



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Get Involved

The work of the Northern Ireland Assembly

Issue No. 3

Winter 2011



Parliament Buildings in the snow

Inside this issue:

- Community Conferences in Newry and Cookstown
- Playboard unlocks the secrets of advocacy
- New Education website
- Committee News

We welcome your feedback

We welcome your feedback on the Community Outreach programme and on this newsletter. Please let us know what you think by emailing outreach@niassembly.gov.uk or by calling 028 9052 1195.

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Newry and Mourne have their say!

The beautifully restored Ballybot House was the venue for the first of two Community Conferences in October.

The Assembly, in partnership with the Confederation of Community Groups, provided a robust programme in Newry. Attendees from local community groups and agencies started the day with a whistle-stop tour of how the Assembly works.

The broadcaster Eamonn Mallie hosted a Question and Answer session with 5 MLAs –Dominic Bradley, Mickey Brady, William Irwin, Danny Kennedy and Trevor Lunn. It was a rare opportunity to have 5 parties represented on a panel and the delegates wasted no time in asking some very tough questions.

Some of the MLAs stayed to lend their expertise in chairing a session on presenting to a Committee before delegates gave their thoughts on how the Assembly can connect more effectively with its audiences.

Raymond Jackson, Chief Executive of the Confederation of Community Groups said:

“As the Assembly gains momentum, more and more decisions are being made at Stormont which affect the groups we represent. As a result, one of the Confederation’s key aims is to engage more effectively with decision makers.

“The Confederation is keen to ensure that local groups here in Newry & Mourne have the skills and knowledge required to make their voice heard. It is not enough to hope that Newry’s community and voluntary sector are not overlooked or left behind. Rather, it is essential that Newry leads the way in democratic participation.

“This event met the needs and expectations of our audience – a mix of education and information to help groups plan their next steps for engagement and representation, while MLAs were here to provide opinion, respond to local concerns and engage with the community and voluntary sector.



From left (front row) Dominic Bradley, Danny Kennedy and Mickey Brady. (back row) William Irwin, Eamonn Mallie, Raymond Jackson and Trevor Lunn.

“Feedback from attendees has been overwhelmingly positive. Delegates are keen to take what they have learnt and put it into action – an invigorated level of participation which can only be better for the groups involved, the Confederation and the Assembly.”



William Irwin MLA



Danny Kennedy
MLA



Trevor Lunn MLA



Dominic Bradley
MLA



Mickey Brady MLA

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Cookstown

Loughry College, Cookstown, was the venue for a conference on Friday 14 October aimed at informing the public about the workings of the NI Assembly and giving local community representatives an opportunity to engage with MLAs. Organised by the NI Assembly and Rural Community Network (RCN), representatives of the four largest political parties addressed questions about issues concerning those from the mid Ulster area. The debate, chaired by the journalist Eamonn Mallie, challenged MLAs on a range of issues including health, economy, education and the environment.

The Assembly Outreach team provided an insight into how the NI Assembly functions, and gave advice on how community representatives can effectively influence and lobby on important local issues. The event included a 'mock committee', which allowed participants to get a real feel for presenting an issue to an actual committee in Parliament Buildings.

Mary O'Neill from Dungannon and District Community Transport, was one of those who presented to the committee, saying:

"it was fantastic to be able to get so many useful tips from the MLA who was chairing and from the Committee Clerk."

RCN was delighted to work in partnership with the NI Assembly to bring the event to Cookstown. Fergal O'Donnell, Community Development Officer with RCN, explained:

"RCN has taken every opportunity to build relationships with MLAs, Executive Ministers and all Government Departments. It is critical for rural communities to feel more engaged with the Assembly. This was an excellent opportunity for MLAs to engage with local community representatives outside of Parliament Buildings, and start building those relationships, which are so critical, if we are to make the Assembly work effectively. RCN welcomed the opportunity to be involved in this event and acknowledges the positive work being taken forward by the Outreach Team within the NI Assembly."



Ian McCrea MLA



Robin Swann MLA



Patsy McGlone
MLA



Oliver McMullan
MLA

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PlayBoard

PlayBoard promotes and develops children and young people's play in Northern Ireland. It has a long history of advocating and championing the child's right to play.



Roy Beggs MLA

Unlocking the secrets of advocacy

Devolved government here in NI has increased the opportunity for everyone to make their particular needs known and their voice heard. However, PlayBoard recognised that not everyone has the time, skills or knowledge to articulate those needs, and that there was a need for something which would unlock the secrets of effective advocacy. Playboard's solution was to develop an easy-to-use Toolkit which shared local experience and advice on using tried and tested methods of advocacy. The aim of the Play Advocacy Toolkit is to demonstrate how we can individually and collectively advocate for play and play-based school age childcare and generally raise the profile of play. However, the principles within the Toolkit can be applied to any topic or issue where action is needed.



Alex Maskey MLA

In developing the Toolkit, PlayBoard wanted to further explore and impart the importance of becoming familiar with the Assembly, the Executive and the various Committees – all of which are crucial to any advocacy message being heard and acted upon. The Assembly's Outreach Team was the ideal partner in helping to achieve this goal and as always, was keen to support any local initiative which assisted a group in getting their voice heard.



Sue Ramsey MLA

Working in partnership with the Outreach Team, PlayBoard delivered five seminars across Northern Ireland. PlayBoard staff shared the advocacy message through the Toolkit and the Outreach Team gave attendees a firm grounding in how the Assembly works.



Joe Byrne MLA

MLAs and Councillors attended each session and answered questions about local children and young people's issues. This proved to be a highly informative and successful method of enhancing PlayBoard's goal to have individuals and groups recognise their own power and their own right to exercise that power in making their needs known and their voice heard.



Michaela Boyle
MLA

The development and launch of the Toolkit was hard work. However, the advice and support of the Outreach Team was really important in its success and the interest of the MLAs was invaluable. It has taken PlayBoard several steps closer in its quest to advocate for play.



Sandra Overend
MLA

The Advocacy Toolkit was made possible with the support of Atlantic

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Building Positive Relations in Parliament Buildings

The Ballynafeigh Community Development Agency took the lead in organising a very successful dialogue and networking event held in Parliament Buildings in September.



The event was organised through the Positive Relations Project. The overall aim of the project is to engage and empower women to contribute to post-conflict transition, reconciliation and reconstruction across Northern Ireland and the six border counties of Ireland. The project is working to build the capacity of women through empowerment and skills acquisition. The project is funded by the Special EU Programmes Body which is the managing authority for the Peace III Programme.

There were 50 women from six different organisations in attendance including Roe Valley Community Association, Communities Connect Dundalk, Empowering Women Antrim, Workforce Training Belfast, Newry and Mourne Women Ltd and Ballynafeigh Community Development Association.

The women came together and participated in an interactive information session facilitated by the Community Outreach Team. Assembly staff took the group through a very informative presentation which looked at the Assembly including who was who, and the various ways to get involved with the Assembly from contacting your MLAs to attending a committee meeting. The group then had a great opportunity to chat with a number of female MLAs including Sue Ramsey SF, Brenda Hale DUP, Joanne Dobson UUP, Karen McKeivitt SDLP and, in Anna Lo's absence, Jenna Maghie, the policy officer from the Alliance party. The highlight was the Q&A session with the MLAs and representatives. The questions were endless and the session could have continued on into the afternoon. The MLAs were great and very open with the group which the women really liked; they felt at ease in their company.

The event ended with an excellent tour of Parliament Buildings. The women left Parliament Buildings with a deeper understanding of how our Assembly works.

The event has led to a greater awareness amongst the women of the necessity for women to be equally represented at decision making level, not only within the community sector but also within the broader public and political sector. 18 out of 108 is not a strong enough voice.

We will be back!



Sue Ramsey MLA



Karen McKeivitt
MLA



Brenda Hale MLA



Sandra Overend
MLA

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Real Network

The Rights, Empowerment, Action and Lobbying (REAL) Network is a group of disabled human rights activists from across Northern Ireland focusing on:

- health and independent living
- education and employment
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Getting to know your Assembly

Recently we have had training on 'Getting to know your Assembly' and 'Lobbying and Campaigning'. The training was delivered in three sessions by NICVA: Vital Links and the Assembly Outreach Team. Everyone who participated from the Network found the training very informative and useful... but the most

interesting and informative part was the last session held in Parliament Buildings as we were able to talk with people including:

- [James Gilsean, the Acting Equality Manager](#): we have since been invited onto the Stormont Disability Advisory Group.
- [Peter Hall, OFMDFM Committee Clerk](#): this was very informative as he

told us exactly what the role of a Clerk was, the role of Committees and how they plan their work

- [Robin Newton, MLA](#): he gave us lots of advice including contacting MLAs, how MLAs can assist with campaigns and tips on presenting to Committees.

The training was definitely beneficial as it give us the confidence and knowledge to organize a REAL Network Question Time, sit on the 'Hardest Hit' panel debate with MLAs and MPs, question what MLAs and MPs say and think more strategically about our future lobbying and campaigning.

Joanne Sansome

Making it easier to find out about Committee Inquiries

A number of Assembly Committees are holding inquiries at the moment into a range of issues that they think are important – How to develop the creative industries; the role of School Councils; experiences of victims and witnesses of crime; how to develop the NI economy through research & development; and how to stop tyres being disposed of illegally. To make it easier to find out about these inquiries we've created quick links to each from the homepage of our website. Look out for the box in the bottom right of the screen.

Committee Inquiries: ▶

Committees examine Bills put forward by government Departments and hold inquiries on issues that are important to everyone in Northern Ireland. Current Committee Inquiries are listed below.

- [Creative Industries ▶](#)
- [Victims and Witnesses of Crime ▶](#)
- [School Councils ▶](#)
- [Used Tyre Disposal ▶](#)
- [Developing the NI Economy ▶](#)

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Vital Links

The Assembly Community Outreach Team has been supporting NICVA's Vital Links programme for the past 2 years.



Vital Links aims to increase the interaction and understanding of the key institutions, the voluntary and community sector and foster and promote positive engagement.

The free course comes in four themes:

- Get to know the Assembly, in Parliament Buildings for all Belfast courses
- Making policy work for you
- Successful lobbying and campaigning
- How government departments get and spend their budgets

Over 350 people from the voluntary and community sector have participated in the training, with overwhelming feedback on the quality of information and delivery.

Quotes from participants;

“Another excellent event, look forward to next sessions - best event I have attended!”

Noel McAllister, Early Years, the Organisation for Young Children

“It was great training and having an insight into how the structures really work.”

Victoria Magreehan, Ulster Wildlife Trust

If you would like more information, and to sign up for a session, please contact Colm Burns at colm.burns@nicva.org

NICVA's Vital Links, is a project supported by the Peace III Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body.

Coming Up: New Website for the Northern Ireland Assembly

The new website for the Northern Ireland Assembly was unveiled at 12 noon on 12 December. The new site is packed full of new features, is easy to use and designed to give visitors more information and a better experience. Watch out for information and handy hints to help you navigate your way around the new site in the next issue.

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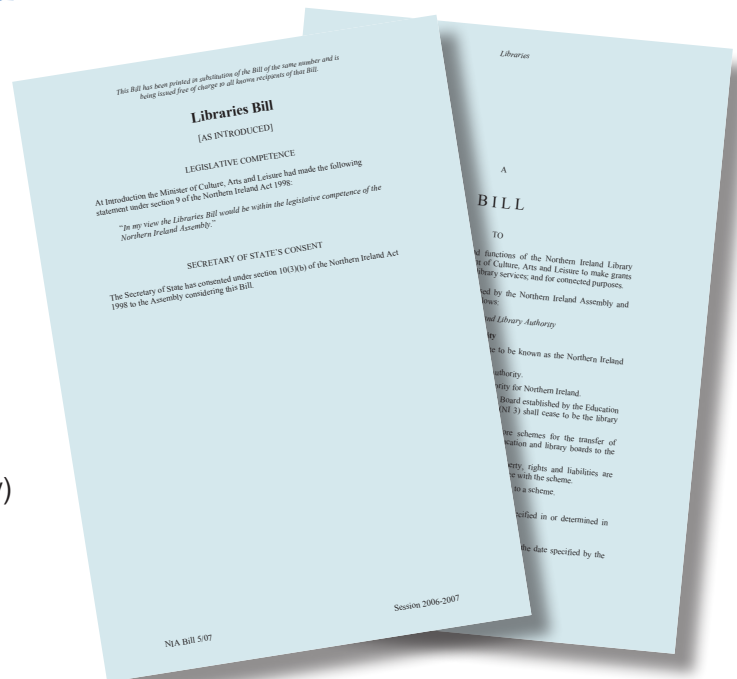
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How a Bill becomes law

Ever wondered what a Bill is and what needs to happen for it to become law?

There are three types of public Bill:

- An Executive Bill which is put forward by a Minister
- A Private Members' Bill which is put forward by an individual MLA (Member of the Assembly)
- A Committee Bill which is put forward by a Committee Chair on behalf of an Assembly Committee



A Bill can only become law if it completes a number of stages of discussion, checking and amending. Before any of this can start, a draft of the Bill is passed to the Speaker of the Assembly who checks to make sure the Assembly has the power to make it law. If the Speaker is satisfied, the Assembly has the power then the official stages start.

First Stage is when the Bill is introduced to the Assembly. This is a formal process: the Minister asks that the Bill be introduced and then the title of the Bill is read out by the Assembly Clerk. There is no discussion on the Bill at this stage.

At **Second Stage** Members debate and vote on the general purposes of the Bill. If the majority of the MLAs present vote in favour of the Bill, it then passes to **Committee Stage** where it is reviewed in detail by the relevant Assembly Committee.

A Committee has 30 working days to consider the Bill and take evidence from interested groups and bodies - if it thinks it needs longer it can ask for an extension. Based on what it hears, the Committee forms an opinion on the Bill and writes a report which is presented to the Assembly. The Committee may decide that the Bill needs changes which it will set out in its report.

The next stage in the Bill process is **Consideration Stage**. This is a very detailed stage. MLAs discuss each element of the Bill and any recommended changes put forward by the Committee or an individual MLA. Members will also vote on whether each element of the Bill and the proposed changes should actually form part of the Bill. If any element of the draft Bill does not pass the vote it does not form part of the final Bill.

The final stage when changes can be made is the **Further Consideration Stage**. Only new amendments are debated and voted on. If there are none then the Bill proceeds to **Final Stage** when MLAs discuss the Bill one last time and vote on whether it should become law.

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The Bill has now been through all its stages in the Assembly. It is passed to the Attorney General who will again check that the Assembly has the power to make it law. Finally it is passed to the Secretary of State who presents the Bill for **Royal Assent** - meaning it gets the approval of the Queen to become law. The Bill is now law and is called an **Act**.

Bills that have received Royal Assent

2007

Budget Act
Welfare Reform Act
Children (Emergency Protection Orders) Act

2008

Pensions Act
Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act
Budget Act
Taxis Act
Public Health (Amendment) Act
Commission for Victims and Survivors Act
Local Government (Boundaries) Act
Libraries Act
Mesothelioma, etc., Act
Child Maintenance Act
Budget (No. 2) Act
Charities Act
Pensions (No. 2) Act

2009

Health and Social Care (Reform) Act
Financial Assistance Act
Public Authorities (Reform) Act
Building Regulations (Amendment) Act
Budget (No. 2) Act
Rates (Amendment) Act
Financial Provisions Act

2010

Diseases of Animals Act
Goods Vehicles (Licensing of Operators) Act
Department of Justice Act
Pensions Regulator Tribunal Act
Water and Sewerage Services (Amendment) Act
Budget Act
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act
Budget (No. 2) Act
Housing (Amendment) Act

Forestry Act
Budget (No. 3) Act
Employment Act
Welfare Reform Act
Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act
Unsolicited Services Act
Debt Relief Act

2011

Commissioner of Older People Act
Student Loans Act
Tourism (Amendment) Act
Construction Contracts (Amendment) Act
Waste and Contaminated Land (Amendment) Act
Energy Act
Safeguarding Board Act
Allowances to Members of the Assembly (Repeal) Act
Dogs (Amendment) Act
Local Government Finance Act
Transport Act
Caravans Act
Employment Act
Budget Act
Wildlife and Natural Environment Act
Welfare of Animals Act
Assembly Members (Independent Financial Review and Standards) Act
Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Act
Sunbeds Act
Civil Registration Act
High Hedges Act
Housing (Amendment) Act
Clean Neighbourhoods Act
Justice Act
Planning Act
Single Use Carrier Bags Act
Autism Act
Damages (Asbestos-related Conditions) Act

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Education on the Web

Ever wondered why the children and young people around you are so clued in to how the Assembly works?

That's all down to our Education Unit, and now they have launched a new website. It is packed full of online activities and designed to be engaging and interactive.

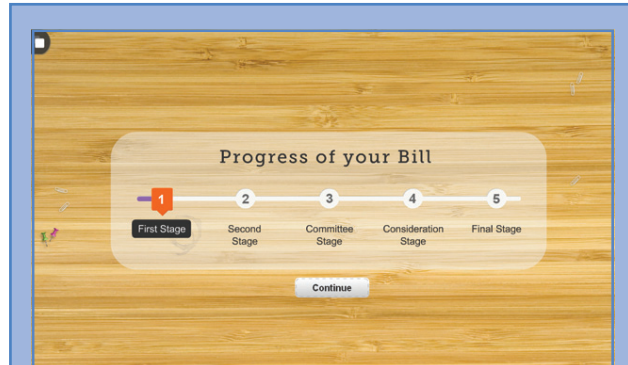
Step into the world of our local MLAs in the "MLA for a Week" activity. Can you manage your diary and keep cool in the heat of a press conference?

"Making a Law" continues the real-life role play by asking you to come up with an idea for a new law. Can you navigate the different stages of the law making process to get your Bill passed by the virtual Assembly?

The "Evolution of Devolution" is a media-rich timeline including archive photographs and video footage of some of the most significant events leading up to devolution and the creation of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

As well as the information, online activities and teaching resources, the website provides a framework for engaging with the Northern Ireland Assembly.

<http://education.niassembly.gov.uk/>



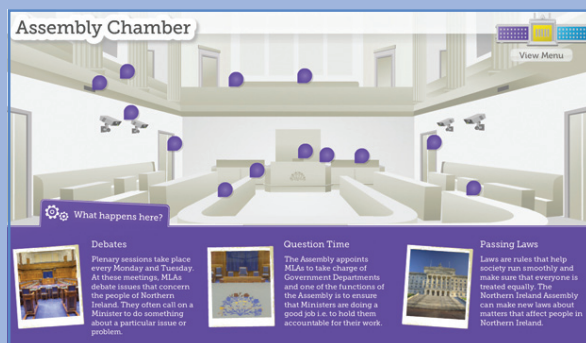
Making a Law



MLA for a week



Evolution-Devolution



Parliament Buildings Assembly Chamber

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Committee for Regional Development

Assembly Committee concerned at cuts in bus services

Recent news that Translink plans to reduce bus services has caused the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for Regional Development grave concerns about the impact on local communities, particularly those in rural areas.

Speaking on behalf of the Committee, Chairperson [Jimmy Spratt MLA](#), said:



“The Committee recognises that Translink is a commercial business operating in a tough economic climate. However, we are concerned that reductions in services could disproportionately affect people in rural areas who rely on public transport to access education, employment and other services. We have requested information from the Department on specific details of routes which will be affected by the proposed reductions to bus services.”

“Transport links are also vitally important to towns and villages around Northern Ireland, enabling them to attract competitive businesses. The Committee is concerned that cutting the frequency of services would have a detrimental impact on local communities and their businesses, especially in these financially difficult times.”

“The Committee has been actively seeking information from the Department of Regional Development on any issues it faces as a result of the financial pressures facing the public sector. The Committee is yet to receive this information and is disappointed to read about such issues in the media.”

“At a time when the Department is trying to encourage people to leave their cars at home and use public transport, this news will do nothing to drive growth in passenger numbers.”



Members of the Committee for Regional Development:

Back row (L-R) *Mike Nesbitt MLA, Roy Beggs MLA, Stephen Moutray MLA, Cathal Ó hOisín MLA

Front row (L-R) Dolores Kelly MLA, Jimmy Spratt MLA (Chairperson), Pat Doherty MP MLA (Deputy Chairperson), Seán Lynch MLA, Joe Byrne MLA

[*Mike Nesbitt MLA has since been replaced by Michael Copeland MLA. Stewart Dickson MLA and Ian McCrea MLA are absent from this photo.]

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Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

Committee addresses rural and farming issues

The Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development has met with local farming group, Farmers for Action to discuss a number of concerns regarding rural and farming issues.

Representatives from Farmers for Action raised concerns on the amount of farmers' profits taken by processors, wholesalers and retailers. The group also outlined their views on Common Agricultural Reform (CAP) reform, planning issues, bovine TB and driving licensing issues for young drivers on farms. The Committee assured the group that it would consider carefully what Farmers for Action had to say.

Speaking about the meeting, Committee Chairperson, [Paul Frew MLA](#) said:



"The agricultural and rural communities of Northern Ireland are the fabric of this society. I want to assure members of these communities that, wherever possible, this Committee will do all it can to promote and protect the interests of farmers and rural dwellers."

During the meeting the Committee also expressed concern about the increasing incidences of farm-related crime and agreed to write to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to ask her to raise the matter with the Minister of Justice.

Other Events

As always, there is a lot going on in Parliament Buildings. Here are a few examples of what has been happening in the past.

The Bytes project, which works with young people in Belfast, held a debate in the Senate Chamber. The debate had been developed by the young people to focus on issues which affect them.

Similarly, the Speaker invited the Pensioners' Parliament along to the Assembly. The Pensioners' Parliament, convened by the Age Sector Platform, empowers older people here to make their voice heard and ensure it is listened to by key decision makers. The first Pensioners' Parliament was held during 2011 and while there is funding secured to ensure it will be held in 2012

and 2013, older people would like to see this structure become permanent so that NI can become a world leader in engaging with older people, listening to their concerns and acting to meet the needs of our ageing population. The representatives were in the Chamber in November making their points to Ministers and MLAs.

Cooperation Ireland held an event in early December. Described as a journey rather than a seminar, the attendees were drawn from around Belfast. They met in communal, and often contested, spaces in local areas and discussed local issues as they move towards the centre of Belfast. Once all attendees gathered together, they travelled to Parliament Buildings to meet with MLAs and discuss the issues that had been highlighted throughout the day.

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Committee for Justice

Assembly Committee for Justice launches Inquiry into the experiences of victims and witnesses of crime

The Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for Justice has launched an Inquiry into criminal justice services available to victims and witnesses of crime in Northern Ireland. The aim of the Inquiry is to learn from the experiences of people who have either been a victim of, or a witness to, crime – from dealings with the police, to the quality of information and support provided, and the handling of cases by the Courts Service.

Launching the Inquiry Committee Chairman, [Paul Givan MLA](#) said:



“Being a victim of, or a witness to, crime can be a very stressful and emotional experience. Lengthy delays, confusing legal processes and poor communication only serve to make the experience even more traumatic.

“It is very important to make sure that the justice system responds to the needs of victims and witnesses, treats them fairly and respectfully and provides them with appropriate support. For this reason the Committee for Justice intends to look closely at the current system in Northern Ireland, what is good and what needs improvement. We will also be comparing our system with national and international approaches to see if there are any examples of good practice which could be adopted here.

“As well as asking people to write to us, we will also be holding a number of events throughout Northern Ireland where we will take the opportunity to meet with people and hear about their experiences. We are very keen to hear about any ideas people may have on how the system can be improved and any concerns about the system as it is now.

“The evidence we gather and the recommendations made by the Committee will play an important part in informing the work of the Department of Justice on its development of a new strategy to deliver improvements for victims and witnesses of crime. We would encourage individuals, organisations and groups to take this opportunity to get involved in our Inquiry.”



Minister David Ford MLA appears before the Justice Committee

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Committee for Social Development

Social Development Committee to address fuel poverty

The Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for Social Development has agreed that it will work proactively with other Assembly Committees to encourage the development and delivery of an effective inter Departmental plan of action to address and eradicate fuel poverty in Northern Ireland.

Committee Chairperson [Alex Maskey MLA](#) said:



“The Committee previously heard from the National Energy Action and Fuel Poverty Coalition in Northern Ireland and were concerned to learn that more than 300,000 households here are in fuel poverty. This is nearly three times higher than levels in England and significantly higher than the rates in Scotland and Wales.

“The recent hike in energy prices, combined with our reliance on expensive home heating oil, clearly makes the problem worse and dramatically increases the number of people affected by fuel poverty, particularly as we enter the colder winter months.

“Having heard from the Department of Social Development on 22 September about its new Fuel Poverty Strategy, the Committee is anxious to ensure that all possible measures are taken across the relevant Departments to address the important issue of fuel poverty, which impacts directly on our most vulnerable people.

“Over the coming weeks, we will be speaking to relevant Assembly Committees about how we can work together to find workable solutions towards ending fuel poverty here.”



Members attending the Fuel Poverty event included:

Back row (L-R) Alban Maginness MLA, Mike Nesbitt MLA, Basil McCrea MLA and Conor Murphy MLA

Front row (L-R) Paul Frew MLA, Michelle Gildernew MLA, Anna Lo MLA and Alex Maskey MLA, Chairperson of the Social Development Committee

Committee for the Environment

Committee puts pressure on Department to deliver a safe and fair taxi system

The Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for the Environment has called on the Department of the Environment to deliver a safe and legitimate taxi system that is fair to all users. The Committee's call comes following continued delays by the Department to implement the 2008 Taxis Act, and extensive lobbying by taxi passengers and companies with serious concerns about the Department's plans.

Committee Chairperson, [Anna Lo MLA](#) said:



“The key driver for the Committee is the need for consumers to have access to a safe and legitimate taxi system that is fair to everyone – and one that is suitable for the whole of Northern Ireland, not just Belfast and our cities.

“The Committee has received many calls and letters from taxi companies and passengers with concerns about the Department's plans. Such was the level of concern we held a special event attended by companies, passengers and the Department. Following this event, the Committee considered everything it heard and has now written to the Department with its views.

“The Committee agrees with the Department's plans to implement an operator licensing system on the understanding that this will help deliver a safer system for users. We have made it clear to the Department that this must deliver a taxi system that can be easily regulated to exclude illegal operators at a cost that is fair and affordable. The Committee does not agree that wedding and funeral car operators should be included in this.

“The Committee is in favour of the Department's plans for a single tier system which will mean all taxis are able to pick up fares without the need for pre-booking. However, the Committee has some misgivings about the classification of disabled taxis within this system. Specifically the Committee is concerned about plans to provide ranks for disabled taxis only and how this will work in practice. The Committee is asking for the Department to review this as it is essential that there is fairness for disabled users – both in terms of access to taxis, but also in the fares they are charged.

“We have also highlighted to the Department that taxi license plates should be displayed somewhere that is clearly visible to taxi passengers, and should be in the same place on all vehicles. We have also recommended that the Department re-introduce the taxi driver test.”

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Want to find out more and to be involved?

If you want to be on our mailing list, please fill in your details below. You will receive an electronic copy of this newsletter and notification of any upcoming community events.

Name
Organisation
Address
Email
Phone number

Please send this form to Community Outreach, Parliament Buildings, Ballymiscaw, Stormont, BT4 3XX or email outreach@niassembly.gov.uk



Useful Numbers and contact details

Service	Phone number	Email address	Details
General Information	028 9052 1137	info@niassembly.gov.uk	A good place to start for general information.
Community Outreach	028 9052 1195	outreach@niassembly.gov.uk	This unit supports charities, community groups and individuals.
Events and tours	028 9052 1948	eventsoffice@niassembly.gov.uk	This team is on hand to discuss opportunities for tours and events.
Education programme	028 9052 1833	education.service@niassembly.gov.uk	This unit offers an education programme to schools both in Parliament Buildings and in schools.

Our textphone number is 028 9052 1209.

You can get this newsletter in larger print or in Braille formats on request. Contact the Community Outreach Team for more details.