



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**THURSDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2012  
SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

- Present: Mr Alban Maginness (Chairperson)  
Mr Daithí McKay (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Steven Agnew  
Mr Gordon Dunne  
Mr Phil Flanagan  
Mr Paul Frew  
Ms Jennifer McCann  
Dr Alasdair McDonnell  
Mr Stephen Moutray  
Ms Sandra Overend
- In Attendance: Mr Jim McManus (Assembly Clerk)  
Ms Kate McCullough (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Ms Paul Best (Clerical Supervisor)  
Ms Michelle McDowell (Clerical Officer)
- Apologies: Mr Robin Newton

*The meeting began at 10.36am in public session.*

**1. Apologies**

Apologies are detailed above.

**2. Minutes of meeting held on 2 February 2012**

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the meeting on 2 February were agreed.

**3. Chairperson's Business**

There was no business under this agenda item.

#### 4. Matters Arising

Members considered a response from the Department on the Committee's query regarding DSD, the Green New Deal and progress of the Inter-Departmental Working Group.

*Agreed:* Write to DSD for further information.

Members considered a request from DETI Innovation Unit for a list of stakeholders providing evidence to the Committee on the R&D inquiry when available.

*Agreed:* To share the list of stakeholders with DETI Innovation Unit.

*Agreed:* Members agreed responses to the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the Minister.

#### 5. InterTradeIreland: Agri-Food Report: - Oral Briefing

*Officials joined the meeting at 10.45am.*

*Alasdair McDonnell joined the meeting at 11.01am.*

Members received an oral briefing from Liam Nellis, CEO, Aidan Gough, Director of Strategy and Policy, and Eoin Magennis, Research Manager, InterTradeIreland. Key issues discussed included the InterTradeIreland report on cross-border co-operation on agri-food, designation of Centres of Excellence in the food sector and the potential for an all island food tourism strategy.

*Agreed:* Return to the issue at next week's meeting.

*Officials left the meeting at 11.49am.*

#### 6. Electricity Market Reform: – Oral Briefing

*John Simpson joined the meeting at 11.55am.*

Members received an oral briefing from John Simpson, Economist. Key issues discussed included Electricity Market Reform and the report from Cambridge Economic Policy Associates Limited (CEPA) on policy options for Northern Ireland.

*Stephen Moutray left the meeting at 12.25pm.*

*Jennifer McCann left the meeting at 12.31pm.*

*Gordon Dunne left the meeting at 12.51pm.*

*John Simpson left the meeting at 12.55pm.*

**7. Draft Economic Strategy and Comprehensive Action Plan**

Members considered the draft response to the Department on its consideration of the draft economic strategy and comprehensive action plan.

*Agreed:* To agree the final response to the Department at next week's meeting.

**8. Forward Work Programme**

Members discussed the draft Forward Work Programme.

*Agreed:* Content with the Forward Work Programme.

**9. Correspondence**

Members noted the following items of correspondence:

- i. Correspondence from the Committee for OFMDFM regarding draft European Priorities 2012-13.

*Agreed:* Clerk to draft a response for consideration at next week's meeting.

- ii. Correspondence from Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group requesting a meeting with the Chair.

- iii. An invitation to members to a 'STEM in Action' event in the Long Gallery on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March.

**10. Any other business**

Members considered proposals relating to hydraulic fracturing.

*Agreed:* To consider the issue at next week's meeting.

**11. Date, time and place of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **Thursday 16 February at 10.30am, Almac, 20 Seagoe Industrial Estate, Craigavon.**

**12. Closed Session: Presbyterian Mutual Society (PMS)**

Members agreed, due to time constraints, to defer this agenda item until next week's meeting.

*The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1.04pm.*

**Mr Alban Maginness**

**Chair**

**Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment**

**16 February 2012**