



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

## **Committee for Infrastructure**

### **Minutes of Proceedings**

**16 September 2026**

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

**Present:**

- Mr Jonathan Buckley MLA (Chairperson)
- Mr John Stewart MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
- Mr Paul Boggs MLA
- Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
- Mr Harry Harvey MLA
- Mr Andrew McMurray MLA
- Mr Justin McNulty MLA

**Apologies:** Mr Stephen Dunne MLA

**Via Videoconferencing:** Mr Peter McReynolds 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)
- Ms Ally McNamara (Clerical Officer)

The meeting commenced at 10:03 am in public session.



### **1. Apologies**

As above.

### **2. Declaration of Interests**

None.

### **3. Chairperson's Business**

The Chairperson thanked Ms Sinéad Ennis for her contribution to the Committee and welcomed Mr Paul Boggs.

**Agreed:** To write to Ms Ennis to thank her for her contribution to the Committee's work and to wish her well in the future.

The Chairperson referred to the recent verdict arising from the inquest surrounding the death of Noah Donohoe.

**Agreed:** To write to the Minister for Infrastructure to seek her response to the findings from the inquest and to request details of the Department's inspection regime for storm drains.

### **4. Draft Minutes**

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 9 September 2026.



## **5. Matters Arising**

None.

## **6. Correspondence**

Correspondence from the Committee for Finance providing copies of the revised Department of Finance and Department of Justice Section 59/Section 7 authorisation letters.

**Agreed:** To note in the context of the scheduled oral briefing on 30 September 2026.

Correspondence from the Committee for Finance enclosing a response from the Department for Finance in respect of a briefing by the Association of British Insurers on motor insurance premiums and claims.

**Agreed:** To write to the Committee for Finance to highlight that the Committee has recently written to the Department of Justice on the disparity of motor insurance premiums and claim awards.

Correspondence from the Committee for Finance providing the 2025-26 Public Expenditure Outturn and Forecast Outturn – June (R3) & July (R4) Position.

**Agreed:** To note in the context of the scheduled oral briefing on 30 September 2026.

Correspondence from the Newcastle Concerned Residents Group providing a response to the Committee request for further information on flooding.

**Agreed:** To forward the correspondence to the Department for Infrastructure for a direct response to the issues raised.

**Agreed:** To forward the correspondence to Northern Ireland Water for a direct response to the issues raised.

**Agreed:** To write to the Department for Infrastructure to seek an update on the items of correspondence that are outstanding.



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The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

- Correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure providing the Belfast City Centre Traffic Update for September 2026;
- Correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure providing a quarterly update on the Translink Nightmover Service;
- Copy of a response from the Minister for Infrastructure to the Committee for Finance regarding progress on the Lagan Pedestrian Cycle Bridge;
- Correspondence from the Committee for Finance regarding the costs associated with the application of provisions of Bills;
- Correspondence from a member of the public providing further information in relation to a complaint against Warrenpoint Harbour;
- Correspondence from EcoBalance providing a proposal for reducing septic-tank pollution, public expenditure, and carbon Emissions; and
- Invitation from Hopp Belfast to a stakeholder event on 22 September 2026.

The meeting moved into closed session at 10:11 am.

Mr Justin McNulty joined the meeting at 10:13 am.

Mr Paul Boggs left the meeting at 10:24 am

The meeting moved back into public session at 10:24 am.

### **7. SR 2026-129 The Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (Amendment No. 3) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026**

The Committee considered SR 2026-129 The Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (Amendment No. 3) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026.

**Agreed:** To defer its decision until receipt of a response from the Department in relation to issues raised.



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**Agreed:** To write to the Department for Infrastructure to request that the Committee is copied to its response to the issues raised by a member of the public and to seek from the Department what scope there may be to introduce a derogation to 'R plate' drivers during the transitory period of the implementation of Graduated Driver Licensing and assessment of the number drivers impacted.

**8. SR 2026-143 The Motorways Traffic (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026**

The Committee considered SR 2026-143 The Motorways Traffic (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026.

**Agreed:** To defer its decision until receipt of a response from the Department in relation to issues raised.

**9. SR 2026-125 (C.5) The Road Traffic (Amendment) (2016 Act) (Commencement No. 4) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026**

The Committee considered SR 2026-125 (C.5) The Road Traffic (Amendment) (2016 Act) (Commencement No. 4) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

**Agreed:** To defer its decision until receipt of a response from the Department in relation to issues raised.

**10. SR 2026-126 The Motor Vehicles (Specified Restrictions) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026**

The Committee considered SR 2026-126 The Motor Vehicles (Specified Restrictions) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026.

**Agreed:** To defer its decision until receipt of a response from the Department in relation to issues raised.



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**11. SR 2026-127 The Road Races (Armoy Motorcycle Road Race) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026**

The Committee considered SR 2026-127 The Road Races (Armoy Motorcycle Road Race) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

**Agreed:** The Committee noted the Statutory Rule.

**12. SR 2026-133 The Traffic Weight Restriction (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026**

The Committee considered SR 2026-133 The Traffic Weight Restriction (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

**Agreed:** The Committee noted the Statutory Rule.

**13. SR 2026-134 The Road Races (Ulster Rally) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026**

The Committee considered SR 2026-134 The Road Races (Ulster Rally) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

**Agreed:** The Committee noted the Statutory Rule.

**14. SR 2026-140 The Cycle Routes (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026**

The Committee considered SR 2026-140 The Cycle Routes (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

**Agreed:** The Committee noted the Statutory Rule.



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**15. SR 2026-141 The Road Races (Garron Point Hill Climb) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026**

The Committee considered SR 2026-141 The Road Races (Garron Point Hill Climb) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

**Agreed:** The Committee noted the Statutory Rule.

**16. SR 2026-142 The Parking Places on Roads and Waiting Restrictions (Dungannon) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026**

The Committee considered SR 2026-142 The Parking Places on Roads and Waiting Restrictions (Dungannon) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

**Agreed:** The Committee noted the Statutory Rule.

**17. SR 2026-145 The Road Races (Down Rally) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026**

The Committee considered SR 2026-145 The Road Races (Down Rally) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

**Agreed:** The Committee noted the Statutory Rule.

Mr Andrew McMurray left the meeting at 10:28 am.

Mr Paul Boggs re-joined the meeting at 10:28 am.

**18. SR 2026-154 The Railway Safety (2002 Act) (Commencement No.1) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026**

The Committee considered SR 2026-154 The Railway Safety (2002 Act) (Commencement No.1) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

**Agreed:** The Committee noted the Statutory Rule.



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**19. Draft SR 2027/XXXX The Grants to Water and Sewage Undertakers Order (Northern Ireland) 2027**

The Committee considered Draft SR 2027/XXXX The Grants to Water and Sewage Undertakers Order (Northern Ireland) 2027.

**Agreed:** That the Committee for Infrastructure has considered the Draft SR 2027-xxx Draft SR 2027/XXXX The Grants to Water and Sewage Undertakers Order (Northern Ireland) 2027 and recommends it be affirmed by the Assembly.

**20. Harbours Bill - Briefing from Assembly Research and Information Service**

The research officer joined the meeting 10:29 am.

- Mr Nathan Mulholland, Research Officer, Research and Information Service (RalSe).

A question and answer session followed.

Mr Andrew McMurray re-joined the meeting at 10:30 am.

The research officer left the meeting at 10:57 am.

**Agreed:** To seek further detail from RalSe on:

- any learning identified arising from any reviews following the implementation of similar legislative change in Scotland;
- an overview of comparable Trust Ports and their legislative frameworks in the Republic of Ireland.

**Agreed:** The draft timetable for scrutiny of the Bill.

**Agreed:** To publish the responses received to the Committee's call for evidence on its webpage.

**Agreed:** To schedule oral evidence into the Forward Work Programme as part of its ongoing scrutiny of the Bill from:

- Belfast Harbour Commissioners;



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- Coleraine Harbour;
- Foyle Harbour;
- Warrenpoint Harbour Authority; and
- The Office for National Statistics.

### **21. Parking Enforcement – APCOA – Oral Evidence**

The following representatives joined the meeting 11:03 am.

- Kim Challis – Managing Director UK&I & Group ESG Director; APCOA;
- Tracey Munford – Lead for On Street; APCOA;
- Graham Tidball – National Operations Director; APCOA; and
- Russell Peacock – Deployment lead; APCOA.

A question and answer session followed.

Mr Peter McReynolds left the meeting at 11:39 am.

The representatives left the meeting at 11:45 am.

- Agreed:** To write to APCOA to seek further detail on a range of matters discussed in the course of the evidence including:
- An overview of the data retention policies in respect of information captured by APCOA in delivering the contract for DfI;
  - A breakdown of the projected levels of gross and net profit for each year of the contract;
  - Confirmation of the number of penalty charge notices (PCNs) issued by area since the commencement of the contract;
  - Confirmation of the retention rate of the 127 staff transferred to APCOA under Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE);



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- An overview of APCOA's social value mapping plan, associated matrix and scoring to demonstrate its achievement of the social value initiatives over the initial contract term; and
- Clarification of whether the use of an on-street electric vehicle charge point bay requires a user to pay an on street parking charge.

### **22. 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.

### **23. Any Other Business**

None.

### **24. Date, Time and Place of next meeting**

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, 23 September 2026 at 10:00 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting adjourned at 11:48 am.

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

**23 September 2026**