

## Northern Ireland Assembly News – May 2021

### Executive Committee Business

Members agreed: [That the draft Renewables Obligation \(Amendment\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2021 be approved.](#) The Order will ensure that certification for combined heat and power quality assurance schemes is not adversely impacted by COVID and that eligible operators here are not disadvantaged.

### Ministerial Statement

[North/South Ministerial Council: Transport](#) - The Minister for Infrastructure made a statement on the North/South Ministerial Council meeting in the transport sector held on Wednesday 5 May 2021. A number of issues were discussed at the meeting, including the latest EU funding position; New Decade, New Approach commitments; sustainable travel and transport; and future work programme for the transport sector.

### Committee Business

[Climate Change Bill: Extension of Committee Stage](#): In recognition of the impact that the CC Bill could have on many sectors of the economy, including farming, agri-food, energy production and transport, the AERA Committee, sought and gained agreement that the Committee Stage of the CC Bill be extended until 17 December 2021.

### Private Members' Business

[Climate Change Bill: Second Stage](#): Members debated and voted by 58 votes to 29 'That the Second Stage of the Climate Change Bill [NIA 19/17-22] be agreed'.

[Strategies to Protect Peatlands and Woodlands](#): Members resolved 'That this Assembly pays tribute to the heroic efforts by those emergency service personnel from across these islands and the local community who responded to the recent wildfires in the Mourne; notes the importance of preserving the natural environment for improving air quality, biodiversity, carbon capture and combating the climate emergency; further notes the importance of both rewilding and protecting peatlands in tackling the climate emergency; and calls on the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to produce fully resourced strategies and implementation plans to protect, preserve and enhance our peatlands and woodlands without further delay.

[Green New Deal](#): Members debated and supported a Motion calling for the creation of a Green New Deal for NI namely: That this Assembly recognises that recovery from the pandemic and tackling the climate crisis go hand in hand, requiring an investment-led, green recovery that delivers on social and economic justice and rapidly decarbonises our economy; and calls on the Executive to deliver a green new deal that will create an equitable, sustainable economy filled with well-paid, secure, low-carbon jobs in care, education and health as well as in industry and infrastructure, and to ensure well-being and inclusion are at the centre of government decision-making.

## Answers to Written Questions

### Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

[Horticultural Peat Ban](#)

[Wildlife \(NI\) Order 1985 and Tree, Hedge and Woodland Removal](#)

[Departmental Action – Priority Farmland Birds](#)

[Departmental Discussions on promoting wildlife-friendly farming techniques](#)

[Number of Reported Water Pollution Incidents](#)

[Right to Roam Policy](#)

[Environmentally Friendly Trawling Techniques](#)

[Heathland Restoration](#)

[Coastal Erosion - Update](#)

[Municipal waste sent to landfill, incinerated, sent elsewhere for disposal or treatment](#)

### Minister for Communities

[Fuel Poverty Strategy](#)

### Minister for the Economy

[Community Energy Groups](#)

[Review periods Department's ambition of achieving 70% renewable generation by 2030](#)

### Minister of Finance

[Funding Gap - Closure of PEACE IV and opening of PEACE PLUS](#)

### Minister for Infrastructure

[York Street Interchange and Carbon Emissions Reduction Commitment](#)

[Departmental Cycle Unit's Assessment of Urban Shared Footways](#)

[Verge cutting program and 'Don't Mow, Let It Grow' policy](#)

[Review - Renewable Energy Planning](#)

[Sustainable Development in the Countryside](#)

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## Oral Answers to Questions

### Minister of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs

[TB Eradication Strategy](#)

[Recreational Angling: Lower Bann](#)

[Alternative Climate Change Bill](#)

[Support for Biodiversity and 30 x 30 Target](#)

### Minister for the Economy

[Update - Economic Recovery Action Plan](#)

### Minister of Finance

[Shared Prosperity Fund: Update](#)

### Minister for Infrastructure

[Departmental Action to Address Climate Change](#)

[Resource Budget – Active Travel](#)

## Adjournment Debate

*[Opposition to a Waste Incinerator from the Residents of Hightown, Mallusk and South Antrim](#)*

Assembly Committee Meetings May 2021		
COMMITTEE	DATE	AGENDA
AERA	13 May <a href="#">Watch Again</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Briefing from the Assembly's Research and Information Service on the Climate Change Bill.</li> </ul>
	20 May <a href="#">Watch Again</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Departmental briefings on the proposal for a Farm Welfare Bill and Nature Friendly Farming.</li> </ul>
	27 May <a href="#">Watch Again</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oral Evidence from DAERA – Climate Change Bill</li> <li>Written Briefing DAERA – Amendments to the Marine Licensing (Exempted Activities) Order (NI) 2011</li> <li>Written Briefing DAERA – EU Transition Update</li> </ul>
Infrastructure	5 May <a href="#">Watch Again</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Briefing: Northern Ireland Local Government Association &amp; SOLACE NI – EU Successor Funding</li> <li>Briefing: Construction Employers Federation – Review of Planning Act.</li> </ul>
	12 May <a href="#">Watch Again</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Departmental Briefings on:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unadopted Roads</li> <li>A5 and York Street Interchange</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	19 May <a href="#">Watch Again</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Briefing: Electric Vehicle Association NI on Inquiry into Decarbonisation of Road Transport in NI</li> <li>Briefing: Dept for Infrastructure on Inquiry into Decarbonisation of Road Transport in NI.</li> </ul>
	26 May <a href="#">Watch Again</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Briefing: NILGA – Review of the Planning Act</li> <li>Briefing: CBI – Review of the Planning Act.</li> </ul>

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