in the development have children and some housing went to social housing.

I am sure you have heard about this already but I would be interested in your views on this matter and would ask that you would inquire what we can do. My mobile number is Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry or I can be contacted at the email address: Personal information redacted by the RHI Inquiry

Many Thanks

Glenn Gibson