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FW: Issues arising from the Committee Meeting of the 21 June

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cc.

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David

Below are the issues arising from the Committee meeting on the 21 June.

- In relation to June Monitoring it was agreed to write to the Department to raise concerns about the lateness of papers and the impact on the work of the Committee (**letter from Chairperson to Minister to follow**)
- In relation to June Monitoring it was agreed to ask what the funding will be used for in relation to the de minimis bids of £522k for the development and operating costs of the NI Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme (p.11) and £224k to meet external consultancy requirements for new proposed Telecoms Broadband projects (p12)
- In relation to shale gas exploration to ask the Department to provide responses to additional questions. (**Attached**)
- In relation to shale gas exploration for GSNI to provide information on where shale gas has been extracted without the use of chemicals
- In relation to Subordinate Legislation - The Health and Safety (Fees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 - members were content with the policy implications of the proposed legislation
- In relation to correspondence members agreed to ask for copies of the evaluation of the event's fund (**attached AWQ**)

Kate

Outstanding

14 June

- In relation to an invitation by the OFMDFM Committee inviting an official and representative of Invest NI and a representative of Intertradelreland to the European Advisory Panel which will be on Horizon 2020 to forward the letter to the Department.
- In relation to Finance and Personnel Inquiry into public procurement in Northern Ireland to write to the Department to ask for an update on progress with the implementation on the establishment of a public procurement brokerage (Recommendation 22) and to highlight that in the comment it is being taken forward by the Social Economy Network but which no longer exists.

Below are the issues arising from the Committee meeting on the 31 May

- In relation to the Invest NI oral briefing it was agreed for Invest NI:

- i. to provide a breakdown of R&D among SMEs
 - ii. to provide information on the Scottish model for end of year flexibility
 - iii. to provide information on the recent First Trust bank scheme to increase competitive loans to business
 - iv. In relation to flexibility of the NI budget for Invest NI this issue is outstanding from the 15 September and the Clerk has asked for the response as soon as possible as the matter was raised at today's meeting during the Invest NI presentation
- In relation to the European Commission and a new public consultation on industry as a delivery of sustainable growth and jobs members agreed to ask the Department if there is an intention to respond to the Consultation

Please see below issues arising from the ETI Committee meeting on the 24 May:

- In relation to SL1 Renewable Heating Regulations (Northern Ireland 2012) members agreed to defer this until they have seen the figures that were submitted to the EU.
- In relation to consultation on the implementation of the EU Third Energy Package written briefing members agreed to receive further briefing on the proposals following consultation.
- In relation to the response regarding the correspondence received regarding the Mount Business and Conference Centre and the NI Civil Service Policy members have asked for an explanation why the letter took from the 25 February to arrive for the meeting of the 24 May.
- In relation to the Go for it Programme: Members are content to wait to later this month to receive the information they asked for regarding the Terms of Reference and the timings for the process.
- In relation to Energising Northern Ireland Report Members have asked for a number of responses from the Department :
 1. the Department's view on social tariffs in mitigating welfare reform proposals

Proposed Amendments to Insolvency Law

- Members agreed to request an oral briefing on the proposals following consultation.

From 2 February

- In relation to the infraction proceedings by the European Commission on CAG; members note that the Minister's officials will contact the Clerk to arrange a suitable time to brief the Committee (would be grateful if you would follow this up and let Jim know the suitable dates).

- Also in relation to the CAG project; members agreed to obtain information on the latest date that the arrangements can be in place in order to avoid the possibility of a fine being imposed and how soon the legislation is expected to come into effect.

From 26 January

- In relation to the NITB oral briefing and number of tourists and tourism spend in 2012; members agreed to receive the anticipated figures when they become available.

From 24 November

- In relation to the update on progress of the recommendations in the Renewable Energy Inquiry report; members agreed:
 1. To receive more detail on the proposal to organise a seminar on educating the financial sector on the long-term security of renewable energy and to obtain the Department's views on the impact of a Feed-in Tariff on lender confidence in renewable energy projects.

From 15 September meeting:

- In relation to the Renewable Energy Inquiry:
 1. In relation to DETI's planned study into best options for the introduction of a form of "energy supplier obligation" in NI; members agreed to receive this from the Department and forward it to the Committee for Social Development when the reply is received.
- In relation to the Committee for Finance and Personnel's letter on the end year flexibility scheme; members agreed to forward this letter to the Department to ask how the budget exchange scheme will impact on its work and how the proposal for the Minister for DFP would impact on its work.

From 23 June meeting:

- In relation to Proposals to Amend the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (NI) 1997 (RIDDOR); members noted and agreed to receive a summary of responses from the Department when they become available.

2. AQW 12446/11-15 - Events Funding Programme

To ask the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 9650/11-15, whether evaluations of these festivals have been carried out; and (ii) if so, are the results published.

Post event evaluations have been conducted. The results are not published, due to their commercially sensitive nature.

Committee for Enterprise, Trade & Investment – Additional Questions on Hydraulic Fracturing for DETI

1. Officials suggested the Department should be able to structure communications with the RoI much better when the Forum of Shale Gas Regulators. How does the Department intend to work with the Government in the RoI regarding potential environmental issues of joint concern?
2. As a licence was granted to Tamboran in April 2011, will the company now have to make a decision to drill a well or abandon the project before the end of March 2014? Having granted Tamboran a licence to explore for gas, and assuming Tamboran continues to act within the terms of that licence, are there any circumstances under which the Department could require Tamboran to cease its current operations prior to a decision by the company to 'drill or drop'?
3. Can the Department assure the Committee that hydraulic fracturing would only be permitted if full assurances could be provided that it would only be conducted in compliance with all the regulatory controls and legal requirements and that, as a result, there would be no risk to human health, no significant risk to the environment and no detrimental impact on tourism and/or agriculture?
4. How does, and how will the Department continue to, ensure that Tamboran is aware of, and complies with, all regulatory controls and legal requirements?
5. What is the nature of the environmental baseline studies that Tamboran would be required to carry out if the company decides to proceed to Part II of the work programme? How will it be ensured that these baseline studies are accurate and objective?
6. What policies, strategies, resources and experience are in place to monitor and enforce regulatory controls and legal requirements?
7. Given that Tamboran has provided assurances that it will not use chemicals in the process, would any future licences for shale gas extraction in the licence area be awarded on that basis?
8. Are the various agencies charged with monitoring the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing fully funded and equipped to carry out the necessary tasks? Do they have the resources and legal basis to investigate, analyse, approve or challenge the well designs and implementations used in the exploitation of shale gas?
9. If granted a licence to conduct hydraulic fracturing, will Tamboran be required to openly declare the exact chemical composition of any additives in the injected fluid, their volumes and their concentrations? If so, how will this be monitored and controlled?
10. From where would Tamboran source the large volumes of water required to support sustained hydraulic fracturing operations and how would the active monitoring and planned management of water supplies be undertaken?
11. How would the active management of waste water from the hydraulic fracturing process be monitored and regulated?
12. What are the Department's views on the call from the University of Aberdeen for more research into the chemicals used and better geological understanding and its assertion that the risks associated with methane emissions and increased seismicity are not well known.
13. The Department now has a vision for renewable energy to 2050. Renewable energy is afforded a high priority by the Department with targets in the Strategic Energy Framework to have 10% of heat

and 40% of electricity consumed through renewables by 2020. Has the Department undertaken any work to determine the impact that large quantities of readily available gas would have on these targets?

14. What magnitude of seismicity would DETI consider acceptable for hydraulic fracturing to continue?
15. How would the seven golden rules from the International Environment Agency be implemented to reduce risks and allay fears about the hydraulic fracturing process.
16. Following the completion of any exploration or hydraulic fracturing operations, what steps will be taken to ensure that Tamboran minimises the long-term environmental and visual impact?
17. In its written submission, Fermanagh Fracking Awareness Network states that the absence of any form of local consultation has left local communities feeling powerless. What consultation has the Department had to date on the matter and what consultation would be required with local communities at future stages in the process?
18. How will DETI assess the likely impact of large scale shale gas extraction in Northern Ireland and promote public confidence in the regulation of the activity?
19. Are there any circumstances under which the Department would consider providing any form of financial assistance to any business associated with shale gas extraction?

ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM MEETING ON THE 21 JUNE 2012

ACTION	MEETING	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE	PROGRESS
PRE MEETING				
Draft Agenda (request witness names and titles)		Wednesday	D/K	
Add meeting details to Committee database (i.e.agenda items, witnesses etc, Hansard required).		Wednesday	M	
Contact witnesses (e.g. DALOs or external org) for written briefing and update spreadsheet when received		Thursday	D	
Prepare meeting pack (photocopy papers, compile folders)		Friday	M	
Issue meeting pack		Monday	M/D/K/J	
Send any relevant papers to Hansard		Monday	D	
Email members re attendance at Committee meeting		Monday	M	
Respond to Latest News email from Comms Office		Monday	K	
First Draft of Chair's Brief		Monday	D	
Final Draft of Chair's Brief		Tuesday (12pm)	K/J	
Previous week's minutes printed on Ivory paper, give to Asst. Clerk		Tuesday	M	
Respond to Notice of Forthcoming Business		Tuesday (12pm)	D/J	
Tabled papers and nameplates		Wednesday	M	
Email MA + Correspondence Indices to DALO and cc.JMM and KMC		Wednesday	M	
Copy agenda & Chair's brief to Damien Martin and John Stewart (agenda only)		Wednesday	D	
Send member's info email		Wednesday	M	
Advise MMD of informal meetings to keep database updated			All	
POST MEETING				
Update Committee Database and check Database entry		Thursday	M/D	
Forward tabled/additional papers to absent members		Thursday	M	
Arrange for agreed minutes of last meeting to be signed & posted on the Internet. Copy to DETI Press Office and email to +website assist update		Thursday	M	
Ensure full copy of pack/tabled papers held in cabinet		Thursday	M	
DALO's email issued (cc'd to Jim, David & Michelle)		Thursday	K	
First Draft of Minutes		Friday	M/D	
Final Draft of Minutes		Friday	K/J	
Update FWP and post to website		Friday	M/K	

ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM MEETING ON THE 21 JUNE 2012				
ACTION	MEETING	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE	PROGRESS
Report to Assembly re use of Rapporteur	24/5	31/8	J	
Chase up outstanding replies from Committees re Sustainable Energy Action Plan	22/6	22/6	D	
Agenda NI Economic Conference – Contact Alban	21/6	25/6	J	
Contact EPGNI re Event for R&D Inquiry		29/7	J	
Ask CFP Clerk if they are taking an interest in Pay Day Lending	21/6	22/6	J	
Letter from Chair to Minister re June Monitoring	21/6	27/6	J	
Memo to CFP re Public Procurement	21/6	22/6	D	
Contact Aidan Stennett re Runkerry Golf Resort and Energy Bill Consultees	21/6	22/6	J	
List of questions re Shale Gas (Also working with Rol)	21/6	21/6	J	
Finalise Tamboran questions	21/6	25/6	J	
Contact Tamboran re briefing	21/6	21/6	D	
Update SL1 spreadsheet	21/6	21/6	D	
NIIRTA in FWP as consideration	21/6	22/6	K	
Press release on Pay Day Lending	21/6	22/6	J	
Progress Diaries	MEETING	DEADLINE	RESPONSIBLE	PROGRESS
Fracking				
Energy Bill				