



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for Infrastructure

Minutes of Proceedings

11 February 2026

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

Present:

- Mr John Stewart MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
- Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
- Mr Harry Harvey MLA
- Mr Stephen Dunne MLA
- Mr Andrew McMurray MLA
- Mr Justin McNulty MLA
- Mr Peter McReynolds MLA

Via Video Conferencing: Mr Maolíosa McHugh MLA

Apologies: Mr Peter Martin MLA (Chairperson)

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)



Northern Ireland
Assembly

The meeting commenced at 10:02 am in public session.

1. Apologies

As above.

Mr Peter McReynolds joined the meeting at 10:04 am.

Mr Jusitn McNulty joined the meeting at 10:04 am.

2. Declaration of Interests

None.

3. Chairperson's Business

None.

4. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 4 February 2026.



Northern Ireland
Assembly

5. Matters Arising

The Committee noted additional data relating to planning applications provided by the Assembly's Research and Information Service as requested at its meeting on 4 February 2026.

The Committee noted a research briefing from the Assembly's Research and Information Service on the 'Structural Maintenance of Public Roads Across NI, GB and Ireland paper.'

6. Correspondence

Response from the Minister for Infrastructure to Committee correspondence requesting clarification on what measures will be undertaken to plan and develop a more collaborative approach between key stakeholders, including local councils, to ensure a sufficient supply of grit during periods of low temperatures.

Agreed: To write to the Minister to ask with which councils the Department has a Memorandum of Understanding.

Response from the Minister for Infrastructure to Committee correspondence seeking a view on the issue of creating an offence of recording images at road traffic collisions (RTCs) and whether responsibility rests to bring forward legislative changes.

Agreed: To note and forward the response to the Committee for Justice for information.

Correspondence from HalfFairUnfair regarding a campaign for Free Transport for Disabled People.

Agreed: To request a written briefing in the first instance.

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:



Northern Ireland
Assembly

- Response from the Minister for Infrastructure to Committee correspondence seeking the Department's assessment of the applicable legislation in relation to public highway access and guidance that governs such works in Great Britain;
- Response from the Minister for Infrastructure to Committee correspondence seeking the Department's assessment of the quantifiable impacts each of the strands of the three-pronged approach and what other measures will be required to support delivery in addressing the historic under-investment in the water network;
- Response from the Minister for Infrastructure to Committee correspondence requesting an assessment of whether the failure of the traffic signalling was a contributing factor to a road traffic fatality;
- Response from the Minister for Infrastructure to Committee correspondence requesting clarification on what additional funds may be required from the Department and what other funds will come from elsewhere for the repair of the Barmouth Moles;
- Copy correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure to the Committee for Finance regarding any modelling that the Department has done regarding the level of fee that might be charged to apply for a SmartPass; and
- Copy correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure to the Committee for Communities regarding the Department's policy on the provision of dropped kerbs.

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item no. 9.

9. SL1 - The On-Street Parking (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026

The Committee considered the SL1 - The On-Street Parking (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

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



Northern Ireland
Assembly

10. SL1 - The Road Races (Circuit of Ireland Rally) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026

The Committee considered the SL1 - The Road Races (Circuit of Ireland Rally) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

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

11. SL1 - The Road Races (Craigantlet 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 4 March 2026.

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

12. SL1 - The Motor Vehicles (Exchangeable Licences) (Amendment) 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 4 March 2026.

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



Northern Ireland
Assembly

13. SL1 - The Road Races (North West 200) 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 4 March 2026.

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

14. SL1 - The Road Races (Cookstown 100 Motor Cycle Road Race) 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 4 March 2026.

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

15. 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.

The Committee suspended at 10:16 am.

The Committee recommenced at 10:20 am with the following members present:



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Mr John Stewart MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

Mr Cathal Boylan MLA

Mr Stephen Dunne MLA

Mr Harry Harvey MLA

Mr Andrew McMurray MLA

Mr Justin McNulty MLA

Mr Andrew McMurray MLA

Mr Peter McReynolds MLA

Via Video Conferencing: Mr Maolíosa McHugh MLA

The Committee agreed to move to agenda no. 7.

**7. Water, Sustainable Drainage and Flood Management Bill -
Environmental Stakeholders - Oral Evidence**

The representatives joined the meeting at 10:20 am.

- Mr John Martin, Director, Woodland Trust;
- Dr Sharon Thompson, Head of Policy and Advocacy, Royal Society of Protection of Birds;
- Dr Bróna McNeill, Area Lead, Northern Ireland Environment Link;
and
- Mr Robert Walsh, NIMTF Officer, Northern Ireland Marine Task Force.

The Committee agreed that the evidence is recorded by Hansard.

A question and answer session followed.

Mr Peter McReynolds left the meeting at 10:47 am.



Northern Ireland
Assembly

The representatives left the meeting at 11:26 am.

Agreed: To write to the representative groups to seek a response to any of the issues not covered during the oral evidence and to provide the information as undertaken.

The Committee suspended at 11:27 am.

The Committee recommenced at 11:34 am with the following members present:

Mr John Stewart MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

Mr Stephen Dunne MLA

Mr Harry Harvey MLA

Mr Andrew McMurray MLA

Mr Justin McNulty MLA

Mr Andrew McMurray MLA

Mr Peter McReynolds MLA

Via Video Conferencing: Mr Maolíosa McHugh MLA

8. Addressing Planning Barriers to Telecommunications Investment in Northern Ireland - Mobile UK & Mobile Infrastructure Forum – Oral Evidence

The representatives joined the meeting at 11:34 am.

- Mr Gareth Elliott, Representative, Mobile UK;
- Mr Tom Shepherd, Representative, Mobile UK;
- Mr Nick Speed, Representative, Mobile UK;
- Mr Will Osborne, Representative, Mobile Infrastructure Forum; and
- Mr Sean McHenry, Representative, Mobile Infrastructure Forum.



Northern Ireland Assembly

Mr Cathal Boylan joined the meeting at 11:35 am.

A question and answer session followed.

The representatives left the meeting at 13:11 pm.

The Committee agreed that the evidence is recorded by Hansard.

Agreed: To write to the Minister for Infrastructure seeking an update on developments to introduce prior approval and an update on any departmental work to update existing guidance.

Agreed: To write to the Mobile Infrastructure Forum seeking:

- further detail on issues identified during the oral evidence including any input into the Mobile Market Review;
- Location of the 70 sites highlighted where modernisation works are planned;
- Pixel Map of 4G/5G coverage in Northern Ireland; and
- Copy of a report referencing the economic benefits arising from upgrades to the digital communications network in Northern Ireland.

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 16.

16. Any Other Business

The Deputy Chairperson highlighted the recent announcement surrounding the funding of £7.85 million for the Winter Recovery Road Fund.

Agreed: To write to the Department for Infrastructure to welcome the recent announcement and to seek a disaggregation of funding allocation across each of the road divisions.



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Mr McMurray highlighted the work of the Northern Ireland Youth Assembly and whether there is any scope for the Committee to engage on any relevant issues of mutual interest.

Agreed: That the Clerk will liaise with Northern Youth Assembly secretariat to identify any potential areas of interest.

17. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 18 February 2026 at 10:00 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:16 pm.

Mr Peter Martin
Chairperson, Committee for Infrastructure

18 February 2026