

Northern Ireland Assembly News – March 2024

Assembly Business

None This Month

Executive Committee Business

None This Month

Ministerial Statements

Committee Business

None This Month

Private Members' Business

None This Month

Adjournment Debate

None this Month

Answers to Written Questions

First Minister and deputy First Minister

[Appointment of a Northern Ireland Climate Commissioner](#)

Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

[Part agricultural effluent has played in pollution of Lough Neagh](#)

[Plans to implement a provision to allow the extension of the slurry ban](#)

[Progress towards the publication of an updated Environment Strategy](#)

[Update - Consultation on the NI Waste Management Strategy](#)

[Update - Department's strategy to promote biodiversity](#)

[Update on the Forests for Our Future programme](#)

[Budget for the Office of Environmental Protection](#)

[Roll-out and funding for the Farming with Nature scheme](#)

[Consultation on the new Draft Seabird Strategy](#)

[Peatland Strategy/ Peatland restoration Fund](#)

[Benefits of urban wildlife](#)

[Update on the Environmental Farming Scheme](#)

[Hedgerow Conservation Measures](#)

[Assessment of the 2024 Rivers Trust report State of Our Rivers](#)

[Litter associated with single-use disposable vapes](#)

[Impact of increase in Carrier Bag Levy on number of bags in circulation](#)

[Amount raised by the Carrier Bag Levy in each of the last five years](#)

Minister for Communities

[Second Survey of Listed Historic Buildings](#)

[Walking Strategy](#)

Minister for the Economy

[Plans to reach net zero by 2050](#)

[Development of a specific green skills barometer](#)

[Potential for geothermal energy production](#)

[Strategy to move away from fossil fuels for home heating](#)

Minister for Infrastructure

[Cost to upgrade the sewerage system](#)

[Percentage of transport budget in 2024/25 on active travel as required by the Climate Change Act](#)

[Impacts on the rail network from climate change](#)

[Transport budget spent on active travel in 2021-22; 2022-23; and 2023-24](#)
[Strategic Plan for Greenways](#)
[Efficacy of proposed Sustainable Drainage Systems](#)
[Coastal flooding modelling](#)
[Fines for those who have cut down trees with Tree Preservation Order](#)

Oral Answers to Questions

Assembly Commission

[Net Zero Targets: Parliament Buildings](#)

Minister of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs

[Update - Climate Change Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2022](#)

[Rivers: Water Quality](#)

[Test and Vaccinate or Remove: Results](#)

Minister for the Economy

[Renewable Electricity Support Scheme](#)

Minister for Infrastructure

[Water Infrastructure](#)

[Upgrading water and sewerage infrastructure](#)

The Executive Office

[Programme for Government: Timeline](#)

[Programme for Government: Multi-year Budget](#)

Assembly Committee Meetings February 2024

COMMITTEE	DATE	AGENDA/ Highlights
AERA	05 March Watch Again	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefing from AERA Minister – Day 1 Briefing
	07 March Watch Again	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee heard from Departmental Officials regarding Climate Change, Science and Innovation Group – Overview & Environment, Marine and Fisheries Group – Overview.
	14 March Watch Again	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee received briefings from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and Forest Service.
	21 March Watch Again	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefing from NI Environment Link – Overview Briefing from The Office for Environmental Protection Briefing from Ulster Farmer’s Union – Overview
Economy	06 March Watch Again	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee received an oral and written briefing from Departmental officials on the Utility Regulator (Support for Decarbonisation Preparation) Bill.
	13 March Watch Again	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee received an oral and written briefing on the Department for the Economy’s onshore petroleum licensing policy. The Committee also received an oral and written briefing from Renewable NI on the transition to net zero & need for an Accelerating Renewables Taskforce.
	20 March Watch Again	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee received an oral and written briefing from the Minister for the Economy on the Department’s budget pressures for 2024-25.
Infrastructure	06 March Watch Again	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee received oral and written briefing from Departmental Officials on the Planning and Public Transport.
	20 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefing from Translink on their role and functions

	Watch Again	including their Annual Report and Accounts and Business Plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Briefing by the Department on an overview of water and Departmental delivery: finance and budget.

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