



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for Infrastructure

Minutes of Proceedings

7 October 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 Stephen Dunne MLA
Mr Harry Harvey MLA
Mr Andrew McMurray MLA
Mr Peter McReynolds MLA

Apologies:

None

Via Videoconferencing: Mr Justin McNulty 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 10:00 am in closed session.



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1. The Reservoirs Act - Assembly Legal Services - Consideration of Delegated Legislation - Oral Briefing

The legal advisor joined the meeting 10:02 am.

- Ms Htaik Win, Legal Advisor, NIA Legal

A question and answer session followed.

Mr Cathal Boylan MLA joined the meeting at 10:07 am.

The legal advisor left the meeting at 10:12 am.

Having noted the contents of the legal advice and its previous decision to consider the proposed delegated legislation under the Assembly's new procedure, the Committee will consider the revised SL1s and associated once resubmitted by the Department for Infrastructure.

The Committee moved into public session at 10:26 am.

2. Apologies

As above.

3. Declaration of Interests

None.

4. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson informed Members that the Consideration Stage of the Water, Sustainable Drainage and Flood Management Bill has been scheduled on Monday, 12 October and that the proposed departmental amendments have been laid.

The Chairperson highlighted to Members' attention the recent judgement by the Court of Appeal in respect of the A5 Western Transport Corridor upgrade project.



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The Committee broadly welcomed the legal certainty arising from this Executive Flagship project but recognised the impacts of recommencing the upgrade and the need for clear and timely information to those affected.

Agreed: To write to the Department for Infrastructure seeking:

- An updated assessment of the revised timescales for the commencement and completion of work for the project;
- Its assessment of the amount of land previously returned to landowners that will now be subject to re-vesting and the associated forecast costs;
- An updated assessment of the forecasted costs for delivering the project;
- An overview of what capital road projects can be progressed in this financial year in light of the judgement;
- Clarification of whether the Department is required to offset all carbon emissions when seeking to deliver major capital projects; and
- Clarification of whether landowners, having undertaken remedial repairs to land previously vested, have been notified that the reimbursement of any costs incurred should be sought through a landowners' insurers.

5. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 30 September 2026.

6. Matters Arising

None.



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7. Correspondence

Correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure on the Review of Permitted Development Rights - Development by Electronic Communications Code Operators (Mobile Telecommunications)

Agreed: To schedule oral evidence upon the conclusion of the consultation.

Correspondence from Cycling UK offering to provide oral evidence to the Committee pending publication of the Active Travel Delivery Plan for Northern Ireland.

Agreed: To write to the Department to establish when the Active Delivery Plan will be published.

Correspondence from a member of the public raising concerns regarding the On-Street Parking (Amendment No.2) Order (NI) 2026.

Agreed: To write to the Department seeking a response to the issues raised.

The Committee noted the following items of correspondence:

- Correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure providing a notice of appointment for two non-executive members to the board of Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company;
- Correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure providing the Annual Roads Report for Newry, Mourne & Down District Council 2026-2027;
- Correspondence from the Committee for the Economy regarding the call for evidence on the Regional Balance Bill;
- Correspondence from the Committee for Communities providing an update on co-ownership property value limits for new-build homes in Northern Ireland;
- Correspondence from the Committee for Communities seeking information of any financial bids in respect of the Anti-Poverty Strategy;
- Correspondence from the Committee for Communities regarding the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council research paper



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summarising the issues identified with rurality and governmental decision making;

- Correspondence from the Office of the Speaker providing notification that a public petition was presented to the Assembly on 'Road Safety at Darragh Cross;'
- Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland – Department for Infrastructure Investing Activity Report – September 2026;
- Response from APCOA to questions raised during the evidence session on parking enforcement;
- Invite from Northern Ireland Assembly's Public Engagement Team to a round table lunch event with the Older People's Parliament on 15th October in the Long Gallery;
- Correspondence from a member of the public raising concerns regarding Graduated Driver Licensing and pre-existing R drivers limited to 45mph; and
- Invitation from CILIP Ireland to a drop-in event 'Libraries Deliver Impact Outcomes and Value for Communities.'

8. SL1 - The Parking Places on Roads (Clogher) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026 – Formal Consideration

The Committee considered SL1 - The Parking Places on Roads (Clogher) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

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



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9. SL1 - The Parking Places on Roads and Waiting Restrictions (Cookstown) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026 – Formal Consideration

The Committee considered SL1 - The Parking Places on Roads and Waiting Restrictions (Cookstown) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

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

10. SL1 - The Parking Places on Roads, Loading Bay & Waiting Restrictions (Newcastle) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026 – Formal Consideration

The Committee considered SL1 - The Parking Places on Roads, Loading Bay & Waiting Restrictions (Newcastle) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

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

11. SL1 - The Roads (Speed Limit) (No. 4) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026 – Formal Consideration

The Committee considered SL1 - The Roads (Speed Limit) (No. 4) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

Mr Andrew McMurray left the meeting at 10:49 am.

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

12. SL1 - The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Derry/Londonderry) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026 – Formal Consideration

The Committee considered SL1 - The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Derry/Londonderry) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.



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

13. SL1 – The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Newtownabbey) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026 – Initial Consideration

The Committee considered SL1 – The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Newtownabbey) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

Mr Andrew McMurray rejoined the meeting at 10:50 am.

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 28 October 2026.

Agreed: That a briefing from officials is not required at this stage.

14. SR 2026-164 The Loading Bays on Roads (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026

The Committee considered SR 2026-164 The Loading Bays on Roads (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

Mr Stephen Dunne left the meeting at 10:52 am.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Statutory Rule.

15. SR 2026-165 The Urban Clearways (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026

The Committee considered SR 2026-165 The Urban Clearways (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Statutory Rule.



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16. SR 2026-167 The On-Street Parking (Amendment No. 2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026

The Committee considered and noted SR 2026-167 The On-Street Parking (Amendment No. 2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

Mr Peter McReynolds left the meeting at 10:55 am.

The Committee noted correspondence from a member of the public highlighting concern over the potential effect of placing an additional burden of proof as set out under Article 15 of the rule.

Agreed: to write to the Department for Infrastructure seeking a response to issues highlighted in the correspondence.

Mr Peter McReynolds rejoined the meeting at 10:58 am.

17. Display of Flags and Emblems Bill - Assembly Research and Information Services – Oral Evidence and Consideration of next steps

The following researchers joined the meeting 11:00 am.

- Mr Thomas Lough, Research Officer, Research and Information Service (RaISe); and
- Mrs Karen Clarke, Research Officer, Research and Information Service (RaISe).

Mr Stephen Dunne rejoined the meeting at 11:07 am.

A question and answer session followed.

Mr Peter McReynolds declared an interest as a member of the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

The meeting suspended at 11:40 am.



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The meeting resumed at 11:47 am with the following members present:

Present: Mr Jonathan Buckley MLA (Chairperson)
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

Via Videoconferencing: Mr Justin McNulty MLA

Mr Cathal Boylan rejoined the meeting at 11:48 am.

The researchers left the meeting at 12:34 pm.

Members noted and considered procedural advice and draft timetables for the scrutiny of the legislation currently referred to the Committee for scrutiny.

Having noted the proposed timescales for the Display of Flags and Emblems Bill, Members considered the wider programme of work in scrutinising legislation within the remaining time in the mandate.

Proposed: Mr John Stewart proposed that the Committee for Infrastructure extends the Committee stage of the Display of Flags and Emblems Bill to 19 February 2027.

The question was put that the Committee for Infrastructure extends the Committee stage of the Display of Flags and Emblems Bill to 19 February 2027.

The Committee divided: Ayes: 5; Noes: 4.

Ayes: Jonathan Buckley, John Stewart, Stephen Dunne, Harry Harvey, Justin McNulty.

Noes: Andrew McMurray, Peter McReynolds, Cathal Boylan, and Paul Boggs.

The motion was carried.

Agreed: To follow up with RaISe to seek further detail on issues discussed during the briefing.



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- Agreed:** To lay the motion for extension of the Committee stage to 19 February 2027 in the Business Office.
- Agreed:** To write to all Statutory Committees seeking views on the Bill.
- Agreed:** To schedule oral evidence from the organisations detailed in the Clerks memo in respect of the Bill.

18. Tree Protection Bill – Consideration of next steps

- Agreed:** To lay the motion for extension of the Committee stage to 29 January 2027 in the Business Office.
- Agreed:** That the Clerk liaise with the Northern Ireland Assembly's Youth Assembly to establish the availability to provide oral evidence from the on the Bill.

19. Harbours Bill - Consideration of next steps

The Committee noted a draft revised timetable for the scheduling of evidence on the Bill.

- Agreed:** To the revised Bill timetable.

20. Update on the Department for Infrastructure's Financial Position for 2026-27 - Department for Infrastructure – Oral Evidence

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting 12:55 pm.

- David Reid – Deputy Secretary Water and Departmental Delivery Group, Department for Infrastructure;
- Susan Anderson – Deputy Secretary of Climate Planning and Public Transport, Department for Infrastructure;
- Jonathans Saulters – Director of Major Projects, Department for Infrastructure;



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- Brighdin McAleenan – Director of Finance, Department for Infrastructure; and
- Alison Clydesdale – Director of Water and Drainage Policy, Department for Infrastructure.

A question and answer session followed.

The departmental officials left the meeting at 1:36 pm.

21. 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.

22. Any Other Business

Agreed: To write to all Statutory Committees seeking views on the Harbours Bill.

23. Date, Time and Place of next meeting

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, 14 October 2026 at 10:00 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting adjourned at 1:37 pm.



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Mr Jonathan Buckley
Chairperson, Committee for Infrastructure

14 October 2026