Northern Ireland Assembly

# Committee for Infrastructure

# Minutes of Proceedings

**20 October 2026**

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

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| **Present:** | Mr John Stewart MLA (Deputy Chairperson)<br>Mr Paul Boggs MLA<br>Mr Stephen Dunne MLA<br>Mr Harry Harvey MLA<br>Mr Andrew McMurray MLA<br>Mr Peter McReynolds MLA |
| **Apologies:** | Mr Jonathan Buckley MLA (Chairperson)<br>Mr Cathal Boylan MLA |
| **In Attendance:** | Mr Michael Potter (Assembly Clerk)<br>Ms Aoife Keating-Fitzpatrick (Senior Assistant Clerk)<br>Mr Philip Pateman (Assistant Assembly Clerk)<br>Mr Jonathan Lawless (Clerical Supervisor)<br>Ms Ally McNamara (Clerical Officer) |

The meeting commenced at 2:06 pm in public session.

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## 1. Apologies

As above.

## 2. Declaration of Interests

Mr Peter McReynolds declared an interest as the Bill Sponsor of the Tree Protection Bill.

## 3. Tree Protection Bill – Department for Infrastructure – Oral Evidence

The following departmental officials joined the meeting 2:08 pm.

- Rosemary Daly: Chief Planner and Director, DfI Planning Group;
- Scott Symington: Deputy Director, DfI Planning Group; and
- Matt McCrisken: Principal Planning Officer, Planning Legislation

The Committee agreed that the evidence is recorded by Hansard.

A question and answer session followed.

Mr Andrew McMurray joined the meeting at 2:36 pm.

The departmental officials left the meeting at 2:54 pm.

The meeting was suspended at 2:55 pm.

The meeting resumed at 2:59 pm with the following Members present:

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|---|---|
| Present: | Mr John Stewart MLA (Deputy Chairperson) |
| | Mr Paul Boggs MLA |
| | Mr Stephen Dunne MLA |
| | Mr Harry Harvey MLA |
| | Mr Andrew McMurray MLA |
| | Mr Peter McReynolds MLA |

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## 4. Tree Protection Bill – Environmental Panel – Oral Evidence

The following representatives joined the meeting 2:59 pm.

- Andrew Weatherall, Principal Policy Officer, Woodlands and Forestry, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds;
- Gregor Fulton, Trees & Woodland Advisor, National Trust;
- Paul Armstrong, Public Affairs Manager Northern Ireland, Woodland Trust; and
- Rosemary Mulholland, Head of Nature Recovery, Ulster Wildlife.

The Committee agreed that the evidence is recorded by Hansard.

A question and answer session followed.

Mr Paul Boggs left the meeting at 3:36 pm

The representatives left the meeting at 3:50 pm.

## 5. Any Other Business

None

## 6. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, 21 October 2026 at 10:00 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:52 pm.

**Mr Jonathan Buckley**
**Chairperson, Committee for Infrastructure**

**4 November 2026**