



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

23 FEBRUARY 2016

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 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 Briege Mullan (Clerical Officer)
- Apologies: None

The meeting began at 10:12am

1. Apologies

Apologies as noted above.

2. Draft Minutes of Meeting 16th February 2016

Agreed: the Committee agreed the draft minutes of 16th February 2016.

3. Chairperson's Business

The Committee considered correspondence on the recent announcement of job losses at Bombardier.

Agreed: to address the issue with Invest NI at today's briefing.

Agreed: to respond to the Committee for Employment and Learning that the Committee is content for both committees to meet both Ministers together.

Paul Givan joined the meeting at 10:16am

The Committee considered a briefing from Stop 35K.

Agreed: to forward the briefing paper to each Northern Ireland MP in order to bring the issue to their attention.

The Committee noted correspondence from Bio Mass Energy Northern Ireland regarding the Closure of the Renewable Heat Incentive Schemes.

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir joined the meeting at 10:19am

Members agreed to move to Agenda Item 9

9. Written Briefing from Assembly Research: Issues Raised by Bell and Company

Members considered the Assembly Supplementary Research paper on the Regulation of Cerberus.

Agreed: to seek clarification from the Financial Conduct Authority on the basis on which Cerberus European Services Ltd and Capita Asset Services (Ireland) Ltd are operating in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: to write to Cerberus asking for a list of their investors.

Agreed: to write to the New York City Comptroller to establish if any New York pension funds have investments in Cerberus.

Agreed: to forward the research paper to the Committee for Finance and Personnel and inform that Committee of the course of action agreed by the Committee.

Members agreed to move to Agenda Item 4

4. Oral Briefing from Invest NI: Overview of Programmes and Grade A Office Accommodation

The representatives joined the meeting at 10:25am

Members received a briefing from Mr Jeremy Fitch, Executive Director, Business Solutions, Ms Sharon Keenan, Property Manager, Property Solutions and Mr William McGuinness, Client Manager, Aerospace and Defence.

The Chairperson suspended the meeting at 10:34am due to a division in Plenary.

The meeting resumed at 10:56am with the following Members present:

*Patsy McGlone
Conor Murphy
Steven Agnew
Gordon Dunne
William Humphrey
Fearghal McKinney
Máirtín Ó Muilleoir*

Patsy McGlone left the meeting at 11:04am and the Deputy Chair took the Chair

Adrian Cochrane-Watson joined the meeting at 11:08am

Adrian Cochrane-Watson left the meeting at 11:12am

Paul Givan joined the meeting at 11:13am

Steven Agnew left the meeting at 11:28am

Key issues discussed included the recent announcement of job losses at Bombardier, a current overview of Invest NI programmes and an update on Grade A office accommodation.

The representatives left the meeting at 11:55am

5. Oral Briefing from DETI: Innovation Strategy

The officials joined the meeting at 11:56am

Members received a briefing from Mr Ciaran McGarrity, Head of Innovation Policy Unit, Mr Diarmuid McClean, Head of Economic Policy Division and Mr Thomas Byrne, Principal Economist, Analytical Services Unit.

William Humphrey left the meeting at 11:58am

Megan Fearon joined the meeting at 12:01pm

Key issue discussed was the implementation of the Innovation Strategy since its launch in 2014.

The officials left the meeting at 12:29pm

6. Matters Arising

Members noted a Departmental response in regards to the Tamboran Petroleum Licence Application.

Members noted a Departmental update on the Strategic Energy Framework.

Members noted a Departmental response regarding the development of a Tourist Accommodation Policy.

Members noted a Departmental response in regards to the Tourism Strategy.

The Deputy Chairperson informed Members that a copy of the Public Accounts Committee's report on The Northern Ireland Events Company is available from the Committee Office.

7. Written Briefing from Committee Specialist Advisor: Analysis and mapping of the sub-regional performance of the Northern Ireland economy

Members considered a briefing note from the Committee Specialist Advisor providing an analysis and mapping of the sub-regional performance of the Northern Ireland economy.

Agreed: to ask the Committee's Specialist Advisor for further information relating to data on local councils.

8. Written Briefing from DETI: Northern Ireland Economic Strategy: Year 3 Annual Monitoring Report

Members noted the Northern Ireland Economic Strategy: Year 3 Annual Monitoring Report.

Members agreed to move to Agenda Item 10

10. Correspondence

Members noted correspondence from the Committee for Employment and Learning regarding its Inquiry into post Special Educational Need (SEN) Provision in education, employment and training for those with learning disabilities in Northern Ireland.

Members noted correspondence from W&H Alexander (Civil Engineering) Ltd regarding the proposed closure of the NIRO to onshore wind.

Members noted correspondence from the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change.

Members noted correspondence from the Minister to Trevor Clarke MLA regarding sustainable drainage systems.

Members noted correspondence from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions thanking the Committee for its assistance in regards to the Legacy Credit Unions Sourcebook.

Members noted an invitation from National Energy Action to attend an Energy Advice Forum.

Members noted correspondence from Visit Belfast regarding the BBC Good Food Show.

11. Any Other Business

There were no additional items of business.

12. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Tuesday 1st March 2016 at 10.00am, Room 29.

The Deputy Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:35pm

Mr Patsy McGlone
Chairperson
Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

1st March 2016