



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**THURSDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2012
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present:	Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson) Mr Phil Flanagan (Deputy Chairperson) Mr Steven Agnew Mr Gordon Dunne Mr Paul Frew Mr Alban Maginness Mr Stephen Moutray Ms Maeve McLaughlin Mr Robin Newton Ms Sandra Overend Ms Sue Ramsey
In Attendance	Mr Jim McManus (Assembly Clerk) Ms Kate McCullough (Assistant Assembly Clerk) Mr David McKee (Clerical Supervisor) Mr John Clerkin (Clerical Officer)
Apologies:	None

The meeting began at 10.04am in public session.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

Sandra Overend joined the meeting at 10.05am

2. Minutes of meeting held on 13 September 2012

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meeting on 13 September 2012 were agreed.

3. Chairperson's Business

Phil Flanagan joined the meeting at 10.06am

Members noted a summary of the following consultations issued by the Department:

- Call for evidence on the Development of Strategic Plan for the Agri-Food Sector.
- Identifications of areas where the choice of broadband provision is limited and /or the available speeds are less than 2 Megabits per second.

Agreed: to consider the summary of consultation responses before agreeing how to proceed.

Members considered the Invest NI award of the business start-up programme, *Go for It* to Enterprise Northern Ireland.

Agreed: to invite Enterprise NI to give oral evidence on its plans on the 4 October, pending completion of the tender.

Agreed: to seek an oral briefing from Invest NI on the tendering process for the business start-up programme.

Members noted the invitation from Momentum NI to co-sponsor the launch of the Manifesto document on 3 December.

Agreed: Chair and Deputy Chair to co-sponsor the event.

Members noted the full agenda for the NIPSA conference on 22 October.

Agreed: to request in the future an oral briefing from the Health and Safety Executive on the issues of health and safety on farms.

Members were informed the Department had submitted its response to the Research & Development Inquiry.

Agreed: to include as a substantive item at the next meeting.

Members were informed that the October Monitoring Round returns were due for consideration at next week's meeting.

Agreed: to have Department officials on stand-by to address any identified in returns.

4. Matters Arising

Members noted the letter and statement from the Minister regarding the announcement of the loss of jobs at FG Wilson.

Members considered correspondence from the Department regarding a Debt Management report published by the Business, Innovations and Skills Committee provided by the Department.

Agreed: to receive in the future an oral briefing from Trading Standards Service

Members considered the request from NESTA to meet to discuss the implications for Northern Ireland of its report on innovation fostering economic growth.

Agreed: Mr. Newton to represent the Committee and to meet with NESTA

Gordon Dunne left the meeting at 10.14am

Members noted the views of the NI Science Park (NISIP) community submission to the inquiry into Careers Education, Information Advice and Guidance in Northern Ireland by the Committee for Employment and Learning.

Members noted the Executive Summary of the Economic Appraisal of the Options for Increasing Domestic Energy and Thermal Efficiency in Northern Ireland.

Members considered a press release from BS Holdings calling for the Department to launch the Renewable Heat Incentive scheme to help local SME's.

Agreed: to forward the press release from BS Holdings to the Department for information.

Agreed: to inform BS Holdings that the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme would be launched October/November.

5. End of Year Session Report 2011-12

Members considered the End of Session Report which covered the work of the Committee during the Assembly year 2011-2012.

Agreed: to publish the report to the Committee's website.

6. Shale Gas and Hydraulic Fracture: Written Briefing from Assembly Research

Members considered the research paper prepared by the NI Assembly Research and Information Service on the overview of existing research on shale gas and hydraulic fracture.

Agreed: Members agreed to forward the research paper to the Committee for Environment for information and to publish it on the Committee pages of the Assembly website.

7. Correspondence

Members considered correspondence from Committee for Employment and Learning regarding an oral briefing from Invest NI officials on the FP7 and Horizon 2020.

Agreed: to consider ways of communicating and monitoring European issues.

Agreed: to ask the Department the progress that has been made in reaching the target of 20% drawdown on European funding.

Phil Flanagan left the meeting at 10.25am.

Members noted the following items of correspondence:

- The Committee for the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister: - The European Priorities Implementation Plan 2012.

Phil Flanagan returned to the meeting 10.27am.

- The Committee for the Environment:- a letter from BS Holding Ltd. Regarding bio fuel heat generation systems.
- An update from the Committee for Finance and Personnel;- The Northern Ireland Procurement Board's response to the inquiry into Public Procurement in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: to ask Invest NI what support exists for small companies which want to collaborate to compete for large scale contracts.

Stephen Agnew joined the meeting at 10.29am.

8. DETI/NDPB Key Priorities Sept. 2012-July 3013: Oral Briefing from DETI

Representatives joined the meeting at 10.30am.

Sue Ramsey joined the meeting at 10.33am.

Paul Frew joined the meeting at 10.47am.

Members received an oral briefing from Mrs Arlene Foster, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Mr. David Sterling, Permanent Secretary and Mr. Graham Hutchinson, Head of DETI Policy Division.

Key issues discussed included the Department's and the Committee's priorities in the coming year regarding the economy, energy and tourism.

Sue Ramsey left the meeting at 11.12am.

Agreed: to receive an update on the viability of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund

Agreed: to receive information on the additional steps that can be taken to increase domestic gas use

Agreed: to receive written information on Horizon 2020 and the role of DETI in providing support.

Representatives left the meeting at 11.54am

Paul Frew left the meeting at 11.54am

12. Any other business

Members considered a response letter from the Minister for Employment and Learning regarding Target Express.

Agreed: to forward a copy of the letter to the person who had raised the issue.

13. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on **Thursday 27 September 2012 at 10.00am, Room 30, Parliament Buildings**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11.56pm.

Mr Patsy McGlone
Chair
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

20 September 2012