

"To advance and encourage business understanding of the Assembly  
and the Assembly Members' understanding of business."

## Northern Ireland Assembly and Business Trust **Newsletter**

Issue 7

Winter 2010



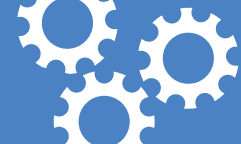
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### Feedback

We welcome your feedback on NIABT Events, and on this newsletter. Please do let us know what you think by emailing Ivor Gibson on [niabt@niassembly.gov.uk](mailto:niabt@niassembly.gov.uk) or calling on 028 9041 8365.



## Chairman's Notes



Since returning from summer recess, the Northern Ireland Assembly and Business Trust has been busy organising a series of events aimed at promoting the work of the Trust, ensuring diversity within the business membership and encouraging shared learning between MLAs and the local business community.

I am delighted to report that there has been a notable increase in applications from local businesses keen to participate and become involved in our work. As Chairperson of the NIABT, I am heartened that members of the business community are keen to work with and within the NIABT to strengthen and further develop economic opportunity across Northern Ireland. Business membership is now at 75 companies. This figure has seen a steep increase from 52 business members at the beginning of the Assembly Parliamentary Session in September 2010.

The NIABT has for some time been conscious of the need to raise and maintain awareness and to develop an effective working relationship with the European Parliament. To support this we have launched a European programme which I know has already proved invaluable to many of our business members. We have continued to develop this particular Programme to ensure a positive and productive working relationship with local MEPs and the European Parliament. The latest European Programme took place in Brussels from 29 November – 2 December 2010.

The Trust is continuing to develop a series of breakfast briefings, held in Parliament Buildings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Briefings have been delivered since January 2010 and topics have included the impact of the Spending Review on the Northern Ireland budget, the banking sector's view of the economy and attitudes to innovation.

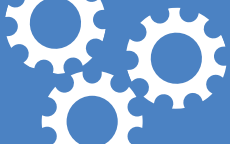
The NIABT President is hosting two dinners in early 2011 to highlight the work of the Trust. A North West region dinner will take place in the Radisson Roe Hotel, Limavady on 21 January. A separate President's Dinner will be held in Parliament Buildings on 17 February.

I trust that that you will work with us to ensure that the NIABT continues to have a role in cultivating a positive future between local businesses and parliamentarians.

## Business Members

- 121 Dietitian
- AM:PM Communications Ltd.
- Andras House Ltd
- ANIFPO
- AsItIs Consulting
- Attrus Ltd.
- Axon Power & Control
- Barista Coffee House
- Belfast International Airport
- Bombardier Aerospace
- BT NI
- Business & Finance Media
- Business Sense NI
- Carecall
- Casa Lola
- Centre for Competitiveness (NI) Ltd
- Chambré Public Affairs
- Construction Employers' Federation
- Core Systems NI Ltd.
- DCP
- Deloitte LLP
- Early Years
- Enterprise Equity Firm
- Federation of Small Businesses
- Firmus Energy
- George Dorrian Consultant
- Global Financial Services
- Habitat for Humanity NI
- H & J Martin Ltd.
- Harland and Wolff Heavy Industries Ltd
- Hydro NI
- Island Regeneration Ltd
- James Brown Funeral Services NI
- JPR (NI) Ltd
- Kim Johnston Executive Search Ltd
- Lafarge Cement Ireland
- Lagan Holdings Ltd
- La Mon Hotel
- Law Society of N.I.
- LGC
- Londonderry Chamber of Commerce
- Lumen Financial Planning
- Magowan Tyres (NI) Ltd
- Mallusk Enterprise Park
- Manufacturing Northern Ireland
- MCE Public Relations
- McGimpsey Communications
- Mesh Technology
- Mivan Ltd.
- Musgrave Retail Partners
- Next Level Impact
- NB Chartered Marketing
- NI Chamber of Commerce
- NI Food & Drink Association
- NI - ICTU
- NI Independent Retail Trade Association
- NI Tourist Board
- Norbrook Laboratories
- O'Kane Poultry Ltd.
- Paul McAlister Architects
- QPANI
- Raymond Cullen Demolition
- Rio / Brazil
- Rockport Ventures LLP
- Rooney Fish
- Royal Mail
- Sandycove
- Stellar Leadership Ltd.
- Stratagem
- Triage Hospitality Ltd.
- Tyrone Timberframes Ltd
- Weber Shandwick
- Women in Business NI Ltd
- WJ Law & Co
- Young Enterprise Northern Ireland





# Understanding how a Bill becomes Law

## Ever wondered what a Bill is and what needs to happen for it to become law?

There are 3 types of Public Bill:

- An Executive Bill which is put forward by a Minister
- A Private Members Bill which is put forward by an individual MLA (member of the Assembly)
- A Committee Bill which is put forward by a Committee Chair on behalf of an Assembly Committee

A Bill can only become law if it completes a number of stages of discussion, checking and amending. Before any of this can start, a draft of the Bill is passed to The Speaker of the Assembly who checks to make sure the Assembly has the power to make it law. If The Speaker is satisfied the Assembly has the power then the official stages start.

First Stage is when the Bill is introduced to the Assembly. This is a formal process: the Minister asks that the Bill be introduced and then the title of the Bill is read out by the Assembly Clerk. There is no discussion on the Bill at this stage.

At **Second Stage** Members debate and vote on the general purposes of the Bill. If the majority of the MLAs present vote in favour of the Bill, it then passes to **Committee Stage** where it is reviewed in detail by the relevant Assembly Committee.

A Committee has 30 working days to consider the Bill and take evidence from interested groups and bodies - if it thinks

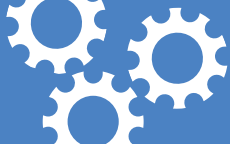
it needs longer it can ask for an extension. Based on what it hears the Committee forms an opinion on the Bill and writes a report which is presented to the Assembly. The Committee may decide that the Bill needs changes which it will set out in its report.

The next stage in the Bill process is **Consideration Stage**. This is a very detailed stage. MLAs discuss each element of the Bill and any recommended changes put forward by the Committee or an individual MLA. Members will also vote on whether each element of the Bill and the proposed changes should actually form part of the Bill. If any element of the draft Bill does not pass the vote it does not form part of the final Bill.

The final stage when changes can be made is the **Further Consideration Stage**. Only new amendments are debated and voted on. If there are none then the Bill proceeds to **Final Stage** when MLAs discuss the Bill one last time and vote on whether it should become law.

The Bill has now been through all its stages in the Assembly. It is passed to the Attorney General who will again check that the Assembly has the power to make it law. Finally it is then passed to the Secretary of State who presents the Bill for **Royal Assent** - meaning it gets the approval of the Queen to become law. The Bill is now law and is called an **Act**.





## Political Update

Some MLA appointments have been made to replace outgoing MLAs.

### New MLAs



**Pól Callaghan MLA**

**Date appointed:**  
15 November 2010

**Constituency:**  
Foyle

**Committee Membership:**  
Health, Social Services and Public Safety



**William Humphrey MLA**

**Date appointed:**  
14 September 2010

**Constituency:**  
North Belfast

**Committee Membership:**  
Office of First Minister and deputy  
First Minister  
Culture, Arts and Leisure



**Pat Sheehan MLA**

**Date appointed:**  
7 December 2010

**Constituency:**  
West Belfast

**Committee Membership:**  
Assembly and Executive Review  
Culture, Arts and Leisure

## What our Members are Saying...

Brenda Turnbull, Island Regeneration: **"I enjoyed the seminar today and was impressed by the scope of business intelligence on offer."**

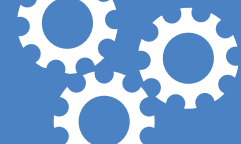
Christine Naylor, Rockport Ventures: **"One of the most intelligent and informed talks I have been at in a long time."**

Nicola Irwin, Business Sense NI: **"Thanks for the great introduction to the NIABT yesterday. The speakers were very interesting and a good mix."**

Anne Monaghan AM:PM Communications Ltd: **"I have been on many trips over many years, to many locations, with many organisations – and I have to say this [Brussels trip] has been one of the best. In terms of the participants, the programme and the location it has thrown a spotlight on the European Union."**

Patricia O'Hagan: Director of Core Systems Ltd. **"I found the [Brussels] programme to be very informative. It changed my perception of the EU parliamentary system. Very educational and also added value in the networking and other business benefits. It was a very well organised trip."**





## Picture Gallery



**13 August:** Simon Hamilton MLA visited La Mon Hotel in Gransha to participate in a fellowship programme, hosted by General Manager, Lloyd Jackson. During the day long programme Simon had an opportunity to meet with the La Mon Senior Management Team, spend time with the Country Club manager, the sales and marketing team and in the kitchen with the executive chef.

*"With tourism being so vital to the economy of Northern Ireland, it was great to be able to see for myself what makes a modern, vibrant hotel tick." Simon Hamilton MLA at La Mon Hotel fellowship.*



**26 August:** Simon Hamilton MLA took another opportunity to participate in the NIABT fellowship scheme. This time he visited Firmus Energy to spend a day with the company hosted by managing Director, Mark Prentice.



**14 September:** Joanne Stuart, Chair of the Institute of Directors was the guest speaker at the September breakfast briefing. During this early morning session, Joanne discussed IOD's view on managing the impact of potential budget cuts on public spending. Joanne enjoys membership of the Trust through her own business, Attrus Ltd.



**16 September:** The Business Trust held an event to celebrate and highlight the important role played by women in business. The event was arranged in conjunction with the Institute of Directors. Keynote speakers at the event were Joanne Stuart, IoD, Valerie Watts, Chief Executive of Derry City Council, Melanie Humphrey, Chief Executive of Mallusk Enterprise Park and Dawn Purvis MLA. This event saw a particularly large turnout of prominent businesswomen and resulted in over a dozen applications to join NIABT.

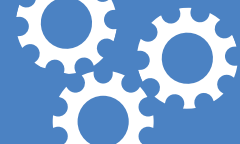


**27 September:** This seminar, focusing on the impact the EU's Lisbon Treaty has on citizens of Northern Ireland, was hosted by the European Parliament UK Office in conjunction with NIABT.

Speakers included Dr Michael Shackleton and Francis Jacobs, Heads of the European Parliament Offices in London and Dublin and Northern Ireland's three MEPs, Bairbre de Brun MEP, Jim Nicholson MEP and Dianne Dodds MEP.



**6 October:** A number of keynote speakers from the business world and politics spoke to an audience of young directors at this lunchtime event. Speakers included Richard Hogg, Managing Director of LGC Skyrota, Conall McDevitt MLA and Lloyd Jackson, General Manager from La Mon Hotel.



## Picture Gallery



**12 October:** Aideen McGinley, Chief Executive of Ilex, made the journey to Parliament Buildings to deliver a breakfast briefing on "Attitudes to Innovation". Aideen also spoke on the Ilex project and its progress to date, including Derry/Londonderry's successful bid for the City of Culture for 2013.



**18 October:** The NIABT President hosted a dinner for members of the construction industry and a selection of MLAs to discuss the challenges facing the industry. Representatives from H & J Martin, Raymond Cullen Demolition, Lafarge Cement, Paul McAlister Architects and Milvan attended the dinner. There was a lengthy discussion on the challenge faced by the construction industry, with MLAs committing to do what they could to help businesses through this difficult period.



**9 November:** Alastair Hamilton, Chief Executive of Invest NI, delivered a presentation on economic development in the current climate, including an overview of Invest NI's role and remit and how their activities align to the 3 yr Programme for Government.



**22 November:** Philip McTaggart and Eddie Bannon from PIPS Programmes delivered a training event to help MLAs and businesses spot people at risk of suicide.

The event aimed to reduce the stigma surrounding suicide, identify the warning signs of those at risk of suicide and learn how to support people to get appropriate help and advice. MLAs, business members and members of the 3rd sector attended this event in the Long Gallery.

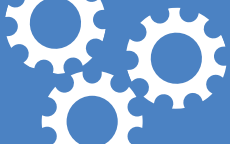


**29 November:** An NIABT delegation visited Brussels to participate in a 4 day educational programme. During the trip, the delegation met with the Director of UAPME, the Director of the Irish Farmer's Association, the 3 Northern Ireland MEPs, Ronnie Hall, DG Regional Policy and received a briefing from a representative from the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive. On day 2, the group met with a Senior Parliamentary Officer from the UK Permanent Representation Office, Deirdre Farrell from the Irish Permanent Representation and received an in depth lecture on the EU Institutions and Decision making processes from a resident lecturer at the Leuven Institute.



**14 December:** Richard Ramsey, Mark Crimmins, John Cairnduff and Ian Jordan from the Ulster Bank gave an overview of the banking sector and what it is doing for Northern Ireland's local businesses. Richard presented an overview of the Northern Ireland economy and Mark outlined support available to local businesses before taking questions from the floor.





## NIABT President's Dinner

**This annual event, hosted by the NIABT President and Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly, William Hay MLA brings together members of the Trust, including MLAs and representatives from across the Northern Ireland business community.**

At the 2010 President's Dinner, NIABT were delighted to welcome guest speakers Declan Kelly, US Economic Envoy to Northern Ireland and Sir Reg Empey MLA, Minister for Employment and Learning.

Mr. Kelly, a prominent Irish businessman originally from Tipperary was appointed to the role of US Economic Envoy to Northern Ireland by the US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in September 2009.

Since his appointment he has been instrumental in fostering and promoting trade and investment links between the United States and Northern Ireland.

The 2011 President's Dinner will be held on the evening of Thursday 17 February in Parliament Buildings. The guest speaker for this year's event will be Minister Sammy Wilson MP MLA,

Minister Sammy Wilson MP MLA is Minister for Finance and Personnel.



### MLAs get involved! Fellowships

The NIABT fellowship programme offers a unique opportunity for an MLA to spend a day with a company and experience everything from the boardroom to the shop floor. Where possible, the NIABT will match MLAs with companies in which they have a particular interest, whether it be through Committee or constituency work.

If you are interested in taking part, contact the Business Trust at [niabt@niassembly.gov.uk](mailto:niabt@niassembly.gov.uk) or telephone 028 9041 8365.

## Events Diary

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Aimed at
<b>21 Jan</b>	19:00	North West President's Dinner. Details of guest speaker to follow.	Radisson Roe Hotel, Limavady	MLAs and businesses in the North West region
<b>31 Jan</b>	17:30 – 20:30	PIPS Programmes training course on suicide prevention.	Parliament Buildings	MLAs and business members
<b>4 Feb</b>	8:30 – 10:30	Educational visit to Bombardier Aerospace	Bombardier Aerospace site	MLAs and business members
<b>8 Feb</b>	8:30- 10:00	Breakfast Briefing.  Phil McDonagh (ex PWC) will deliver a briefing on how the N.I. manufacturing sector can lead economic growth.	Parliament Buildings	MLAs and business members
<b>17 Feb</b>	18:30	President's Dinner.  At the annual President's Dinner, keynote speaker will Sammy Wilson MP MLA.	Parliament Buildings	MLAs and business members
<b>24 Feb</b>	tbc	MP question and answer session. Northern Ireland MPs will be available to take questions.	Parliament Buildings	MLAs and business members.
<b>9 Mar</b>	9.30am	Breakfast Briefing.  Frances Hill, the Bank of England's Agent for Northern Ireland will deliver a briefing on Northern Ireland's impact on monetary policy.	Parliament Buildings	MLAs and business members.