

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

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To: Alban Maginness
Chairperson

cc Daithí McKay

Date: 16 February 2012

CHAIR'S BRIEF FOR THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN ALMAC GROUP, 20 SEAGOE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, CRAIGAVON, ON 16 FEBRUARY 2012 AT 10.30AM.

Note to Chair: before the meeting you may wish to discuss with members the approach to taking oral evidence for the inquiry so as to ensure the key issues are covered.

Before the meeting begins: Advise members that the meeting will move into closed session at the end to allow members to discuss issues relating to the Presbyterian Mutual Society.

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 **Steven Agnew, Paul Frew, Robin Newton, and Alasdair McDonnell**. **Ask** members if they have any further apologies.

Agenda Item 2 – Minutes of meeting held on 9 February 2012

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

There is no chairperson's business.

Agenda Item 4 – Matters arising from 2 February 2012 meeting

4. **Advise** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 3**
5. **Remind** members that there were no papers on this item when meeting papers were issued.

EMR

6. Remind members that at last week's meeting, the economist John Simpson raised a number of questions regarding electricity market reform. **Ask** members if they are content to write to the Department, the Utility Regulator and the NIE to seek their views on the questions he raised.

EU Priorities Paper

7. **Remind** members that, at last week's meeting the Committee agreed to consider a draft response to a paper from OFMDFM regarding the draft European Priorities 2012-13.
8. **Advise** members that the draft response is **tabled** today.
9. **Ask** members if they have any comments.
10. **Ask** members if they are content to forward the response to the Committee for OFMDFM.

Agri-Food

11. **Remind** members that it was agreed at last week's meeting to consider a way forward in relation to Bord Bia's Quality Assurance scheme.

Note to Chair: You may wish to discuss the matter in the context of the on-going R&D inquiry. There will not be time between now and Easter recess for the Committee to meet in Dublin. The Clerk has been in discussions with the Clerk to the joint Oireachtas Committee Jobs, Social Protection and Education. This Committee may be in a position to come to Parliament Buildings prior to Easter recess, however it is not the appropriate committee for this issue. You may wish to suggest to Paul Frew that the Agriculture Committee write to the Oireachtas joint Committee on Communications, Natural Resources and Agriculture in the first instance to obtain further details of the policy and Bord Bia's implementation strategy.

Hydraulic Fracturing

12. **Remind** members that it was agreed at last week's meeting to consider suggestion of an oral evidence session from Tamboran Ltd and the group opposed to hydraulic fracturing in Fermanagh.

Note to Chair: At last week's meeting it was suggested that the Committee receive an oral briefing from Tamboran and from the group opposed to hydraulic fracturing. Again, you may wish to remind members of the current committee workload in relation to the R&D Inquiry. It may be that the Committee could consider the issue in the future Forward Work Programme between Easter and summer.

13. **(10.45am) Agenda Item 5 – Inquiry into Research and Development: Almac:– Oral Briefing**

14. **Advise** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 4**

15. **Remind** members that the purpose of the R&D inquiry is to identify barriers to innovation, research & development and to make recommendations on how these barriers can be overcome.

16. **Inform** members that briefing the Committee today are Mr. Colin Hayburn (Executive Director), Prof. Richard Kennedy (VP Experimental Medicine) Professor Tim Harrison (VP Discovery Chemistry) from Almac.

17. Following the briefing, **ask** Almac representatives if they are content to answer any further questions in writing that the Committee may have regarding this issue.

(11.30am) Agenda Item 6 – Draft Economic Strategy

18. **Advise** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 5**

19. **Remind** members that, at last week's meeting it was agreed to consider a final response to the draft Economic Strategy

20. **Ask** members if they have any comments on the response and proposed recommendations to the Economic Strategy.

21. **Ask** members if they are content to submit the final response to the Department.

Agenda Item 7 – Subordinate Legislation:- SR 2012/11 The Petroleum (Consolidation) Act (Amendment of Licensing Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012

22. **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 30 June 2011 and had **no comment** on the Rule. The rule will come into operation on 19 March 2012.

23. The Examiner of Statutory Rules' report is included and he has no points to raise by way of technical scrutiny.

24. The Statutory Rule will amend the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act (Northern Ireland) 1929 (1929 c. 13) ("the 1929 Act").

25. The Rule is made for the clarification of the powers available to a local authority in relation to petroleum-spirit licenses and to introduce new procedures in relation to the granting of those licenses, including a new appeals procedure.

26. This Rule does not introduce any new duties on the public.

27. **Note to Chair:** *If members are content with the SR please put the following question:*

"That the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment has SR 2012/11 has considered The Petroleum (Consolidation) Act (Amendment of Licensing Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 and has no objection to the rule."

28. **Agenda Item 8 – Correspondence**

29. **Inform** members that the following items of correspondence are at **Tab 7**.

- i. A response from the **Department** to the letter from GT Energy regarding the potential development of deep geothermal energy in Northern Ireland.

NOTE TO CHAIR: Elements of this submission would be exempt under Section 35 of the Freedom of Information Act, subject to a public interest test.

Ask members if they are content to forward the response to Ballymena Borough Council for information and comment.

- ii. A letter from the **Minister** regarding the reconstitution of NESTA as a charitable organisation.
- iii. A response from **Mrs Diane Dodds MEP** regarding Horizon 2020. **Advise** members that Mrs Dodds has raised a number of concerns with the Commission and has agreed to share responses with the Committee.
- iv. Correspondence from the **Committee for Finance & Personnel** regarding quarterly monitoring of Post Project Evaluations (PPEs). **Ask** members if they are content to forward the information to the Department to ask the reason for delays in completing post project evaluations.
- v. A letter from **Colleges Northern Ireland** to the Chair of the Education Committee and a briefing paper on the views of the sector regarding the proposed dissolution of the Department for Employment and Learning.
- vi. A letter from the **Oil Firing Technical Association (OFTEC)** asking to brief the Committee on the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI).
- vii. Correspondence from **SSE Ireland** requesting a meeting with the Chair to discuss renewable energy and the impact of Electricity Market Reform in Northern Ireland.
- viii. A copy of a response from the **Minister** to the Chair of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee regarding the Economic Strategy.
- ix. A letter from **The Mount Conference Centre** regarding an apparent ban on the use of non-government sector premises by the Civil Service. **Ask** members if they are content to forward to the Department for their views.
- x. An invitation to members from **'Success through STEM'** to an event to see and hear about the progress that has been made in implementing the actions within the STEM strategy. **Ask** members to contact the Committee office if they wish to attend.
- xi. An invitation to an **Agenda NI** Seminar on 22nd March on *Developing Electricity Marketing*. **Ask** members to contact the Committee office if they wish to attend.
- xii. A letter **tabled** today from **Employers for Childcare** regarding the opportunity to provide a brief presentation on Social Enterprise Qualification. **Ask** members due

to the full schedule if they are content to consider this request at a later date when with regards to the social economy.

- xiii. **Tabled** today a holding reply from the **Secretary of State** acknowledging the letter received from the Northern Ireland Credit Union by the FSA.
- xiv. **Tabled** today a response from Phoenix Gas on seeking the views on Infracation Proceedings on Gas Regulation. **Ask** members if they are content to write Mutual Energy.

Agenda Item 9 – Any other business

- 30. **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

- 31. The next meeting of the Committee will be on **23 February 2012 South Eastern Regional College, Newtownards.**
- 32. **Ask** members if they are content to book a bus for the visit. **Inform** members the bus will leave Parliament Buildings at 9.30am. Directions will be provided for those members who are making their own travel arrangements.

- 33. **Advise** members that the meeting will now go into closed session to allow members to discuss issues relating to the Presbyterian Mutual Society.

Agenda Item 11 – Closed Session: Presbyterian Mutual Society (PMS)

- 34. **Remind** members that it was agreed to defer this item from last week's meeting.
- 35. **Inform** members that papers for this item are at **Tab. 9.**
- 36. **Advise** members that included in papers is a letter to the Chair from a former Director of the Presbyterian Mutual Society which raises a number of points in relation to the proceedings against directors and a press article relating to disqualification proceedings against PMS Directors.

37. Inform members that **tabled** today is the legal advice on the issue that the Committee commissioned from Legal Services.

38. **NOTE TO CHAIR: you may wish to advise members on the “privileged” nature of legal advice which should not be disclosed.**

39. **Ask** members if they are content to return copies of the legal advice to the Committee staff following the meeting.

NOTE TO CHAIR: You may wish to ask members if they are content to request the report from the Administrator which is referred to in the letter.