



Northern Ireland
Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

2 FEBRUARY 2016

ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, 10:00am

Present:

Mr Patsy McGlone (Chairperson)
Mr Conor Murphy (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Steven Agnew
Mr Gordon Dunne
Mr Paul Givan
Mr David McIlveen
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 Briege Mullan (Clerical Officer)

Apologies:

Ms Megan Fearon
Mr William Humphrey

The meeting began at 10:16am

1. Apologies

Apologies as noted above.

2. Draft Minutes of Meeting 26th January 2016

Agreed: the Committee agreed the draft minutes of 26th January 2016.

3. Chairperson's Business

Members noted that the BBC Good Food Show is scheduled to take place in the Waterfront Hall during October 2016 but licensing laws may prevent relevant businesses from fully showcasing their products as they will be unable to sell alcohol products at the event.

Agreed: to write to Tourism NI and Visit Belfast on the issue.

The Chairperson updated the Committee on the informal meeting last week with the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation at which InterTradeIreland briefed the Committees on funding issues.

Agreed: to ask the Department for a written briefing on the report by the Joint Committee entitled 'Report on the All-Island Economy'.

The Committee noted that the Insolvency (Amendment) Bill has received Royal Assent and will be known as the Insolvency (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, Chapter 2.

The Committee the Register of Interests for David McIlveen had been tabled.

The Committee considered the Ministerial Statements that were made in the Assembly regarding the North South Ministerial Council meeting on Tourism.

Agreed: to commission research on the practicalities of North-South bodies such as InterTradeIreland and Tourism NI bidding through monitoring rounds.

Fearghal McKinney joined the meeting at 10:27am

The Committee considered invitations from the Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Belfast to attend events celebrating the Chinese New Year.

Agreed: as the Chairperson is unable to attend either event, Members are to contact the Committee office if they are available to attend.

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item 5

5. Matters Arising

Members considered a draft response to the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister on the Departments Bill and Transfer of Functions Order.

Agreed: that the committee is content to forward the response as drafted.

Agreed: to forward the response to the Department for information.

Steven Agnew left the meeting at 10.30am

Members considered InterTradeIreland's report "Mapping the Potential for All-Island Sectoral Ecosystems".

Agreed: to receive an oral briefing from InterTradeIreland and Invest NI.

Agreed: to commission research on an initiative by the Scottish Parliament to develop a strategic approach to personalised medicine.

Members noted a response from the Utility Regulator on Purchase of ROC's by Electricity Suppliers.

Members considered a Departmental response on EU Reform.

Agreed: to ask the Department to clarify, where it states 'is not aware of', what measures it took to seek any research or information.

6. Legislation: SR 2016/000 The Debt Relief Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 (Consequential Amendments) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

Members considered SR 2016/000 The Debt Relief Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 (Consequential Amendments) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016.

Agreed: that the Committee for Enterprise, Trade & Investment has considered SR 2016/000 The Debt Relief Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 (Consequential Amendments) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report, recommends that it be affirmed by the Assembly.

7. Written Briefing from RaISe: Regulation of Cerberus and Capita Asset Service

Members considered a research paper from RaISe on Regulation of Cerberus and Capita Asset Service.

Agreed: to ask Assembly Research for further information regarding how Cerberus European Servicing Ltd can operate without registering with the Financial Ombudsman.

Agreed: to forward the research paper to the Committee for Finance and Personnel and to Bell & Company for information.

8. Consultation: Early Closure of the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation to Onshore Wind 2016

Members noted a Departmental paper and correspondence from the Ulster Farmers' Union in relation to the NIRO Closure.

Agreed: to ask the Department for a written update for next week.

9. EU Matters Newsletter

Members noted the latest EU Matters Newsletter.

10. Forward Work Programme

Members considered the Committee's Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: to instruct Going for Growth DETI and DARD officials to resolve diary issues and attend a concurrent meeting with the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development.

Agreed: to ask the Department to provide an update on the review of the Strategic Energy Framework.

Agreed: to include the Prince's Trust manifesto as a substantive item next week.

Agreed: Members agreed the Forward Work Programme.

David McIlveen left the meeting at 10.58am

11. Correspondence

Members considered correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister regarding the Inquiry into Building a United Community.

Agreed: to respond to the OFMDFM Committee that this Committee has not undertaken scrutiny in relation to good relations and Together: Building a United Community.

4 Oral Briefing from Enterprise NI: Enterprise Support Provision and Economic Development Activities

The representatives joined the meeting at 10:59am

*Steven Agnew returned to the meeting at 11.03am
Paul Givan joined the meeting at 11:09am*

Members received a briefing from Mr Gordon Gough, CEO, Enterprise NI, Mr John D'Arcy, Chair, Enterprise NI and Ms Jayne Taggart, Enterprise NI Board member and Chief Executive of Causeway Enterprise Agency.

The Chairperson suspended the meeting at 11:32am due to a vote in Plenary.

The meeting resumed at 11:51am with the following Members present:

*Patsy McGlone
Conor Murphy
Máirtín Ó Muilleoir
Fearghal McKinney*

Key issues discussed included the role of Enterprise NI, support needed for small business, development of entrepreneur programmes and the increasing cost of doing business.

*Gordon Dunne joined the meeting at 12:01pm
Steven Agnew joined the meeting at 12:04pm*

The representatives left the meeting at 12:13pm

12. Any Other Business

The Committee considered an issue which was raised around proposals to close the Renewable Heat Incentives due to an overspend.

Agreed: to ask the Department for clarification.

13. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Tuesday 9th February 2016 at 10.00am, Room 29.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:16pm

**Mr Patsy McGlone
Chairperson
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment**

9th February 2016