



MINISTER MEETING WITH FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

PRE-BRIEF

MEETING

MEETING NOTE: 03 June 2024

INV Number: INV-1177-2024

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		Meeting with Friends of the Earth		
VENUE:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parliament Buildings	<input type="checkbox"/> Clare House	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:	<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual
LIST OF ATTENDEES:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minister	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SpAd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PS	<input type="checkbox"/> APS	
OFFICIALS:	Jane Corderoy <div style="background-color: black; width: 150px; height: 15px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 15px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 15px;"></div>			
OTHERS: [Include Pdf Copies of any Presentations Delivered]	James Orr Declan Allison <div style="background-color: black; width: 150px; height: 15px; margin-top: 5px;"></div>			

KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:

1. Minister thanked Friends of the Earth (FOTE) for joining him and outlined the four agenda points they would like to discuss:

- The creation of an Independent Environmental Protection Agency

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Creation of an Independent Environmental Protection Agency

3. Minister confirmed his commitment to an Independent Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) but highlighted the need to understand the current landscape and how best to take this forward. Minister noted a scoping study had been conducted on this and that officials are doing all they can in this area with the limited resources available.

4. James noted he would like to see draft legislation on an IEPA within the current mandate and that there was overwhelming support from the public and academics for independence. FOTE had engaged with their lawyers in an effort to address key legal principles. Minister confirmed that due to the cross-cutting nature of this it would need to be agreed by the Executive and that will take time, but he has been moving at pace in this area.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ISSUES AGREED:

- None

ACTION POINTS / OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE:

- N/A

Notes written by – [REDACTED]	DATE: 07/06/2024
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Signed and Dated by Lead Policy Official: _____

Signed and Dated by Minister/Private Secretary: [REDACTED]
27/6/24 _____



MINISTER'S PRE-BRIEF AND MEETING NOTE

PRE-BRIEF

MEETING

INV Reference Number: INV-0909-2025

DATE OF MEETING: 27 NOVEMBER 2025

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		Meeting with the independent panel that led the Review of Environmental Governance in Northern Ireland – Update on Recommendations.	
VENUE:	<input type="checkbox"/> Parliament Buildings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clare House	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Virtual
LIST OF ATTENDEES:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minister	<input type="checkbox"/> SpAd	<input type="checkbox"/> PS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APS
OFFICIALS:	Shane Doris – Director of ERPD [REDACTED] [REDACTED]		
External Attendees:	Dr Viviane Gravey (Microsoft TEAMS) John McCallister (Microsoft TEAMS)		
KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:			
[REDACTED]			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion around the importance of having trust and confidence in governance arrangements from both agriculture and environment side. Panel noted key stakeholders were supportive of the separation of environmental policy and regulation. 			

- Discussion around other recommendations in the final report that could potentially be progressed in absence of NDPB being established. Work is ongoing to examine the recommendations in more detail, understand how these align with work already underway and assign action owners, but this will take time to work through.
- Panel highlighted importance of the enforcement strategy striking the right balance. HSENI model provides a good example of this through education and its relationship with the industry.
- Focus should be on publishing key environmental legislation, and this can be built up over time. DAERA should look at commencement of currently unenacted clauses in the Better Regulation Act 2016 and although MOU recommendations are aimed at new NDPB, what can be considered initially under NIEA remit.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- AERA Committee to be briefing in March 2026 on implementation of actions. Panel are happy to engage with committee if called upon
- Marking the formal conclusion to the contract, Minister thanked the panel for its efforts and significant contribution.
- Panel can be updated by officials via correspondence.

ISSUES AGREED:

- Particular consideration to be given to commencing legislation that could provide additional regulatory powers.
- Given the scale of documenting all legislation, initial work could focus on publishing key environmental legislation in force.

ACTION POINTS & OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE:

- None

Notes written by -

████████████████████

DATE:

28 November 2025

**Signed and Dated by most Senior Official in attendance: SHANE DORIS
01/12/25**

Signed and Dated by Minister/Private Secretary: ████████████████████ 01/12/25



MINISTER'S PRE-BRIEF AND MEETING NOTE

PRE-BRIEF

MEETING

MEETING NOTE: 21 October 2025

INV / SUB Reference Number: INV-0806-2025

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		Meeting with the independent panel leading the Review of Environmental Governance in NI – Publication of Final Report.	
VENUE:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parliament Buildings	<input type="checkbox"/> Clare House	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual
LIST OF ATTENDEES:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minister	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SpAd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PS	<input type="checkbox"/> APS
OFFICIALS:	Shane Doris – Director of ERPD [REDACTED]		
External Attendees:	Dr Viviane Gravey John McCallister Diane Ruddock		
KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions around NI being an outlier when it comes to an independent Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), the legislative steps to establish the new body, and the positive impact independence could have in terms of improving trust, accountability and creating a fairer and level playing field for all. 			

- Discussion around the case for an IEPA including information being more accessible to the public, empowering the new body to take decisions, improving accountability through new Board and Committee structures and delivering better clarity and coherence.
- Discussion around the role of OEP.
- Request from the panel to be kept updated on progress, with the panel highlighting that eNGOs are keen to understand any quick wins.

ISSUES AGREED:

- Meeting to be set up late in November 2025 so panel can be updated on progress.

ACTION POINTS & OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE:

- **ACTION 1:** Meeting to be scheduled with Minister and panel late in November 2025 to discuss progress on the recommendations contained within the final report - **ACTION – [REDACTED]**

Notes written by – [REDACTED]

DATE:
22 October 2025

Signed and Dated by most Senior Official in attendance: Shane Doris 26/11/25

Signed and Dated by Minister/Private Secretary: [REDACTED]
4/12/25 _____



MINISTER'S PRE-BRIEF AND MEETING NOTE

PRE-BRIEF

MEETING

INV / SUB Reference Number: INV-0950-2025 / SUB-1251-2025

DATE OF MEETING: 15 DECEMBER 2025

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		Meeting with Ruth Chambers of Green Alliance to discuss the Future of Environmental Governance in Northern Ireland	
VENUE:	<input type="checkbox"/> Parliament Buildings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clare House	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Virtual
LIST OF ATTENDEES:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minister	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SpAd	<input type="checkbox"/> PS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APS
OFFICIALS:	[REDACTED]		
External Attendees:	Ruth Chambers – Green Alliance (via TEAMS)		

KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:

- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] It was acknowledged that the final report provided the clarity needed on the status of the new body which was critical to improving trust and confidence.
- Minister is keen to see progress on recommendations and deliver the change that we can in this mandate. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Scoping work is ongoing and includes analysis of work already underway or planned. There is merit in establishing MOUs and publishing key legislation in force.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

- Green Alliance content to meet again and support where possible.

ISSUES AGREED: (must be completed)

- None

ACTION POINTS & OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE:

- None

Notes written by -

[REDACTED]

DATE:

15 December 2025

Signed and Dated by most Senior Official in attendance: [REDACTED]
15/12/25

Signed and Dated by Minister/Private Secretary [REDACTED] 17/12/25