

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

**VERSION: 22/05/2017 11:17**

**To: Alban Maginness**  
**Chairperson**

**cc Daithí McKay**

**Date: 26 January 2012**

**CHAIR'S BRIEF FOR THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS ON 26 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 Stephen Moutray and Daithí McKay and Steven Agnew. Gordon Dunne will be late. Robin Newton has to leave at 11am. **Ask** members if they have any further apologies.
3. **Note to Chair: You may wish to welcome Jennifer McCann back to the Committee and advise members that you will be writing to Sue Ramsey to thank her for her contributions to the Committee during the time she was on the Committee.**

### **Agenda Item 2 – Minutes of meeting held on 19 January 2012**

4. **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**

5. **Advise** members that papers in this item are at **Tab 2**.
6. **Inform** members that in papers is correspondence from Action Renewables inviting the Chair to an awards luncheon on 20 March 2012 in the Titanic Building.
7. **Tabled today** is a draft letter to the Committee for OFMDFM regarding the draft Programme for Government. **Ask** members if they are content.
8. **Advise** members that the Chair met with representatives from the Irish League of Credit Unions and the Ulster Federation of Credit Unions. **Tabled today** is a Clerk's briefing paper with a summary of the meetings, a letter from Dundonald

Credit Union Limited and this Committee's response to the Treasury/FSA credit union consultation. **Ask** members if they are content to outline the UFCU and ILCU concerns to the Department to obtain its views on the matter.

9. **Note to Chair: You may wish to ask members if they wish to consider whether it considers it necessary for credit unions to have some form of support to aid the transition.**

#### **Agenda Item 4 – Matters arising from 19 January 2012 meeting**

10. **Inform** members that in papers in this item are at **Tab 3**.
11. **Inform** members that in papers is a response from DETI on the Renewable Heat Incentive. **Ask** members if they are content to note. **Advise** members that the Committee is scheduled to receive an oral briefing from the Department with an update on the Renewable Heat Incentive.
12. **Advise** members that in papers is a letter from GT Energy regarding key issues that the organisation believes needs addressed in the NI Renewable Heat Incentive for future development of geothermal projects in NI. **Ask** members if they are content to forward the letter to the Department for its views and comments on GT Energy's suggestions.
13. **Inform** members that in papers is an Irish News Article on the price of electricity that was raised at last week's meeting. **Ask** members if they have any comments.
14. **Tabled today** is a draft response to the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development on the DARD draft business plan. **Ask** members if they are content with the response.

#### **(10.45am) Agenda Item 5 – Campaigning for Tourism – NITB**

15. **Advise** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 4** and include a briefing paper from NITB. The Assistant Clerk has provided a briefing paper with background.
16. **Advise** members that briefing the Committee today is Alan Clarke, Chief Executive and Kathryn Thomson, Chief Operating Officer.

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Electricity Market Reform: Written Briefing**

17. **Advise** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 5** and include a letter from the Minister to the Chair and a report from the Cambridge Economic Policy Associates Ltd (CEPA) on an analysis of policy options for DETI and the NIAUR. The Clerk has provided a briefing paper with background and a suggested way forward.

18. **Ask** members if they have any comments.
19. **Ask** members to receive an oral briefing from the Utility Regulator on the proposals to assist in clarifying some of the technical details.
20. **Ask** members if they are content to ask the Department and the Utility Regulator to provide a breakdown of their assessment of the impact on electricity bills by 2020 of policies under the Strategic Energy Framework including the impact of the possible future adoption of FIT with Contracts for Difference.

### Agenda Item 7 – Forward Work Programme

21. **Advise** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 6** and include the draft forward work programme.
22. **Advise** members that oral evidence sessions for the research and development inquiry have been tentatively scheduled, but are subject to changes, pending responses from some organisations.
23. **Remind** members that at last week’s meeting, it was agreed to receive an oral briefing on the Renewable Heat Incentive and gas network extension project at the meeting of 1 March. **Inform** members that the Department has advised that it will not be in a position to provide the briefing on 1 March, but has suggested 22 March. **Ask** members if they are content.
24. **Inform** members that, **tabled today** is correspondence from the Department regarding scheduling of oral briefings for the Research & Development Inquiry. This will require some adjustments to the Forward Work Programme. **Ask** members if they are content to note.
25. **Ask** members if they have any comments.

### Agenda Item 8 – Correspondence

26. **Advise** members that following items of correspondence are at **Tab 7**:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Correspondence from the Committee for Education on the Draft Programme for Government. <b>Ask</b> if they are content to note.</li> <li>ii. Correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel on Savings Delivery Plans. <b>Ask</b> members if they are content to note.</li> <li>iii. Email from Powerstar on Voltage Optimisation. <b>Ask</b> members if they are content to note.</li> </ul> |
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- iv. Invitation from the NI Assembly Business Trust to a briefing on social media on 14 February 2012.

#### **Agenda Item 9 - Any Other Business**

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

#### **Agenda Item 10 - Date, time and place of next meeting**

28. **Inform** members that the Research and Development inquiry will be discussed at next week's meeting and that members should bring their inquiry folders to the meeting. **Advise** members that the Committee Office will update folders on Monday to include additional papers from Assembly Research to be considered at next week's meeting.

29. The next meeting of the Committee will be on **2 February 2012 in Room 30, Parliament Buildings at 10.30am.**

## REQUEST FROM THE COMMITTEE

In relation to the renewable heat incentive members asked how this will affect existing gas customers and what part of the incentive will be available to them.

## DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSE

The proposed RHI for non-domestic customers, as detailed in the July 2011 consultation paper, will be available to all consumers no matter what fuel source they are currently using. For example, a business in Ballymena on natural gas and a business in Omagh heated by oil both switching to biomass (or another renewable heat technology) will receive exactly the same incentive.

In relation to capital payments to domestic consumers and RHI payments to large industrial sites, there were **proposals** in relation to gas areas. These were :

(i) in relation to domestics - existing gas customers would not be able to avail of *premium payments* to support a switch to renewable; however they would be eligible for the RHI payments when the scheme is extended to the domestic market; and

(ii) in relation to large industrial sites – that is the 17 private sector sites that trade under the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme (EUETS) - it was proposed that, before these sites received an incentive payment, DETI would need to consider whether the sites required an incentive, could effectively utilize renewable heat, had a sustainable fuel source and did not impact on the natural gas market.

It should be noted, that the RHI proposals are not yet finalised and DETI is considering a range of issues before announcing the final design of the scheme.