

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

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To: Alban Maginness
Chairperson

cc Daithí McKay

Date: 19 April 2012

CHAIR'S BRIEF FOR THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, 19 APRIL 2012 AT 10.30AM.

<p>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 Research and Development Inquiry.</p>
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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 **Sandra Overend** and **Phil Flanagan**. **Ask** members if they have any further apologies.

Agenda Item 2 – Minutes of meeting held on 29 March 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

4. **Inform** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 2**.

Draft Planning Policy Statement 16

5. **Remind** members in June 2011 the Northern Ireland Tourist Board raised concerns regarding draft PPS16. The committee agreed to invite Department of Environment officials to brief the Committee.
6. **Inform** members that the Northern Ireland Tourist Board has reported that, since the Committee considered the policy, DOE Planning Policy officials have engaged

further with NITB and the policy has been redrafted into a much more positive document which addresses the key areas of concern raised by Northern Ireland Tourist Board. **Ask** members if they are content not to invite the Department of Environment as Committee concerns seem to have been addressed.

SEM Committee Decision on ‘Treatment of Price Taking Generation in Tie-breaks’

7. **Inform** members that included in papers is an update on the SEM Committee’s decision on the treatment of curtailment in tie-break situations. **Advise** members that the SEM Committee has withdrawn its original decision and will issue a consultation document in relation to the treatment of curtailment.
8. **Tabled today** is an article in the press relating to the referral of Phoenix Gas to the Competition Commission by the Utility Regulator. **Ask** members if they are content to note.
9. **Tabled today** is an article in the press relating to a statement by the Consumer council that the gap between oil and gas prices in the north is growing. **Ask** members if they are content to note.

Visit by State Councillor Madam Liu Yandong

10. **Inform** members that the Chair attended a dinner on the 12 April hosted by the First and deputy First Ministers in honour of Chinese State Councillor Madam Liu Yandong.

EGSA Money for Life Challenge Regional Final

11. **Inform** the members that the Chair attended Educational Guidance Service for Adults, Money for Life Challenge regional final on the 17 April 2012.

CBI NI Annual Economic Briefing

12. **Inform** the members that the Chair has been invited to attend the Annual CBI Northern Ireland Economic Briefing and Lunch in May.

Agenda Item 4 – Matters arising from 29 March 2012 meeting

13. **Inform** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 3**.

Response to Concerns Regarding Timeliness of Briefing Papers

14. **Inform** members that included in papers is a response from the Minister to the Chair's letter regarding the Committee's concerns about late papers. **Ask** members if they have any comments. **Ask** if they are content with the response.

Note to Chair you may wish to suggest that the Committee informs the Department that, in future, when papers are late, officials will be asked for the date the papers were forwarded to the Private Office for consideration by the Minister.

Response by Department to Request for Report on PMS

15. **Remind** members that at a meeting on 16 February 2012 the Committee agreed to receive a copy of an administrators report on the Presbyterian Mutual Society.
16. **Inform** members that included in papers is the Department's response to the request. **Ask** members if they have any comments. **Ask** members if they are content to note.

Support for Small Retail Businesses

17. **Remind** members that at the meeting on 22nd March, the Committee agreed to receive a written briefing on the Department's support for small retail businesses. **Inform** members that the Department's response is included in papers. **Ask** members if they have any comments. **Ask** members if they are content to note.

Invest NI Funding of Independent News and Media

18. **Remind** members that at the meeting on 22nd March the Committee agreed to receive details of Invest NI support for Independent News Media.
19. **Tabled today** is a response from the Department to an Assembly Question regarding this issue. **Ask** members if they are content to note.

The Draft Community Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland

20. **Remind** members that at the meeting on 29th March the Committee they had agreed to receive comment on the Community Safety Strategy from the Department in relation to working with the business community, business improvement districts and ensuring that businesses are safe. **Ask** members if they are content to forward the response to the Committee for Justice.

Draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020

21. **Remind** members that at the meeting on 29th March the Committee agreed to receive an update from the Department on the progress of the Draft Tourism Strategy. **Ask** members if they have any comments. **Ask** members if they are content to note.

Agenda Item 5 – FSA Regulations of Credit Unions: Written Briefing

22. **Inform** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 4**.
23. **Advise** members this research paper compares the recommendations made in the previous Committee's report its Inquiry into the Role and Potential of Credit Unions in Northern Ireland.
24. **Inform** members the paper presents the eight recommendations emanating from the Committee's inquiry, their reasoning and the FSA's (or where appropriate HM Treasury) response to the those recommendations.
- Advise** members that providing an overview of the report today is today is Aidan Stennett from Research and Information Services.

Agenda Item 6 – SL1 Renewable Heat Regulations (NI) 2012

25. **Inform** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 5** and include the SL1, the draft Statutory Rule and a cover note.
26. **Remind** members in 2010 the coalition government offered £25m to Northern Ireland to implement a renewable heat incentive (RHI). In light of this, the Minister tabled a legislative consent motion in March 2011 that would allow Northern Ireland to legislate for and create an RHI.
27. **Advise** members that this SL1 is subject to **affirmative resolution**. The proposed date of operation is June 2012.
28. The Rule will set in place a structured mechanism which will allow a RHI scheme to be introduced which will provide long-term guaranteed financial support for renewable heat installations in Northern Ireland. The Rule will underpin the tariff scheme and will specifically prescribe matters relating to eligibility criteria, obligations for participants of the scheme, methods of payment and accreditation and registration.

29. **Inform members** that this is the Committee's opportunity to consider the policy set out in the SL1, as it is not possible to amend this once the rule has been made and laid in the Assembly Business Office.
30. **Ask** members if they are content to receive more detail from the Department on incentives for domestic installations (Regulation 15 (1) (a) and 15 (2) and on payments to participants, levels of tariffs and how these will be calculated (Regulation 37).

Agenda Item 7 – SL1 Control of Asbestos Regulations (NI) 2012

31. **Inform** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 6** and include the SL1 and a cover note.
32. **Advise** members that this SL1 is subject to **negative resolution**. The proposed date of operation is May 2012.
33. The Rule will revoke and replace the Control of Asbestos Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 (S.R. 2007 No. 31) (“the 2007 Regulations”) and the Control of Asbestos (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 (S.R. 2010 No. 187) (“the 2010 Regulations”).
34. **Inform members** that this is the Committee's opportunity to consider the policy set out in the SL1, as it is not possible to amend this once the rule has been made and laid in the Assembly Business Office. Any points of clarification can be obtained from the Department in writing, if so required.

Agenda Item 8 – Vires Cost Benefit Analysis:- Written Briefing

35. **Inform** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 7** and include a letter from the Minister and a business case for the concentration of Sustainable Energy Vires. **Ask** members if they have any comments. **Ask** members if they are content to note.

Agenda Item 9 – Draft DETI Research agenda 2012-15: Written Briefing

36. **Inform** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 8** and include the draft DETI Research Agenda. The Assistant Clerk has provided a briefing paper with

background and summary of content. **Ask** members if they have any comments.
Ask members if they are content to note.

37. **Agenda Item 10 – Draft Forward Work Programme**

38. **Inform** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 9** and include the draft Forward Work Programme.

39. **Tabled today** is a press article relating to the RoI's carbon levy and its impact on business consumers in the North. Manufacturing NI states that business consumers here are subsidising of electricity.

Note to Chair: you may wish to inform members of your meeting with Energia earlier in the week on the same issue.

40. **Ask** members if they are content to receive an oral briefing from Manufacturing Northern Ireland at the meeting next week.

41. **Tabled today** is an article from the Trading Standards Service warning payday lenders to raise standards or face enforcement. **Ask** members if they are content to receive an oral briefing from the Trading Standards Service.

42. **Inform** members that the Consumer Council has been scheduled to provide an oral briefing to the Committee on the 17 May regarding the report on Energy by Lord Whitty. **Ask** members if they are content.

43. **Inform** members that Invest NI has been scheduled provide a Year End Performance Review oral briefing on the 31 May. **Ask** members if they are content.

44. **Ask** members if they have any comments. **Ask** members if they are content with the Forward Work Programme.

Agenda Item 11 – Correspondence

45. **Inform** members that the following items or correspondence are at **Tab 10**.

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| <p>i. Letter from the Minister to the Chair regarding Electricity Market Reform. Advise members that the National Grid in GB has been selected to</p> |
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administer the proposed UK-wide Feed-in Tariff with Contract for Difference. The Minister states that she is reassured that there do not appear to be any real obstacles to prevent this happening and costs to Northern Ireland would be significantly lower under such an arrangement. She is, however, also exploring the option of SONI administering the FIT CfD.

Inform members that the Minister intends to bring forward a paper to the Executive on the need for a Legislative Consent Motion on the issue. She also intends to bring forward draft legislation to obtain the necessary powers in the forthcoming Energy Bill for a small-scale FIT by 2015.

Remind members that the issue of a small-scale FIT was considered by the previous committee in its renewable energy inquiry and it was recommended that the Department should undertake an analysis to determine the costs and benefits to the Northern Ireland economy, business, and renewable energy developers of introducing a FIT for small-scale generation along the lines of what has been introduced in GB(recommendation 11).

Ask members if they wish to schedule an oral briefing at a later date.

- ii. Letter from the Department to the Clerk regarding public appointments to the board of the Health & Safety Executive Northern Ireland. **Ask** members if they are content to note.
- iii. Response from the Minister to the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure regarding a query on reduction in funding for National Museums Northern Ireland. **Ask** members if they are content to note.
- iv. **Tabled today** is a follow up from the Department in relation to January Monitoring 2012. **Ask** members if they are content to note.

Agenda Item 12 – Any other business

46. **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

47. The next meeting of the Committee will be on **26th April 2012, Room 30, Parliament Buildings at 10.30 am.**

48. **Advise** members that the meeting will now go into closed session to allow members to discuss issues relating to the Research and Development Inquiry.

Agenda Item 14 – (Closed Session): Inquiry into Research & Development

49. **Advise** members that we now move into closed session to discuss the Inquiry into Research and Development.

50. **Inform** members that papers on this item are at **Tab 11** and include the draft report, a follow up from DETI and Invest NI following their respective evidence sessions. The Clerk has provided a briefing paper with background and summary of content.

51. **Remind** members in their presentation to the Committee on the inquiry into research and development Department officials agreed to check if it was possible to provide information on the mapping exercises undertaken on the various sources of support for R&D.

52. **Inform** members that representatives from MATRIX have been invited to give oral evidence to the Committee on the Inquiry. Representatives will not be available to attend a committee meeting until 17 May. **Ask** members if they are content for the Chair to meet with MATRIX representatives.

53. **Inform** members that the Chair and Deputy Chair have been invited to meet with Mr. Iain Gray, Chief Executive of the Technology Strategy Board who will be in Parliament Buildings on Tuesday 24 April.

54. **Advise** members that the Department has informed the Committee Office that the mapping exercise is a very unwieldy and non-user-friendly spread-sheet but that the Department is working on a revised system which will be published on the NI Business Info website by mid-May.

55. **Ask** members if they are content to note.

56. **Invite** the Clerk to speak.