

# **Utility Regulator (Support for Decarbonisation Preparation) Bill**

[AS INTRODUCED]

## LEGISLATIVE COMPETENCE

At Introduction the Minister for the Economy had made the following statement under section 9 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998:

*“In my view the Utility Regulator (Support for Decarbonisation Preparation) Bill would be within the legislative competence of the Northern Ireland Assembly.”*



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## BILL

TO

Confer functions on the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation to assist the Department for the Economy in developing plans for the decarbonisation of the energy sector.

**B**E IT ENACTED by being passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly and assented to by His Majesty as follows:

### **Preparation for decarbonisation of energy sector: role of Utility Regulator**

5 **1.**—(1) The Utility Regulator may provide advice, information or assistance to the Department for the purposes of or in connection with the development of any proposal, policy, strategy or plan relating to the energy sector that the Department is required, or considers it appropriate, to develop under the 2022 Act.

(2) The Utility Regulator must, so far as reasonably practicable, comply with any reasonable request by the Department that it exercise its powers under subsection (1) in relation to any particular matter.

(3) In this section—

10 “the 2022 Act” means the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022,

“the Department” means the Department for the Economy,

“the energy sector” means anything to do with the production, supply or consumption of energy (of any kind),

15 “the Utility Regulator” means the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation.

### **Commencement and short title**

**2.**—(1) This Act comes into operation on the day after Royal Assent.

(2) This Act may be cited as the Utility Regulator (Support for Decarbonisation Preparation) Act (Northern Ireland) 2026.

# **Utility Regulator (Support for Decarbonisation Preparation) Bill**

[AS INTRODUCED]

A Bill to confer functions on the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation to assist the Department for the Economy in developing plans for the decarbonisation of the energy sector.

Introduced by: Ms Liz Kimmins, Minister for Infrastructure on behalf of Dr Caoimhe Archibald, Minister for the Economy

On: 20 April 2026

Bill Type: Executive Bill

## **ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS**

**An Explanatory and Financial Memorandum is printed separately as NIA Bill 32/22-27 EFM.**





Northern Ireland  
Assembly

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