



## MINISTER’S PRE-BRIEF AND MEETING NOTE

It is the business area’s responsibility for keeping a CM record of the final agreed note.

PRE-BRIEF

MEETING

**MEETING NOTE: 21 Feb 2024**

**INV Number: INV-1108-2024**

<b>TITLE/ORGANISATION:</b>		<b>Meeting with Nick Shaftesbury</b>		
<b>VENUE:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Parliament Buildings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clare House	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:	<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual
<b>LIST OF ATTENDEES:</b>				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minister	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SpAd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PS	<input type="checkbox"/> APS	
<b>OFFICIALS:</b>	Dave Foster (NEPD) [REDACTED] (Media Services)			
<b>OTHERS:</b>	Nick Shaftesbury (12 <sup>th</sup> Earl of Shaftesbury, ownership of Lough Neagh bed and soils)			
<b>KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:</b>				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discussion initiated with the significant challenges relating to water quality and blue-green algal blooms in Lough Neagh.</li> <li>2. Issues around the ownership of Lough Neagh bed and soils, licensing and sand dredging were then discussed.</li> <li>3. Nick highlighted that lawful planning permission had been granted (until 2032) and that stopping sand dredging would have significant impacts on the business, the local economy and clearly the supply of sand.</li> <li>4. The Lough Neagh Partnership lottery funding (£250,00) which is for a project looking at the management of the lough and potential for public ownership was welcomed by all.</li> </ol>				

<p>5. Examples of community ownership models in operation (e.g. the Isle of Eigg) were mentioned.</p> <p>6. Minister confirmed The Lough Neagh Blue Green Algae action plan would be brought to The Executive in the next few weeks.</p> <p>7. The importance and impacts of budget challenges, future engagement and behavioural change were also raised by Minister.</p> <p>8. [REDACTED]</p>	
<p><b>ISSUES AGREED: (must be completed)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was agreed that a change in ownership would not alone solve the complex issues affecting the waterbody.</li> <li>• It was agreed that engagement would continue, in particular following the outcomes of the LNP study into the future governance and management of Lough Neagh.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>ACTION POINTS / OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ACTION 1:</b> [REDACTED] – <b>Dave Foster</b></li> </ul>	
<p><b>Notes written by -</b> [REDACTED]</p>	<p><b>DATE:</b> <b>22 Feb 2024</b></p>

[Complete as appropriate]

Signed and Dated by Lead Policy Official:    Dave Foster       23 Feb 2024   

Signed and Dated by Minister/Private Secretary:            [REDACTED]  
          26/2/24          

Draft minutes should be returned to Private Office within 5 working days of the meeting the minutes are for.

**\*Please note that if there is an update to be provided to the Minister following a meeting, that it should be sent to Private Office by way of a Submission\***