

The Commission and Clerk/Chief Executive's Office



Northern Ireland
Assembly

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Mr D Hilditch MLA
Room 355
Parliament Buildings

06 December 2021

Dear Mr Hilditch

I refer to the priority Assembly question which you tabled for written answer, namely:

To ask the Assembly Commission what arrangements are being put in place to cover the lunch and hospitality areas of Parliament Buildings with the introduction of COVID Status certification in domestic settings.

(AQW 26195/17-22)

Following the laying of the Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021 (Amendment No. 19) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021 on 29 November 2021 and which came into operation at 5pm on the same date, I delayed responding to you until the Assembly Commission had had an opportunity to consider the implications of the Regulations for Parliament Buildings.

Members, Parliament Buildings passholders and visitors wishing to use the dining facilities in the Members' Dining Room or attend events in Parliament Buildings will be required to provide evidence of their Covid-19 status.

Notices issued today advising Members, Parliament Buildings passholders and visitors of the arrangements and these are attached for your information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Clarke'.

**Trevor Clarke MLA
(On behalf of the Assembly Commission)**

Notice to Members and Parliament Buildings passholders:

Requirement for evidence of Covid-19 status

The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021 (Amendment No. 19) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021

On 29 November 2021 the Department of Health laid regulations before the Assembly, which came into operation at 5pm that day.

In summary, the regulations require Members and Parliament Buildings passholders wishing to use the dining facilities in the Members' Dining Room or attend events in Parliament Buildings to provide evidence of their Covid-19 status by way of **one** of the following:

1. Certification in paper or electronic form that they have completed a course of doses of an authorised vaccine, with the final dose having been received at least 14 days before their visit.
2. Certification by text or email through the NHS Covid-19 reporting app of a negative result of a Covid-19 Rapid Antigen Test or a negative result of an onsite Covid-19 Rapid Antigen Test, in each case within 48 hours before their visit.
3. A valid notification of a positive result of a Covid-19 PCR test taken no earlier than 30 days, and no later than 180 days, before their visit.
4. Confirmation in writing of their participation (current or past) in a clinical trial for vaccination against coronavirus, from the organiser of that trial.
5. Evidence provided through the Northern Ireland Covid-19 Certification process for medical exemption, or an equivalent process in their place of residence if they are not resident in Northern Ireland, of a clinical reason for not being vaccinated with any authorised vaccine.

For Parliament Buildings passholders, the evidence referred to in points (1) to (5) above **must** be accompanied by photographic identification.

Members and Parliament Buildings passholders are required by law to comply fully with the regulations, and to assist Assembly Commission staff and contractors in their operation.

Issued on behalf of the Assembly Commission

The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021 (Amendment No. 19) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021

Notice to all visitors to Parliament Buildings:
Requirement for evidence of Covid-19 status

Any visitor arriving at Parliament Buildings to use the dining facilities or attend events will, immediately upon entry, be required to provide evidence to Assembly Commission staff of their Covid-19 status by way of **one** of the following:

1. Certification in paper or electronic form that they have completed a course of doses of an authorised vaccine, with the final dose having been received at least 14 days before their visit.
2. Certification by text or email through the NHS Covid-19 reporting app of a negative result of a Covid-19 Rapid Antigen Test or a negative result of an onsite Covid-19 Rapid Antigen Test, in each case within 48 hours before their visit.
3. A valid notification of a positive result of a Covid-19 PCR test taken no earlier than 30 days, and no later than 180 days, before their visit.
4. Confirmation in writing of their participation (current or past) in a clinical trial for vaccination against coronavirus, from the organiser of that trial.
5. Evidence provided through the Northern Ireland Covid-19 Certification process for medical exemption, or an equivalent process in their place of residence if they are not resident in Northern Ireland, of a clinical reason for not being vaccinated with any authorised vaccine.

The evidence referred to in points (1) to (5) above **must** be accompanied by photographic identification.

Any visitor who is unable to produce the required evidence and photographic identification upon request, or who declines to do so, will not be permitted to proceed any further and will be asked to immediately leave the building.