

Committee for Infrastructure
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
Belfast BT4 3XX

26 August 2026

FAO: Chairperson of the Committee for Infrastructure

Via Email: committee.infrastructure@niassembly.gov.uk

Dear Chairperson,

RE: Harbours Bill – RenewableNI response

RenewableNI welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Committee for Infrastructure's call for evidence on the Harbours Bill. RenewableNI represents the renewable electricity industry in Northern Ireland, including wind, solar and battery storage developers. Our members account for the majority of the renewable industry supply chain in Northern Ireland and are committed to delivering the infrastructure necessary to deliver the energy transition.

RenewableNI supports the overall direction as outlined in the Bill and welcomes the proposed modernisation of the legislative framework governing Northern Ireland's Trust Ports.

Northern Ireland's Trust Ports have an important role to play in supporting the growth of renewable energy and delivering the infrastructure required for the energy transition. As offshore wind deployment continues to develop, suitable port infrastructure will be critical for project delivery and the wider economic benefits of the sector.

Belfast Harbour is an example of this as its investment in an Offshore Wind Terminal has supported projects generating more than 1.3GW of renewable energy. Furthermore, Belfast Harbour is developing additional opportunities to support future offshore wind projects.

RenewableNI welcomes the Bill's ambition to provide Northern Ireland's Trust Ports with an appropriate legislative framework. We recognise the potential for the reform to support greater flexibility for long-term investment and enable ports to respond to opportunities across energy and infrastructure.

We also welcome the potential for these reforms to support Northern Ireland's energy security and net zero ambitions, while recognising the importance of maintaining appropriate accountability and public benefit within the Trust Port model.

Progressing the Harbours Bill within the current Assembly mandate would provide greater certainty around the future legislative framework and help ensure that investment opportunities can be realised in a timely manner.

Overall, RenewableNI is supportive of the Harbours Bill and the direction of travel represented by the wider Trust Port reform programme. We encourage the Committee to support the Bill as it progresses through the Assembly in the current mandate. RenewableNI looks forward to engaging with the Committee further on issues impacting Trust Ports, and ensuring Ports are in the best position to benefit from and enable the energy transition.

Yours sincerely,

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