

Northern Ireland Assembly News – October 2021

Assembly Business

[Public Petition: Badger Cull Opposition](#)
[Public Petition: Stop the Badger Cull](#)
[Public Petition: Electric Vehicle Charging Network](#)

Private Members' Business

[Planning Guidance: Impact on Rural Communities](#) – Members agreed: *That this Assembly acknowledges that the planning system must be sustainable while also working for our rural communities; notes with concern the recent publication by the Department for Infrastructure of planning advice note (PAN) 'Implementation of Strategic Planning Policy on Development in the Countryside'; further notes the concerns expressed by the Ulster Farmers' Union regarding the new planning guidance; recognises that the new guidance could have a significant negative impact for many people hoping to live in the countryside; and calls on the Minister for Infrastructure to withdraw, immediately, the planning advice note and to engage meaningfully with local councils regarding the very real concerns of people in our rural communities.*

[Waste Water and Sewerage Capacity Crisis](#) - Following debate, the Assembly resolved: *That this Assembly expresses concern at the deepening crisis in Northern Ireland's waste water and sewerage infrastructure; notes the Department for Infrastructure's Living with Water programme in Belfast; highlights the importance of adequate capacity in other parts of Northern Ireland to prevent delays to housebuilding and capital investment in critical facilities such as schools, public offices and factories; notes that addressing the weaknesses of current provision in all areas will be essential to maximising our whole region's economic potential, including through city deals and other key levers; and calls on the Minister for Infrastructure to bring forward a new strategy to enhance and expand NI's water and sewerage infrastructure, with a particular focus on ending regional inequalities.*

Adjournment Debate

[Greenway and Active Travel Infrastructure Provision: North Antrim](#)

Answers to Written Questions

Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

[Marine construction licence for the proposed gas storage project at Islandmagee](#)

[Update - Clean Air Strategy](#)

[Responsibility over the creation of, or enforcement of, public rights of way](#)

[Departmental funding bids made in preparation for the introduction of climate change legislation](#)

[Departmental funding bids to support farmers in preparation for the introduction of CC legislation](#)

[Consideration of ban on biodegradable waste being sent to landfill from 2025](#)

[Agriculture and availability of biomethane and hydrogen for transport and home heating](#)

[Executive Input to the 26th UN Climate Change CoP](#)

[Identification of Keystone Species and their protection](#)

[Butterfly species under threat of local extinction](#)

[Restoration of nature for a green recovery](#)

Minister for Communities

[Update - Retrofitting of homes to make them energy efficient](#)

[Grant scheme for the maintenance of listed buildings](#)

Minister for the Economy

[Electricity generated through wind turbines](#)

[Departmental mitigation against impacts of ecological breakdown and climate emergency](#)

Minister of Education

[Engagement with school children on the climate crisis](#)

Minister for Infrastructure

- [Expenditure on active travel measures](#)
- [Electric vehicle charging points](#)
- [Construction of cycle lanes](#)
- [Update - All Island Strategic Rail Review](#)
- [Belfast Tidal Flood Alleviation Scheme](#)
- [Public inquiry into goldmining in the Sperrins](#)
- [Green energy-generating developments](#)
- [Tree Removal – Nesting Birds & Bats](#)
- [Implementation: All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025](#)
- [Use of gylsophate products](#)

Oral Answers to Questions

Minister of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs

- [Carbon Capture and Storage Technology \(Topical Question 5\)](#)

Minister for Infrastructure

- [Departmental Action to address Climate Change](#)

Assembly Committee Meetings May 2021

COMMITTEE	DATE	AGENDA
AERA	14 October Watch Again	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister Poots Briefing on Green Growth Strategy • Oral Evidence from DAERA on the Climate Change (No.2) Bill
	Watch Again	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Part Two</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral Evidence for the Climate Change No.2 Bill from Agri-food Sector representatives
	21 October Watch Again	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change No.2 Bill - Oral evidence from UK Committee on Climate Change <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Part Two</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral evidence from the Environmental Sector on Climate Change (No.2) Bill.
Economy	13 October Watch Again	• Discussion on the Small-Scale Green Energy Bill
	20 October Watch Again	• Discussion on the Small-Scale Green Energy Bill
Infrastructure	13 October Watch Again	• Departmental Briefing on the Update on Planning

[Back to Top](#)