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Submitted to Consultation on the establishment of a Just Transition Commission
Submitted on 2024-12-06 15:02:13

Ministerial Foreword

Introduction

Consultation - Your information

A What is your name?

Name:
Nichola Mallon

B What is your email address?

Email :
nmallon@logistics.org.uk

C Are you representing an organisation, if so, what is your organisation?

Organisation:
Logistics UK

Consultation - Type of Body

1 Do you agree with the proposal that the Commission should be established as an Advisory Non-Departmental Public Body with the chair and its members recruited in line with the guidance issued by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

Yes

Please provide your reasons and any suggested alternative.:

Consultation - Number of Members

2 Do you agree the Commission membership should be between 7-20 members?

Yes

Please provide your reasons and any suggested alternative.:

Consultation - Meetings per year

3 Do you agree the Commission membership should meet on average 15 days per year?

Yes

Please provide your reasons and any suggested alternative.:

The meeting schedule should be flexible to respond to needs.

Consultation - Secretariat

4 Do you agree that the Commission should be similar to the Scottish model and supported by a small team to provide a secretariat function to allow the Commission to function effectively?

Yes

Please provide your reasons and any suggested alternative.:

Consultation - Term

5 Do you agree that members appointed to the Commission should serve a term of 5 years?

Yes

Please provide your reasons and any suggested alternative.:

Consultation - Oversight Functions

6 Do you agree that the Commission would fulfil the oversight function required of it in the Act by reviewing and reporting on the development and implementation of:(a) any sectoral plan published under sections 13 to 21 of the Act;(b) any climate action plan published under section 29 or 51 of the Act; and(c) any scheme established by Regulations under section 31 of the Act.

Yes

Please provide your comments.:

Consultation - Advice Functions

7 Do you agree that the Commission would be fulfilling its advice function by:(a) Responding to a Northern Ireland department's request for advice within agreed timeframes.(b) Issuing research and guidance documents for department's to review and consider when developing emission reduction policies.

Yes

Please provide your comments.:

Consultation - Transport Sector

8 Should the Commission include representation from the Transport sector?

Yes

Please provide your comments.:

Inclusion of the transport sector is critical given the emissions generated by the sector and the significant barriers to net zero transition faced by the logistics industry and heavy duty vehicles in particular, when it comes to costs, technology, infrastructure, planning and security of energy supply. The logistics industry underpins the NI economy. It employs more than 67,000 people which equates to 7.9% of the total workforce. There are over 6,000 logistics businesses in NI making, selling and moving the goods we all need every day. The wider transport and storage sector adds £1.5bn to the NI economy and logistics businesses enabled £19bn in exports and £19bn in imports in 2022. The logistics industry is committed to net zero but it is a sector facing particularly significant challenges on multiple fronts. Given its economic, social and environmental importance, it is imperative that the logistics sector is represented on the Commission.

Consultation - Energy Sector

9 Should the Commission include representation from the Energy sector?

Yes

Please provide your comments.:

The lack of grid capacity, and lack of security, supply and affordability of alternative fuels, including hydrogen, are some of the key challenges facing the logistics sector in realising its commitment to net zero. For these reasons, as well as those outlined in the question above, it is also important that the energy sector is represented on the Commission.

Consultation - Financial Sector

10 Should the Commission include representation from the Financial/Green Finance sector?

Yes

Please provide your comments.:

Access to finance for green investment is a significant barrier facing the logistics sector in its transition to net zero. A renewed private public investment partnership with a more innovative approach to funding solutions is key to unlocking some of these barriers. It is therefore important that the financial sector is included on the Commission.

Consultation - Any other Sector

11 Are there any other sectors in addition to the Transport, Energy, Finance and those listed in 37(4) of the Act that should be represented on the Commission – and if so, please provide reasons for your answer.

Yes

Please provide your reasons and any suggested alternative.:

I would refer you to Logistics UK's response to Q8 and the importance of ensuring there is representation of the logistics sector on the Commission.

Consultation - Committees

12 Do you agree the Commission should have a power to establish Ad-Hoc Committees or working groups to secure additional knowledge or expertise that may not be available with the Commission.

Yes

Please provide your comments.:

Consultation - Key Priorities

13 What do you think the key initial priorities should be for the Commission?

Please provide your comments.:

An initial priority should be a review of the data available and improved data capture to better understand the extent of the challenges and assist an evidence led approach to advice and recommendations.

With the dates towards ambitious net zero targets fast approaching, a focus on interventions and sectors that can considerably move the dial is key. One such sector is the logistics industry. Logistics UK would urge the Commission to make this sector an early focus.