

"To advance and encourage business understanding of the Assembly and the Assembly Members' understanding of business."

Northern Ireland Assembly and Business Trust **Newsletter**

Issue 8

Summer 2011



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Feedback

The NIABT encourages feedback from NIABT members on all things NIABT, e.g. the newsletter and events.



Outgoing Chairman's Notes



Since returning from Christmas recess, the Northern Ireland Assembly and Business Trust has organised a series of events aimed at promoting the work of the Trust, ensuring diversity within the business membership and encouraging shared learning between MLAs and the local business community.

Getting out and about across Northern Ireland has been a specific aim for us. Earlier this year we hosted the NIABT President's dinner at the Radisson Roe Hotel in Limavady which attracted a large business delegation from the North West. We also planning a lunch in Newry for local businesses in the coming months.

We have continued to develop our series of breakfast briefings held in Parliament Buildings on the second Tuesday of each month. Briefings delivered over the last eighteen months have included the manufacturing sector's role in rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy and the Bank of England's briefing on the February 2011 inflation report.

As many of you will already be aware I took the decision not to run in this year's Assembly Elections. I am also standing down as Chair of the Assembly and Business Trust. I look back at my time as Chairman with great fondness and pride. Particular highlights for me have been the many educational visits out to the local businesses that have been very supportive of the Trust over the years, such as Bombardier Aerospace, Norbrook Laboratories, Rooney Fish and Wright Group. I have also greatly appreciated the support and hard work of the Board of Trustees as well as the camaraderie and firm working relationships that have developed throughout the years.

I trust that that you will continue to work with the NIABT and I wish the new Chair every success as the Business Trust continues to have a significant role in cultivating a positive future between local businesses and parliamentarians. I would also like to pass on my best wishes to the newly elected vice-Chair who will be appointed at the Board meeting of 28 June. I trust this appointment will strengthen even further, the relationship between parliamentarians and non-parliamentarians.

Complete Business Membership as of 31 March 2011

- 121 Dietition
- Alken PR Limited
- Aldebaran Consultants Ltd.
- AM:PM Communications Ltd
- Anderson Spratt Group
- Andras House Ltd
- ANIFPO
- Arbarr Electronics Ltd
- Asltis Consulting
- Altus Ltd
- Axon Power & Control
- Barista Coffee House
- Belfast International Airport
- Bombardier Aerospace
- BT NI
- Business & Finance Media
- Business Sense NI
- Carecoll
- Casa Lola
- Centre for Competitiveness (NI) Ltd
- Chambré Public Affairs
- Construction Employers' Federation
- Core Systems NI Ltd.
- CPC Office Supplies Ltd.
- DCP
- Deloitte LLP
- Enterprise Equity Firm
- Fabria Ltd.
- Federation of Small Businesses
- Firmus Energy
- George Dorrian Researcher
- Global Financial Services
- Guys Home Interiors
- H & J Martin Ltd.
- Habitat for Humanity (NI)
- Harland & Wolff Heavy Industries Ltd
- Hydra NI
- Island Regeneration Ltd
- Funeral Services NI
- JPR (NI) Ltd
- Kim Johnston Executive Search Ltd
- La Mon Hotel
- Lafarge Cement Ireland
- Law Society of N.I.
- Londonderry Chamber of Commerce
- Lumen Financial Planning
- Magowan Tyres (NI) Ltd
- Mollusk Enterprise Park
- Manufacturing Northern Ireland
- McClelland Salter
- MCE Public Relations
- McGimpsey Communications
- Mesh Technology
- Mivan Ltd.
- Musgrave Retail Partners
- NB Chartered Marketing
- Next Level Impact
- NI - ICTU
- NI Chamber of Commerce
- NI Food & Drink Association
- NI Independent Retail Trade Association
- NITB
- Norbrook Laboratories
- O'Kane Poultry Ltd.
- PA Consulting
- Paul McAlister Architects
- Precision Gear Company (PGC)
- QPANi
- Raymond Cullen Demolition
- Rio / Brazil
- Rockport Ventures LLP
- Rooney Fish
- Royal Mail
- Rural Generation Ltd
- Sandycove
- Savills (NI) Ltd.
- Stellar Leadership Ltd.
- Stratagem
- The Fitzwilliam Hotel
- Triage Hospitality Ltd.
- Tyrone Timberframes Ltd
- W.H. Nutt & Son
- Weber Shandwick
- Whitemountain Quarries
- WJ Law & Co
- Women in Business (NI) Ltd
- Wrightbus Ltd
- Young Enterprise NI



The Northern Ireland Assembly at Balmoral Show

The Northern Ireland Assembly had an information stand in the King's Hall at this year's Balmoral Show, which proved extremely popular with members of the public. Assembly staff were on hand on all three days to meet and greet visitors and to provide information on the overall work of the Northern Ireland Assembly and importantly how the public can get more involved with the work of the Assembly and with the democratic process in general. The aim of the Assembly presence at the Show was to interact with the public to highlight the work of the Assembly via a number of messages. Information leaflets were despatched covering a number of topics from "10 ways to get involved in your Assembly" to constituency profiles reflecting the results of the 2011 NI Assembly elections.





What our Members are Saying...

We talked to our Business and Parliamentary Members to get a flavour of what the Business Trust means to them.

"The Business Trust is an organisation that many prominent business people in the community have joined. The business community is interested in what goes on up here (in Parliament Buildings) and how this will affect them. The Business Trust has given me a useful platform to inform businesses on the impact of the budget on the economy and also for me to answer business concerns as best I can."

Sammy Wilson MP MLA speaking at the NI Draft Budget breakfast briefing on 18 January 2011.

"I welcomed the opportunity to engage with a wide range of business leaders at a recent NIABT event. It is important for both MPs and MLAs to keep in touch with the local business sector and I think the NIABT provides an excellent platform for this kind of engagement."

Mark Durkan MP at the MP Panel Discussion on 24 February 2011.

"It has been important for business members to have the opportunity to question the Finance Minister on his priorities and to give him the views of the business community."

Glyn Roberts, NIIRTA speaking at the NI Draft Budget breakfast briefing on 18 January 2011.

"Just wanted to thank you very much for another insightful NIABT event this morning. Very well organised as usual, very educational and thoroughly enjoyable."

Nicola Bothwell, NB Chartered Marketing speaking at the Bank of England Inflation Report briefing on 9 March 2011.



The NIABT Board met on 7 February 2011, the last meeting presided over by outgoing Chair, Sean Neeson MLA



Political Update





As a result of the 2011 Assembly elections, we have revised constituency profiles for MLAs working in the Assembly.



Northern Ireland
Assembly

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Belfast East Constituency - Your MLAs

 <p>Judith Cochrane MLA Alliance Party Parliament Buildings Ballymiscaw, Stormont Belfast, BT4 3XX Phone (028) 9052 1315 Email judith.cochrane@mla.niassembly.gov.uk</p>	 <p>Michael Copeland MLA Ulster Unionist Party Parliament Buildings Ballymiscaw, Stormont Belfast, BT4 3XX Phone (028) 9052 1441 Email michael.copeland@mla.niassembly.gov.uk</p>
 <p>Sammy Douglas MLA Democratic Unionist Party Parliament Buildings Ballymiscaw, Stormont Belfast, BT4 3XX Phone (028) 9052 1322 Email sammy.douglas@mla.niassembly.gov.uk</p>	 <p>Chris Lyttle MLA Alliance Party Parliament Buildings Ballymiscaw, Stormont Belfast, BT4 3XX Phone (028) 9052 1315 Email chris.lyttle@mla.niassembly.gov.uk</p>
 <p>Robin Newton MLA Democratic Unionist Party Parliament Buildings Ballymiscaw, Stormont Belfast, BT4 3XX Phone (028) 9052 1322 Email robin.newton@mla.niassembly.gov.uk</p>	 <p>Peter Robinson MLA Democratic Unionist Party Parliament Buildings Ballymiscaw, Stormont Belfast, BT4 3XX Phone (028) 9052 1322 Email peter.robinson@mla.niassembly.gov.uk</p>

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Northern Ireland Assembly

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Belfast North Constituency - Your MLAs



Paula Bradley MLA
Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email paula.bradley@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



William Humphrey MLA
Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email william.humphrey@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Gerry Kelly MLA
Sinn Féin

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1471

Email gerry.kelly@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Alban Maginness MLA
Social Democratic and
Labour Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1319

Email alban.maginness@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Nelson McCausland MLA
Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email nelson.mccausland@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Carál Ní Chuilín MLA
Sinn Féin

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1471

Email caral.nichuilin@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

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Belfast South Constituency - Your MLAs



Anna Lo MLA
Alliance Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1315

Email anna.lo@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Alex Maskey MLA
Sinn Féin

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1471

Email alex.maskey@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Conall McDevitt MLA
Social Democratic and
Labour Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1319

Email conall.mcdevitt@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Alasdair McDonnell MLA
Social Democratic and
Labour Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1319

Email alasdair.mcdonnell@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Michael McGimpsey MLA
Ulster Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1441

Email michael.mcimpsey@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Jimmy Spratt MLA
Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email jimmy.spratt@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

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Northern Ireland Assembly

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Belfast West Constituency - Your MLAs

**Alex Attwood MLA**

Social Democratic and
Labour Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1319

Email alex.attwood@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

**Paul Maskey MLA**

Sinn Féin

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1471

Email paul.maskey@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

**Fra McCann MLA**

Sinn Féin

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1471

Email fra.mccann@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

**Jennifer McCann MLA**

Sinn Féin

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1471

Email jennifer.mccann@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

**Sue Ramsey MLA**

Sinn Féin

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1471

Email sue.ramsey@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

**Pat Sheehan MLA**

Sinn Féin

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1471

Email pat.sheehan@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

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East Antrim Constituency - Your MLAs



Roy Beggs MLA
Ulster Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1441

Email roy.beggs@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Stewart Dickson MLA
Alliance Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1315

Email stewart.dickson@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



David Hilditch MLA
Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email david.hilditch@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Oliver McMullan MLA
Sinn Féin

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1471

Email oliver.mcmullan@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Alastair Ross MLA
Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email alastair.ross@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Sammy Wilson MLA
Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email sammy.wilson@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

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East Londonderry Constituency - Your MLAs



Gregory Campbell MLA
Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email gregory.campbell@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



John Dallat MLA
Social Democratic and
Labour Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1319

Email john.dallat@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



David McClarty MLA
Independent

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1310

Email david.mcclarty@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Adrian McQuillan MLA
Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email adrian.mcquillan@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Cathal Ó hÓisín MLA
Sinn Féin

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1471

Email cathal.ohoisin@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



George Robinson MLA
Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email george.robinson@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

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Fermanagh and South Tyrone Constituency - Your MLAs



Tom Elliott MLA
Ulster Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1441

Email tom.elliott@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Phil Flanagan MLA
Sinn Féin

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1471

Email phil.flanagan@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Arlene Foster MLA
Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email arlene.foster@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Michelle Gildernew MLA
Sinn Féin

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1471

Email michelle.gildernew@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Sean Lynch MLA
Sinn Féin

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1471

Email sean.lynch@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



**Lord Morrow, of Clogher
Valley MLA**

Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email maurice.morrow@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

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**Northern Ireland
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Foyle Constituency - Your MLAs**Martina Anderson MLA**
Sinn FéinParliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1471

Email martina.anderson@mla.niassembly.gov.uk**Mark H Durkan MLA**
Social Democratic and
Labour PartyParliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1319

Email mark.durkan@mla.niassembly.gov.uk**Colum Eastwood MLA**
Social Democratic and
Labour PartyParliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1319

Email colum.eastwood@mla.niassembly.gov.uk**William Hay MLA**
Democratic Unionist PartyParliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email william.hay@mla.niassembly.gov.uk**Raymond McCartney MLA**
Sinn FéinParliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1471

Email raymond.mccartney@mla.niassembly.gov.uk**Pat Ramsey MLA**
Social Democratic and
Labour PartyParliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1319

Email pat.ramsey@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

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Lagan Valley Constituency - Your MLAs



Jonathan Craig MLA
Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email jonathan.craig@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Paul Givan MLA
Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email paul.givan@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Brenda Hale MLA
Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email brenda.hale@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Trevor Lunn MLA
Alliance Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1315

Email trevor.lunn@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Basil McCrea MLA
Ulster Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1441

Email basil.mccrea@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Edwin Poots MLA
Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email edwin.poots@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

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Mid Ulster Constituency - Your MLAs**Ian McCrea MLA**
Democratic Unionist PartyParliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email ian.mccrea@mla.niassembly.gov.uk**Patsy McGlone MLA**
Social Democratic and
Labour PartyParliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1319

Email patsy.mcglone@mla.niassembly.gov.uk**Martin McGuinness MLA**
Sinn FéinParliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1471

Email martin.mcguinness@mla.niassembly.gov.uk**Francie Molloy MLA**
Sinn FéinParliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1471

Email francie.molloy@mla.niassembly.gov.uk**Michelle O'Neill MLA**
Sinn FéinParliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1471

Email michelle.oneill@mla.niassembly.gov.uk**Sandra Overend MLA**
Ulster Unionist PartyParliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1441

Email sandra.overend@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

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Newry and Armagh Constituency - Your MLAs



Cathal Boylan MLA
Sinn Féin

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1471

Email cathal.boylan@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Dominic Bradley MLA
Social Democratic and
Labour Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1319

Email dominic.bradley@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Mickey Brady MLA
Sinn Féin

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1471

Email mickey.brady@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



William Irwin MLA
Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email william.irwin@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Danny Kennedy MLA
Ulster Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1441

Email danny.kennedy@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Conor Murphy MLA
Sinn Féin

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1471

Email conor.murphy@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

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Northern Ireland Assembly

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North Antrim Constituency - Your MLAs



Jim Allister MLA
Traditional Unionist Voice

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1175

Email jim.allister@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Paul Frew MLA
Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email paul.frew@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



David McIlveen MLA
Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email david.mcilveen@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Dáithí McKay MLA
Sinn Féin

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1471

Email daithi.mckay@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Mervyn Storey MLA
Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email mervyn.storey@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Robin Swann MLA
Ulster Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1441

Email robin.swann@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

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**Northern Ireland
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North Down Constituency - Your MLAs**Steven Agnew MLA**
Green PartyParliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1790

Email steven.agnew@mla.niassembly.gov.uk**Leslie Cree MLA**
Ulster Unionist PartyParliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1441

Email leslie.cree@mla.niassembly.gov.uk**Gordon Dunne MLA**
Democratic Unionist PartyParliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email gordon.dunne@mla.niassembly.gov.uk**Alex Easton MLA**
Democratic Unionist PartyParliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email alex.easton@mla.niassembly.gov.uk**Dr Stephen Farry MLA**
Alliance PartyParliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1315

Email stephen.farry@mla.niassembly.gov.uk**Peter Weir MLA**
Democratic Unionist PartyParliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email peter.weir@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

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South Antrim Constituency - Your MLAs**Trevor Clarke MLA**
Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email trevor.clarke@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

**David Ford MLA**
Alliance Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1315

Email david.ford@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

**Paul Girvan MLA**
Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email paul.girvan@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

**Danny Kinahan MLA**
Ulster Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1441

Email danny.kinahan@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

**Pam Lewis MLA**
Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email pam.lewis@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

**Mitchel McLaughlin MLA**
Sinn Féin

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1471

Email mitchel.mclaughlin@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

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South Down Constituency - Your MLAs



Willie Clarke MLA
Sinn Féin

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1471

Email willie.clarke@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



John McCallister MLA
Ulster Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1441

Email john.mccallister@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Karen McKevitt MLA
Social Democratic and
Labour Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1319

Email karen.mckevitt@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Margaret Ritchie MLA
Social Democratic and
Labour Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1319

Email margaret.ritchie@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Caitriona Ruane MLA
Sinn Féin

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1471

Email caitriona.ruane@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Jim Wells MLA
Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email jim.wells@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

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Strangford Constituency - Your MLAs



Jonathan Bell MLA
Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email jonathan.bell@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Simon Hamilton MLA
Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email simon.hamilton@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Kieran McCarthy MLA
Alliance Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1315

Email kieran.mccarthy@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Michelle McIlveen MLA
Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email michelle.mcilveen@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



David McNarry MLA
Ulster Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1441

Email david.mcnamary@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Mike Nesbitt MLA
Ulster Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Phone (028) 9052 1441

Email mike.nesbitt@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

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Upper Bann Constituency - Your MLAs



Sydney Anderson MLA
Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email sydney.anderson@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Jo-Anne Dobson MLA
Ulster Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1441

Email jo-anne.dobson@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Samuel Gardiner MLA
Ulster Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1441

Email samuel.gardiner@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Dolores Kelly MLA
Social Democratic and
Labour Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1319

Email dolores.kelly@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Stephen Moutray MLA
Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email stephen.moutray@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



John O'Dowd MLA
Sinn Féin

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1471

Email john.odowd@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

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West Tyrone Constituency - Your MLAs



Michaela Boyle MLA
Sinn Féin

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1471

Email michaela.boyle@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Thomas Buchanan MLA
Democratic Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1322

Email thomas.buchanan@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Joe Byrne MLA
Social Democratic and
Labour Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1319

Email joe.byrne@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Pat Doherty MLA
Sinn Féin

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1471

Email pat.doherty@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Ross Hussey MLA
Ulster Unionist Party

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1441

Email ross.hussey@mla.niassembly.gov.uk



Barry McElduff MLA
Sinn Féin

Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX

Phone (028) 9052 1471

Email barry.mcelduff@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

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Northern Ireland Assembly Committees Who's Who

With the election now over and the Assembly back in session – confirmation of the new membership and structure of Assembly Committee's was announced during plenary on Monday 23 May 2011.

A large part of the work undertaken by the Northern Ireland Assembly takes place in Committees, where Members carry out a number of important functions such as the consideration of policy issues; examination of departmental proposals for primary and secondary legislation and the overall scrutiny of the work and expenditure of government departments.

Committees can also put bills before the Assembly. One recent bill which received Royal Assent on the 29 March 2011 was the 'Assembly Members (Independent Financial Review and Standards) Bill' which was introduced jointly by the Northern Ireland Assembly Commission and the Committee on Standards and Privileges.

Assembly Committees fall within two distinct categories. Statutory Committees have a particular scrutiny, policy development and consultation role with respect to a particular Department. Standing Committees are primarily concerned with the workings of the Assembly, for ensuring that proper procedures are followed and that good governance is maintained. The Public Accounts Committee, which is also one of the Standing Committees, is responsible for overseeing government expenditure and for making sure all financial operations are both effective and transparent.

We have developed a handy guide to the Assembly Committee's new membership and structure overleaf, which we thought our business members might find useful.



Education Committee Meeting in the Senate Chamber



Statutory Committees

Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

Committee Members:

Thomas Buchanan
Trevor Clarke
Willie Clarke
Jo-Anne Dobson
William Irwin
Kieran McCarthy
Conor Murphy
Oliver McMillan
Robin Swann



Mr Paul Frew
(Chairperson)



Mrs Dolores Kelly
(Deputy Chairperson)

Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure

Committee Members:

Dominic Bradley
Brenda Hale
David Hilditch
Gerry Kelly
Michael McGimpsey
Karen McKeivitt
Cathal Ó hÓisín
Pat Sheehan
Robin Swann



Miss Michelle McIlveen
(Chairperson)



Mr William Irwin
(Deputy Chairperson)

Committee for Education

Committee Members:

Michaela Boyle
Jonathan Craig
Jo-Anne Dobson
Phil Flanagan
Brenda Hale
Trevor Lunn
Conall McDevitt
Michelle McIlveen
Dáithí McKay



Mr Mervyn Storey
(Chairperson)



Mr David McNarry
(Deputy Chairperson)

Committee for Employment and Learning

Committee Members:

Jim Allister
Sammy Douglas
Michelle Gildernew
Chris Lyttle
Barry McEluff
David McIlveen
Sandra Overend
Pat Ramsey
Alastair Ross



Mr Basil McCrea
(Chairperson)



Mr Thomas Buchanan
(Deputy Chairperson)

Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Committee Members:

Steven Agnew
Gordon Dunne
Phil Flanagan
David McIlveen
Alasdair McDonnell
Stephen Moutray
Mike Nesbitt
Robin Newton
Sue Ramsey



Mr Alban Maginness
(Chairperson)



Mr Dáithí McKay
(Deputy Chairperson)

Committee for the Environment

Committee Members:

Cathal Boylan
Paula Bradley
Willie Clarke
John Dallat
Danny Kinahan
Patsy McGlone
Francie Molloy
Maurice Morrow
Peter Weir



Ms Anna Lo
(Chairperson)



Mr Simon Hamilton
(Deputy Chairperson)

Committee for Finance and Personnel

Committee Members:

Judith Cochrane
Leslie Cree
Paul Girvan
David Hilditch
William Humphrey
Ross Hussey
Mitchel McLaughlin
Adrian McQuillan
Caitriona Ruane



Mr Conor Murphy
(Chairperson)



Mr Dominic Bradley
(Deputy Chairperson)

Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Committee Members:

Michaela Boyle
Paula Bradley
Mickey Brady
Gordon Dunne
Mark H Durkan
Sam Gardiner
Pam Lewis
John McCallister
Kieran McCarthy



Ms Michelle Gildernew
(Chairperson)



Mr Jim Wells
(Deputy Chairperson)



Committee for Justice

Committee Members:

Sydney Anderson
Stewart Dickson
Colum Eastwood
Seán Lynch
Jennifer McCann
Basil McCrea
Alban Maginness
Peter Weir
Jim Wells



Mr Paul Givan
(Chairperson)



Mr Raymond McCartney
(Deputy Chairperson)

Committee for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister

Committee Members:

Trevor Clarke
Colum Eastwood
William Humphrey
Alex Maskey
Francie Molloy
Sandra Overend
George Robinson
Caitriona Ruane
Jimmy Spratt



Mr Tom Elliott
(Chairperson)



Mr Chris Lyttle
(Deputy Chairperson)

Committee for Regional Development

Committee Members:

Roy Beggs
Joe Byrne
Dolores Kelly
Trevor Lunn
Seán Lynch
Ian McCrea
Stephen Moutray
Mike Nesbitt
Cathal Ó hÓisín



Mr Jimmy Spratt
(Chairperson)



Mr Pat Doherty
(Deputy Chairperson)

Committee for Social Development

Committee Members:

Gregory Campbell
Judith Cochrane
Michael Copeland
Sammy Douglas
Mark H Durkan
Alex Easton
Pam Lewis
Fra McCann
David McClarty



Mr Alex Maskey
(Chairperson)



Mr Mickey Brady
(Deputy Chairperson)

Standing Committees

Assembly and Executive Review Committee

Committee Members:

Roy Beggs
Gregory Campbell
Stewart Dickson
Paul Givan
Simon Hamilton
Paul Maskey
Raymond McCartney
Connell McDevitt
Mike Nesbitt



Mr Stephen Moutray
(Chairperson)



Mr Pat Sheehan
(Deputy Chairperson)

Public Accounts Committee

Committee Members:

Sydney Anderson
Michael Copeland
John Dallat
Alex Easton
Paul Frew
Paul Girvan
Ross Hussey
Mitchel McLaughlin
Jennifer McCann



Mr Paul Maskey
(Chairperson)



Mr Joe Byrne
(Deputy Chairperson)

The other Northern Ireland Assembly Standing Committees are:

- Audit Committee
- Business Committee
- Committee on Procedures
- Committee on Standards and Privileges

Further information on the work of Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's including forward work programmes, latest news and press releases can also be found on the Northern Ireland Assembly website via the following link: <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/foi/Statutory.htm>



Picture Gallery



Minister Sammy Wilson MP MLA delivered a briefing to NIABT members on the government spending review and the implications this would have for the Northern Ireland draft Budget. The increase in VAT, cuts to benefits and the freezing of public service pay were all topics raised by members for discussion at the event.

As well as the inevitable harsh facts on the cuts to come, the Minister spoke positively about the challenges ahead and the innovative ways revenue could be raised, including the new plastic bags tax which should generate revenue of approximately £4 million.



William Wright, Chair of Wright Group, Ballymena and long term NIABT member was the guest speaker at the Radisson Roe Hotel in Limavady, at the first ever North West President's Dinner in January 2011. An audience of over 60 local business representatives attended this event which also resulted in a number of fresh membership applications from the North West area.



Eddie Bannon and Philip McTaggart from PIPS Programmes concluded the suicide awareness programme, the first session of which was provided in November 2010. A large number of MLAs and business members attended this important programme which highlighted the plight of suicide, especially amongst young people in Northern Ireland, and provided a number of pointers for recognising those at risk.



Phil McDonagh (ex PricewaterhouseCoopers) delivered a briefing on how the manufacturing sector can lead economic growth. Philip highlighted the important role to be played by the manufacturing sector in helping to rebalance the Northern Ireland economy, to the local economy.



At the annual President's Dinner, the keynote speaker was Sammy Wilson MP MLA. Minister Wilson spoke at length about the economic challenges facing Northern Ireland, both for the private sector and the public sector. An audience of 120 business members and MLAs attended the dinner. This topic was of particular interest to members in light of the Northern Ireland draft budget.



Bombardier Aerospace hosted an educational seminar on its business and functions which was well attended by MLAs and business members alike. Alec McRitchie, Director of Communications and Public Affairs for Bombardier Aerospace delivered a presentation on how Bombardier has enhanced its technological capabilities through an on-going commitment to and financial investment in research and development.

The presentation was followed by a fascinating tour of the factory, which included the main fuselage assembly facility and the new manufacturing and assembly wing.



24 February 2011 Northern Ireland MPs Q & A Session

In partnership with the Institute of Directors (IOD), the NIABT hosted a seminar and panel discussion with local MPs. Joanne Stuart, Chair of the IOD expertly chaired the debate and a subsequent Q & A session. A panel of MPs were on hand to discuss and answer questions on matters not yet devolved to the Northern Ireland Assembly. Such issues commonly referred to as Reserved Matters, included responsibility for setting the national minimum wage and the administration of financial services all of which have relevance to businesses here. The seminar also provided attendees with a unique opportunity to gain an insight into the role of an MP at Westminster.



9 March 2011 - Bank of England Inflation Report briefing

Frances Hill, The Bank of England's Agent for Northern Ireland presented an off the record briefing on the Bank of England's quarterly Inflation Report (February 2011). Frances explained in detail how the Bank of England Inflation Report is published on a quarterly basis and sets out the detailed economic analysis and inflation projections on which the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee bases its interest rate decisions.



21 April 2011 - Procurement seminar

John Gibson, Head of Procurement for the Northern Ireland Assembly led a seminar for business members on Public Sector Procurement in Northern Ireland and the challenges it faces. Discussions included new regulations such as the EU Remedies Directive, the impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) on procurement, the gap between commissioning and procurement and the impact of legal challenges.

The seminar also encouraged discussion on improving awareness for suppliers and how procurement procedures can provide greater value for money for the public purse.

Based on feedback received at the event, many businesses felt that they had gained a much better understanding of the public procurement process including on issues around demonstrating value for money.

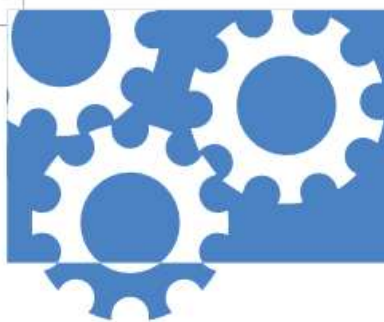


11 May 2011 - Balmoral Show Business breakfast

The NIABT breakfast on the opening day of the Balmoral Show was a hive of activity with local businesses such as Tayto, Mash Direct and Dunbia getting together to discuss common ground.

First Minister Peter Robinson MLA and Patsy McGlone MLA spoke to an audience of over 120 business people on the importance of the agri-food industry to the Northern Ireland economy, and how sharing information between businesses and MLAs can lead to new and exciting economic opportunities.

NIABT Business Member and Managing Director of O'Kane Poultry, Tony O'Neill, spoke of the difficulties faced by small agricultural based industries in the current economic climate. He told the audience that now was the time to work closely with the Assembly and with the NIABT in particular, to find practical solutions and to promote the local economy internationally.



Events Diary

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Aimed at
21 June 2011	18:00	AGM	Parliament Buildings	NIABT business members and MLAs
13 Sep 2011	08:00	Breakfast Briefing — NAMA's impact on NI	Parliament Buildings	NIABT business members and MLAs
14/15 Sep 2011		2 day Westminster programme	Westminster	NIABT business members and MLAs
29 Sep 2011	18:00	NW Procurement seminar	tbc	NIABT business members
30 Sep 2011	10:00	Ilex educational visit	tbc	NIABT business members and MLAs
21-24 Nov 2011		Brussels Educational programme	Brussels	NIABT business members and MLAs
16 Feb 2012	18:30	President's Dinner	Parliament Buildings	NIABT business members and MLAs

NI Assembly & Business Trust, Room 401d, Parliament Buildings, Ballymiscaw, Stormont, Belfast BT4 3XX.
 Tel: 028 9041 8365 / 028 9052 0321 • email: niabt@niassembly.gov.uk • website: www.niabt.org.uk

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