



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for Infrastructure

Minutes of Proceedings

22 April 2026

Meeting Location: Room 29, Parliament Buildings, Stormont, Belfast

Present: Mr Peter Martin MLA (Chairperson)
Mr John Stewart MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Stephen Dunne MLA
Mr Harry Harvey MLA
Mr Andrew McMurray MLA
Mr Peter McReynolds MLA

Via Video Conferencing: Mr Maolíosa McHugh MLA
Mr Justin McNulty MLA

Apologies: Mr Cathal Boylan MLA

In Attendance: Mr Michael Potter (Assembly Clerk)
Ms Aoife Keating-Fitzpatrick (Senior Assistant Clerk)
Mr Philip Pateman (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Jonathan Lawless (Clerical Supervisor)
Mr Oliver Briant (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced at 10:05 am in closed session.



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1. Apologies

As above.

2. Declaration of Interests

None.

3. Water, Sustainable Drainage and Flood Management Bill - Consideration of Legal Advice

The Examiner of Statutory Rules joined the meeting at 10:08 am.

- Angela Kelly, Examiner of Statutory Rules

A question and answer session followed.

Maoliosa McHugh MLA joined the meeting at 10:19 am.

The Examiner of Statutory Rules left the meeting at 10:54 am.

4. Water, Sustainable Drainage and Flood Management Bill - Consideration of Evidence

The Committee gave its initial consideration the key issues arising in the course of its scrutiny of the Bill.

Agreed: To write to the Minister for Infrastructure seeking a response to:

- The Committee's concern regarding the provisions within the Bill as introduced around the lack clarity around the scope of the offences



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that would be considered by the Department when making regulations under Clause 3 (3) (2); and

- to highlight the Committee's views that, when establishing a body, it considers that the Bill and accompanying Explanatory and Financial Memorandum (EFM) should contain more detailed provisions and information on the role, functions and composition including how it will be resourced and governed when discharging its functions.

John Stewart MLA left the meeting at 11:09 am.

Andrew McMurray MLA left the meeting at 11:09 am.

The Committee moved into public session at 11:09 am.

5. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson highlighted to Members a recent media article relating a delay to progress of the York Street Interchange project by the Department for Infrastructure.

John Stewart MLA re-joined the meeting at 11:11 am

Andrew McMurray MLA re-joined the meeting at 11:11 am.

Agreed: To write to the Minister for Infrastructure to seek an update on:

- the delivery of the York Street Interchange project, including the priority attributed to its delivery, the associated timescales for delivery and any potential barriers to its progression; and
- a breakdown for each financial year of the costs incurred and works undertaken to date.

6. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 22 April 2026.



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7. Matters Arising

The Committee discussed the recent oral evidence arising from the joint concurrent meeting with the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs on 21 April 2026.

Agreed: To write to the Department to request an overview of the resource requirements of statutory consultees within the Department and its Arms-Length Bodies to meet the timescales for responses.

8. Correspondence

Correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure providing the Belfast City Centre – Monitoring and Evaluation Dashboards – Dec 25 – Mar 26 Quarterly Summary.

Agreed: To write to the Minister for Infrastructure to request that the reports continue to be provided on a monthly basis and to seek the Department's rationale of why it does not collate data to evaluate the effectiveness of the initiative to permit the use of bus lanes by taxis.

Correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure providing a quarterly update on the progress of the associated actions in the Department's action plan on the O&M Resilience Review and Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

Agreed: To note and consider for a future oral evidence session with the new Permanent Secretary.

Copy correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure to the Committee for the Executive Office regarding the Armed Forces Covenant.

Agreed: To write to the Minister seeking clarification on why the Department has no agreed position on the Armed Forces Covenant, and to identify any work the Department has undertaken, or is currently undertaking, on this matter.



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Correspondence from the Committee for Communities regarding the proposed concurrent meeting to facilitate a cross-departmental briefing on the Sustainable Places Programme on 21 May 2026 at 10am in Parliament Buildings.

Agreed: That the Clerk liaises with the relevant clerks to the Committees for Communities and Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to examine available options.

Invitation from Translink to Committee Members to the Ceremonial Signing of the Contract for the purchase of New Enterprise Trains.

Agreed: That individual Members will confirm their own attendance should they wish to attend.

Correspondence from Northstone Ltd relating to the review of standards governing the use of Reclaimed Asphalt Plannings (RAP).

Agreed: To forward the correspondence to the Department requesting further detail on the Department's policy regarding the use of RAP and to seek its assessment of the impact that RAP could have had to supporting climate change commitments towards the delivery of the A5 project.

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

- Correspondence from the House of Lords relating to the technical requirements and testing procedures for motor vehicles and to repealing Council Directive 70/157/EEC and Regulation 540/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council;
- Copy of correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure to the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs providing of written evidence on the Planning Statutory Consultee Forum; and
- Correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure providing an update on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the review of Trust Ports and the associated next steps.



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9. SL1 – The Parking Places (Disabled Persons’ Vehicles) (Amendment No. 2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026 – Formal Consideration

The Committee considered the SL1 – The Parking Places (Disabled Persons’ Vehicles) (Amendment No. 2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the proposal for the Statutory Rule.

10. SL1 – The Roads (Speed Limit) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026 – Formal Consideration

The Committee considered the SL1 – The Roads (Speed Limit) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the proposal for the Statutory Rule.

11. SL1 – The Schools (Part-Time 20mph Speed Limit) (Amendment No. 2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026 – Formal Consideration

The Committee considered the SL1 – The Schools (Part-Time 20mph Speed Limit) (Amendment No. 2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the proposal for the Statutory Rule.

12. SL1 – The Comber Road, Dundonald (Abandonment and Stopping-Up) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026 – Formal Consideration

The Committee considered the SL1 – The Comber Road, Dundonald (Abandonment and Stopping-Up) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.



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Agreed: The Committee was content with the proposal for the Statutory Rule.

13. SL1 – The Road Races (Cairncastle Hill Climb) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026 – Initial Consideration

The Committee considered the SL1 – The Road Races (Cairncastle Hill Climb) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

Agreed: To note receipt of the SL1 and the proposed Statutory Rule, which will be published as part of the call for views.

Agreed: That the SL1 will be considered at the meeting on 20 May 2026.

Agreed: To indicate whether they are content that a briefing from officials is not required at this stage.

Peter McReynolds MLA left the meeting at 11:57am.

14. SL1 – The Schools (Part-Time 20mph Speed Limit) (Amendment No. 3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026 – Initial Consideration

The Committee considered the SL1 – The Schools (Part-Time 20mph Speed Limit) (Amendment No. 3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

Agreed: To note receipt of the SL1 and the proposed Statutory Rule, which will be published as part of the call for views.

Agreed: That the SL1 will be considered at the meeting on 20 May 2026.

Agreed: To indicate whether they are content that a briefing from officials is not required at this stage.



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15. SL1 – The Waiting Restrictions (Bedford Street, Belfast) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026 – Initial Consideration

The Committee considered the SL1 – The Waiting Restrictions (Bedford Street, Belfast) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

Agreed: To note receipt of the SL1 and the proposed Statutory Rule, which will be published as part of the call for views.

Agreed: That the SL1 will be considered at the meeting on 20 May 2026.

Agreed: To indicate whether they are content that a briefing from officials is not required at this stage.

Peter McReynolds MLA re-joined the meeting at 11:59am.

16. SL1 – The Control of Traffic (Durham Street, Belfast) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026 – Initial Consideration

The Committee considered the SL1 – The Control of Traffic (Durham Street, Belfast) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

Agreed: To note receipt of the SL1 and the proposed Statutory Rule, which will be published as part of the call for views.

Agreed: That the SL1 will be considered at the meeting on 20 May 2026.

Agreed: To indicate whether they are content that a briefing from officials is not required at this stage.



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17. SL1 – The Schools (Part-Time 20mph Speed Limit) (Amendment No. 4) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026 – Initial Consideration

The Committee considered the SL1 – The Schools (Part-Time 20mph Speed Limit) (Amendment No. 4) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

Agreed: To note receipt of the SL1 and the proposed Statutory Rule, which will be published as part of the call for views.

Agreed: That the SL1 will be considered at the meeting on 20 May 2026.

Agreed: To indicate whether they are content that a briefing from officials is not required at this stage.

18. SL1 – The Waiting Restrictions (Comber) (Amendment No. 2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026 – Initial Consideration

The Committee considered the SL1 – The Waiting Restrictions (Comber) (Amendment No. 2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

Agreed: To note receipt of the SL1 and the proposed Statutory Rule, which will be published as part of the call for views.

Agreed: That the SL1 will be considered at the meeting on 20 May 2026.

Agreed: To indicate whether they are content that a briefing from officials is not required at this stage.

19. SR 2026-69 The Parking Places (Disabled Persons' Vehicles) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026

The Committee considered the SR 2026-69 The Parking Places (Disabled Persons' Vehicles) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Statutory Rule.



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20. SR 2026-77 The Road Races (Spamount Hill Climb) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026

The Committee considered the SR 2026-77 The Road Races (Spamount Hill Climb) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Statutory Rule.

21. SR 2026-78 The Road Races (Drumhorc Hill Climb) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026

The Committee considered the SR 2026-78 The Road Races (Drumhorc Hill Climb) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Statutory Rule.

The meeting suspended at 12:08 pm.

The meeting resumed in public session at 12:20 pm with the following Members present:

Present: Mr Peter Martin MLA (Chairperson)
Mr John Stewart MLA
Mr Peter McReynolds MLA
Mr Stephen Dunne MLA
Mr Andrew McMurray MLA

Via Video Conferencing: Mr Justin McNulty MLA
Mr Maoliosa McHugh MLA



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**22. Graduated Driver Licensing Proposed Subordinate Legislation -
Consideration of written responses**

The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 12:20 am.

- Dr Chris Hughes – Director of Driving, Vehicle & Road Safety Policy;
- Adrian Borland – Legislation Branch – Driving, Vehicle and Road Safety Policy Division, Department for Infrastructure; and
- Pat Delaney – Director of Operations, Driver and Vehicle Agency (DVA).

The Committee agreed that the evidence is recorded by Hansard.

A question and answer session followed.

Maoliosa McHugh MLA left the meeting at 12:59 pm

Peter McReynolds MLA left the meeting at 1:00 pm.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 1:01 pm.

Agreed: To write to the Driving Instructors Association and the Northern Ireland Approved Instructors Council inviting them to provide views on the evidence received from the Department to date and on the content of stakeholder events being delivered by the DVA.

**23. SL1 – The Road Traffic (Amendment) (2016 Act) (Commencement No.4)
Order (Northern Ireland) 2026**

Agreed: To defer consideration of the proposal for a Statutory Rule to a later date.



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24. SL1 – The Motorways Traffic (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026

Agreed: To defer consideration of the proposal for a Statutory Rule to a later date.

25. SL1 – The Motor Vehicles (Specified Restrictions) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026

Agreed: To defer consideration of the proposal for a Statutory Rule to a later date.

26. SL1 – The Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026

Agreed: To defer consideration of the proposal for a Statutory Rule to a later date.

27. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the draft Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: To proceed with the scheduled evidence as set out in the draft Forward Work Programme and to reflect to any changes agreed during the meeting.



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28. Any Other Business

None.

29. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, 29 April 2026 at 10:00 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 pm.

Mr Peter Martin
Chairperson, Committee for Infrastructure

29 April 2026