

Northern Ireland Assembly News – December 2021

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Christmas Recess

During recess, there are normally no meetings in the Chamber and no committee meetings.

MLAs are usually in their constituencies at this time. Christmas Recess 2021 will be from:

18 December 2021 to 9 January 2022 with the First Plenary Sitting - 17 January 2022.

The Business Committee may review, and amend these dates as and when required

Ministerial Statements

[Public Expenditure: Draft Budget 2022-25](#) – The Minister of Finance provided details of the Budget including, given the importance of green growth and sustainability and the move towards net zero, the draft Budget proposes allocations of £304 million of capital for that purpose. While those will not be ring-fenced, Departments can provide more detail on the green growth projects that they intend to take forward as part of their draft Budget consultations.

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Members Statements

[Historic Heritage](#) – Re-siting of HED to the Department for Infrastructure

[Opposition to Petroleum Licensing](#)

Private Members' Business

[Hunting of Wild Mammals Bill](#): Second Stage – Members debated the Bill presented by Mr Blair to prohibit hunting wild mammals with dogs; to prohibit trail hunting; to prohibit terrier work; and for connected purposes. Members voted down the Bill by 45 votes to 38

Adjournment Debate

[Belfast Rapid Transit: South Belfast](#)

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Answers to Written Questions

Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

[Area of NI peatlands that could be restored and estimated impact on atmospheric carbon](#)

[Update on organic farming](#)

[Timetable for the development of a fisheries policies in line with the UK Fisheries Act 2020](#)

[Departmental reforestation work](#)

[Methane Emissions in NI](#)

[Update - Clean Air Strategy for Northern Ireland](#)

[Legislative provisions relevant to DAERA which have been approved for more than six months of which commencement orders have not been made](#)

[Assessment of the outcome of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties](#)

[Departmental efforts to raise public awareness of the threats to biodiversity](#)

Minister of Education

[Transformation of school curriculum to deliver awareness, skills and knowledge to meet future environmental needs](#)

Minister for Infrastructure

[River Faughan: Non-compliance with the Aarhus Convention as contained in UN communication](#)

[Coastal warning system for bathers and sea-sports enthusiasts to inform them of sewage discharges](#)

[Assisting greenway projects funded by the SEUPB](#)

[Effectiveness of the Planning Act and historical mineral licences](#)

The Executive Office

[Citizens' Assembly, as committed to in New Decade, New Approach](#)

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Oral Answers to Questions

Assembly Commission

[Parliament Buildings: Green Energy](#)

Minister for the Economy

[Petroleum Licences: Environmental Factors](#)

[Energy Strategy: Update](#)

Minister of Finance

[Fuel Poverty](#)

Minister for Infrastructure

[Cycle Schemes – Separation of Cyclists and Pedestrians](#)

[Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan](#)

[Update - A5 western transport corridor](#)

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Assembly Committee Meetings December 2021

COMMITTEE	DATE	AGENDA
AERA	2 December Watch Again	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee continued its consideration of the Climate Change Bills, No.1 and No.2. • Received an oral briefing on a proposed Private Member's Bill on Hunting Wild Mammals with Dogs; • Written briefing on Departmental proposals for the January Monitoring Round.
	9 December Watch Again	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee received an Oral briefing from DAERA on Bovine TB Strategy Consultation Outcomes • Written Briefing from DAERA regarding Progress against Business Plan 2021/22 Targets • Informal Deliberations on Climate Change (No.2) Bill.
	10 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee published its Report on the Climate Change (No.1) Bill. The Bill, which is one of two pieces of climate change legislation being reviewed by the Committee, was introduced as a Private Member's Bill by Clare Bailey MLA. Read the Report Here
	16 December Watch Again	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee received DAERA Written Briefings on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Response to the Food Strategy Framework Consultation ○ The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme Order ○ The Rural Policy Framework - Draft Summary of Consultation Responses ○ Single Use Carrier Bags Charge (Amendment) Regs (NI) 2021 • Oral DAERA Briefing on the Peatlands Strategy • Oral Briefing from Just Transition Scotland
Economy	15 December Watch Again	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee received a Departmental update the Committee on the Energy Strategy.
Infrastructure	15 December Watch Again	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefings from ESB on Ecars and the EV Charging Network and a briefing from Sustrans on Tackling Climate Change through Active Travel.

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