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**Chair's Brief for the Meeting of the
Committee for Enterprise, Trade & Investment**

Room 29, Parliament Buildings

From: Jim McManus

Committee Clerk, Committee for Enterprise, Trade & Investment

To: Patsy McGlone
Chairperson

cc Phil Flanagan
Deputy Chairperson

Meeting Date: Tuesday 8 September 2015

Meeting Time: 10.00 am

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1. **Remind members:** all devices should be switched off and Assembly tablets set to mute.
 2. Before the meeting opens consider today's oral briefing by the Department and the suggested way forward in the Clerk's Brief at **page 17**.

Declare the meeting open to the public.

Welcome and remind members and the public to switch off mobile phones and electronic devices other than the tablets provided by the Assembly for use with the electronic committee packs.

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Agenda Item 1 – Apologies

3. **Inform members:** no apologies have been received.
4. **Ask members:** if they have received any apologies.

Agenda Item 2 – Draft Minutes

5. **Inform members:** a copy of the draft minutes of the meetings held on 30 June 2015 and 9 July 2015 are at **pages 6** and **8** respectively.
6. **Ask members:** if they are content with both of the draft minutes.

Agenda Item 3 - Oral Briefing from DETI: SL1 Proposed Renewables Obligation Closure Order (Northern Ireland) 2015

7. **Inform members:** papers for this item include:
 - a Clerk's Brief (**page 17**)
 - the SL1 (**page 18**)
 - correspondence from the Minister on 20 August 2015 (**page 22**)
 - the Official report of the meeting of 9 July 2015 (**page 39**)
 - correspondence from Wind NI Ltd (**page 60**)
 - correspondence from Professor Neil Gibson (**page 64**)
 - correspondence from the Ulster Farmers' Union (**page 3 of Tabled Papers**)
 - correspondence from Simple Power (**page 4 of Tabled Papers**)
8. **Inform members:** briefing the Committee today is:
 - Mr John Mills, Head of Energy Division, DETI
 - Ms Alison Clydesdale, Principal Officer, Renewable Electricity Branch, DETI
 - Mr Michael Harris, Deputy Principal, DETI
9. **Welcome:** the Officials to the meeting and invite them to make an opening statement.

Following the briefing:

10. **Thank the Officials:** for their briefing today.

11. **Inform members:** the Rule is subject to **affirmative resolution**. The proposed Rule will close the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO) to new generation from 1 April 2017.
12. **Inform members:** 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 out in the Assembly Business Office.
13. **Ask members:** if they are content with the policy implications of the proposed legislation.

Agenda Item 4 – Chairperson's Business

Science and Stormont Event

14. **Inform members:** at **page 67** is an invitation for the Chairperson to speak and participate in the annual event entitled 'Science and Stormont'. The event is organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry and is designed to foster closer relations between scientists and the NI Executive and Assembly. The theme for this year's event is 'Energy and the Environment' and it is to take place at Parliament Buildings, on Monday 12th October, from 11.30am to 7.30pm.
15. **Ask members:** if they are content that the Chairperson participate in the event.

Ulster Bank Conference

16. **Inform members:** at **page 68** is an invitation to the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson from the Ulster Bank to attend its conference 'Fighting Fraud through Awareness', to be held on Tuesday 6 October at Lagan Valley Civic Centre in Lisburn.
17. **Inform members:** as this is a plenary and committee meeting day, the Chairperson will not be able to attend.

Agenda Item 5 – Matters Arising

18. **Inform members:** there are six items listed on the Index which is at **page 70** of members' packs. Papers are from **pages 71 to 108**.

RTÉ and TG4 Online Player Services

19. **Inform members:** at **page 71** is correspondence from Ofcom Director, Jonathan Rose, regarding the Committee contacting the European Regional Internet Registry (RIPE) on the possibility of Northern Ireland being allocated NI-specific IP addresses.
20. **Ask members:** if they have any comments.
21. **Ask members:** if they are content to carry out the actions suggested by Jonathan Rose before writing to RIPE.

Utility Consultation on the Reduction of Imperfection Charges

22. **Inform members:** at **page 73** is a response from the Utility Regulator to the Committee's request for information regarding imperfection charges.
23. **Ask members:** if they have any comments.
24. **Ask members:** if they are content to note.

Publishing of SONI Board Minutes

25. **Inform members:** a response regarding the publishing of SONI's Board Minutes is at **page 76** and a Departmental response is at **page 78**.
26. **Ask members:** if they have any comments.
27. **Ask members:** as the Department's response does not detail its view on the issue, are Members content to ask the Department again for its view on the matter.

Remaining Items on Index

28. **Ask members:** if they are content with the suggested actions for the remaining items on the Index.

Agenda Item 6 – Legislation: SL1 The Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme Amendment Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

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29. **Inform members:** included in papers is:

- a cover note (**page 110**)
- the SL1 (**page 111**)
- a Final Policy Paper (**page 115**)

30. **Inform members:** the Rule is subject to **affirmative resolution**. The proposed date of operation is 10 November 2015.

31. **Inform members:** 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 out in the Assembly Business Office.

32. **Ask members:** if they are content with the policy implications of the proposed legislation.

Agenda Item 7 – Legislation: SR 2015/325 The Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations (NI) 2015

33. **Inform members:** included in papers is:

- a cover note (**page 123**)
- the Explanatory Memorandum (**page 124**)
- the SR (**page 211**)

34. **Inform members:** the Rule is subject to **negative resolution**.

35. **Remind members:** the Committee **discussed this Rule at SL1 stage** at its meeting on 2 June 2015 and had **no comment** on the Rule. The Rule will come into operation on 28 September 2015.

36. **Inform members:** the Examiner of Statutory Rules has not yet reported on this Rule so members will be agreeing to the legislation subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rule's Report.

NOTE TO CHAIR: If members are content with the SR please put the following question:

“That the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment has considered SR 2015/325 The Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations (NI) 2015 and has no objection to the rule.”