



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**17 NOVEMBER 2015**

**ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, 10:00am**

**Present:**

Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson)  
Mr Conor Murphy (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Steven Agnew  
Mr Adrian Cochrane-Watson  
Mr Gordon Dunne  
Ms Megan Fearon  
Mr Paul Girvan  
Mr Paul Givan  
Mr William Humphrey  
Mr Fearghal McKinney  
Mr Máirtín Ó Muilleoir

**In Attendance:**

Mr Jim McManus (Assembly Clerk)  
Ms Angela McParland (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Michael Greer (Clerical Supervisor)  
Ms Marion Johnson (Clerical Officer)

**Apologies:**

None

*The meeting began at 10:30am*

### **1. Apologies**

No apologies were recorded.

### **2. Draft Minutes of Meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

*Agreed:* the Committee agreed the draft minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

### **3. Chairperson's Business**

The Chairperson welcomed Lord Morrow MLA to the Committee and asked members if they are content to write to Paul Girvan MLA thanking him for his input and commitment to the work of the Committee.

Members noted the Declaration of Interests for Lord Morrow MLA.

*Agreed:* to write a thank you letter to Paul Girvan MLA.

The Chairperson raised an issue regarding the statement made by the Minister in plenary in reference to the Committee's position on the proposed closure of the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO) to onshore wind.

*Agreed:* to write to the Speaker asking that the record is corrected to state the actual Committee position on the matter.

The Chairperson informed members of a request from Alex Attwood MLA that the Committee invite the management of Dunnes Stores to brief the committee regarding recent food outlet closures and lack of engagement by managers of the company with staff or elected representatives.

*Agreed:* to invite Dunnes Stores to provide a written briefing to the Committee, in the first instance, on their future plans for Northern Ireland and their plans to ensure appropriate engagement with staff, the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (USDAW) and elected representatives.

*Máirtín Ó Muilleoir left the meeting at 10:34am*

The Chairperson informed members of correspondence from Enterprise Northern Ireland highlighting the suspension of the Super Connected Cities Voucher Scheme by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

*Agreed:* to forward to DETI, BT and Ofcom and consider again at the oral briefing on the 24<sup>th</sup> November.

*Agreed:* to invite Enterprise NI to brief the Committee on their economic development activities.

The Chairperson informed members that PriceWaterhouse Coopers has completed a global study on Cities of Opportunity and looked at Belfast among other cities.

*Agreed:* that Paul Terrington, the Northern Ireland Regional Chairperson, brief the Committee.

The Chairperson discussed with members the Committee's agreement to forward a submission to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee inquiry into promoting the tourism industry in Northern Ireland through the tax system.

*Agreed:* to ask Assembly Research to provide a paper on the hospitality and tourism sector on how the reduction of VAT in the Republic of Ireland has helped to support the tourism industry and stimulate growth in the tourism sector.

The Committee considered a draft Christmas card list.

*Agreed:* to add Minister for Finance and Personnel, Arlene Foster MLA, to the list.

*Agreed:* to send a traditional card rather than an electronic version.

#### **4. Legislation: SR 2015 000: The Renewable Heat Incentive Schemes (Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

*The officials joined the meeting at 10:44am*

Members received a briefing from Mr Stuart Wightman, Principal, Energy Efficiency Branch, DETI, and Ms Adele Willis, Staff Officer, Energy Efficiency Branch, DETI.

Members considered the SR The Renewable Heat Incentive Schemes (Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

*Agreed:* that the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment has considered SR The Renewable Heat Incentive Schemes (Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and recommends that it be affirmed in the Assembly.

*The officials left the meeting at 10:47am*

#### **5. Credit Unions and Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Bill – Preliminary View**

*The officials joined the meeting at 10:48am*