



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: 01/10/2025

INV / SUB Reference Number: INV-0760-2025

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		Meeting with Warrenpoint Harbour Authority		
VENUE:	<input type="checkbox"/> Parliament Buildings	<input type="checkbox"/> Clare House	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:	<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual
LIST OF ATTENDEES:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minister	<input type="checkbox"/> SpAd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PS	<input type="checkbox"/> APS	
OFFICIALS:	David Reid, NIEA CEO [REDACTED] [REDACTED]			
OTHERS:	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]			

- WHA staff and consultants are conducting odour assessments in accordance with H4 guidance. They have identified intermittent off-site odours linked to the ReGen facility. WHA indicated that a potential long-term solution could involve discontinuing RDF storage at the harbour, with all material transported directly for loading onto vessels.
- NIEA continues to carry out odour assessments and site inspections to evaluate compliance with the waste management licence. NIEA maintains regular communication with stakeholders including the Public Health Agency (PHA) and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC), and understands that NMDDC is not pursuing statutory nuisance action under the Clean Neighbourhoods legislation.
- NIEA must operate strictly within its legal powers when taking enforcement action, as any overreach may be subject to legal challenge.
- WHA proposed that NIEA consider subcontracting odour assessments to increase their frequency. However, NIEA's odour condition is based on detection by an "authorised officer."
- NIEA detected distinct off-site odour on 12 September 2025 and scored a minor non-compliance.
- WHA queried the use of technology to monitor odours on an on-going basis.
- WHA inquired whether Warrenpoint Town could be granted "special status" to restrict waste facilities being located there. It was clarified that planning permission is a prerequisite for waste authorisation. Location considerations would be assessed at the planning stage.
- WHA queried if legislation could be changed (special status, waste licences). WHA advised to forward any legislative changes they want considered.

ISSUES AGREED: (must be completed)

Minister agreed to follow up with the actions as listed below.

ACTION POINTS & OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE:

- **ACTION 1:** WHA participation in the monthly meetings currently attended by NIEA, ReGen, and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be considered. **ACTION –** [REDACTED]
- **ACTION 2:** Consideration to be given to as to whether WHA and NIEA officers could conduct Joint odour assessments. **ACTION –** [REDACTED]

- **ACTION 3:** NIEA to assess the feasibility of sub-contracting “authorised officer” status to increase the frequency of odour assessments. **ACTION –** [REDACTED]
- **ACTION 4:** NIEA to advise on use of technologies such as “electronic noses” for continuous odour data collection. **ACTION –** [REDACTED]
- **ACTION 5:** NIEA to consider the request from WHA in applying a special dispensation for Warrenpoint that would restrict the operation of waste facilities in the area **ACTION –** [REDACTED]
- **ACTION 6:** NIEA to check with ReGen/MUDC reading WHA attendance at the regular engagement meetings

Notes written by –

[REDACTED]

DATE:

02 October 2025

Signed and Dated by Lead Policy Official:

[REDACTED]

15/10/2025

Signed and Dated by Minister/Private Secretary: _____

28/10/25 _____

[REDACTED]



MINISTER'S PRE-BRIEF AND MEETING NOTE

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PRE-BRIEF

MEETING

MEETING NOTE: 13 October 2025

INV Reference Number: INV-0782-2025

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		Meeting with Claire Hanna MP, SDLP Leader - Lough Neagh (Cross Ref: SUB-0997-2025)		
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:	[REDACTED]			
External Attendees:	Claire Hanna [REDACTED]			
KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister opens the meeting, outlining the action plan, opens the floor for questions. SBRI initiatives outlined with potential risk around procurement. Important to ensure compliance and due process. Diffuse pollution from land outlined as a significant problem. 				

- Claire Hanna raises question around the stakeholder forum and how it operates. Minister outlines the background to the forum.
- Minister outlines that NAP has a part to play in supporting Lough Neagh, however, there are other areas at play.
- Proposals coming forward to help address the issues must meet three key elements, must work at farm level, deliver within realistic expectations and meet legal obligations.
- Minister outlines the wastewater element impacting upon Lough Neagh. Minister outlines SORPI parameters to Claire Hanna.
- Minister outlines the climate change impacts on Lough Neagh with warming temperatures contributing to algal blooms.
- Fisheries & Environment Bill, potential to introduce a fixed penalty notice.
- NIEPA query raised by Claire.
- Farm Sustainability Payments outlined by Minister. Farm Sustainability standards also to be incorporated.
- New Decade New Approach outlined by Minister with final reports coming forward around the EPA. Claire asks how this workstream is progressing. Minister responds with the current position with the drive toward improving environmental governance in Northern Ireland. Future recruitment issues for the EPA were also raised. The funding of future programmes currently linked Heavily to PeacePlus, additional funding sources may be required going forward.
- Claire closes with outlining her support for the EPA programme going forward.

ISSUES AGREED:

- Nil

ACTION POINTS & OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE:

- Nil

Notes written by -

██████████

DATE:

16 October 2025

Signed and Dated by Lead Policy Official: ██████████ 04 December 2025_

Signed and Dated by Minister/Private Secretary: _____

9/12/25 _____



MINISTER'S PRE-BRIEF AND MEETING NOTE

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PRE-BRIEF

MEETING

MEETING NOTE: 16 October 2025

INV Reference Number: INV-0804-2025

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		Meeting with DUP representatives - Lough Neagh (Cross Ref: SUB-0997-2025)		
VENUE:	<input type="checkbox"/> Parliament Buildings	<input checked="" 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:	██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████			
External Attendees:	Gavin Robinson Michelle McIlveen Timothy Johnston			
KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister opened the meeting and welcomed views from DUP representatives. Minister summarised the current status of action within the Lough Neagh action plan. The various research initiatives were briefly set out including the Slurry and UK Space agency projects. ██████████ gave a brief overview of the Sustainable Catchment Programme (SCP) for water quality improvement. The Rivers Trust on farm advisory service being seen as key to success and has been welcomed by farmers. 				

- The Slurry utilisation project (SULS) will be important for many intensive farms and presents a range of opportunities to increase sustainability if it can be rolled out widely.
- Just Transition Fund for agriculture discussed.
- Sewage contribution to Lough Neagh nutrient loading raised by the Minister including septic tanks.
- NAP briefly outlined with the new stakeholder task and finish group to meet next week. The group's proposals are to have a realistic timeline, meets legislative obligations and works at farm level.
- Concerns that linking NAP directly to Lough Neagh to justify actions may undermine confidence in the Department over the longer term. This is due to the timeline involved to see results and that there are many other factors than agriculture/NAP impacting on Lough Neagh.
- SULS – DfE support for integration of biomethane into gas network has been slower than desired.
- Planning concerns raised around the construction of AD plants that may ultimately be positive for the environment. NIEA also play an important role in such applications.
- Noted that there are significant potential synergies and benefits for NI from SULS and renewable energy, if barriers to implementation can be addressed.

ISSUES AGREED:

- Nil

ACTION POINTS & OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE:

- Nil

Notes written by -

██████████

DATE:

16 October 2025

Signed and Dated by Lead Policy Official: ██████████ 31/10/25

Signed and Dated by Minister/Private Secretary: _____
10/11/25 _____



MINISTER'S PRE-BRIEF AND MEETING NOTE

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PRE-BRIEF

MEETING

MEETING NOTE: 22 October 2025 (date of meeting)

INV / SUB Reference Number: INV-0532-2025

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		Visit to Colin Glen Forest Park (Cross Ref: INV-0381-2025)		
VENUE:	<input type="checkbox"/> Parliament Buildings	<input type="checkbox"/> Clare House	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:	Virtual <input type="checkbox"/>
LIST OF ATTENDEES:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minister	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SpAd	<input type="checkbox"/> PS	<input type="checkbox"/> APS	
OFFICIALS:	██████████ ██████████ Press Office			
External Attendees:	MLA Órlaithí Flynn MP Paul Maskey Cllr Siobhan McCallin ██████████ Colin Glen Community ██████████ CEO Colin Glen Trust			

KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:

- Importance of Colin Glen Park to the community
- Further needs for improvements to the park and its accessibility
- Current and pressing issues of sustainability for operational continuity
- Requirements for further funding
- [REDACTED]

ISSUES AGREED: (must be completed)

N/A

ACTION POINTS & OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE:

- **ACTION 1:** Colin Glen Trust to contact NIEA ([REDACTED]) to meet and progress discussions and potential for a Strand 2 application for grant funding via the Environment Fund

Notes written by – [REDACTED]

DATE:
22.10.25

[Complete as appropriate]

Signed and Dated by most Senior Official in attendance: [REDACTED] 26/11/25

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



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: 22 OCTOBER 2025

INV / SUB Reference Number: INV-0700-2025

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		INV-0700-2025 : Request for a meeting with the British Veterinary Association to discuss Animal health and Welfare Issues in Northern Ireland		
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 type="checkbox"/> SpAd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PS	<input type="checkbox"/> APS	
OFFICIALS:	Brian Doohar, CVO Neal Gartland, Grade 5 Animal Health and Welfare Gemma Daly, DCVO [REDACTED] Press Office			
External Attendees:	BVA [REDACTED] BVA [REDACTED] [REDACTED], BVA [REDACTED] [REDACTED] BVA [REDACTED] [REDACTED] BVA [REDACTED] [REDACTED], BVA [REDACTED] [REDACTED], BVA [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]			

<p>KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bovine Tuberculosis was discussed at length the Minister giving an overview of the Departmental efforts and stakeholder collaboration to move forward with tackling the disease. All agreed on the need for urgency with a discussion on the proposed regionalisation project. • CVO gave an overview of avian influenza and our approach to the disease noting the case in NI in October and current position in GB, • DAERA responsible dog ownership campaign was discussed. The BVA agreeing to send relevant publications and both sides agreeing welfare policy would engage BVA on comments or suggestions on the RDO as it moves to the next stage of the campaign. • Veterinary medicines was discussed including BVA concerns at end of grace period and ongoing engagement between government and the sector. 	
<p>ISSUES AGREED: (must be completed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DAERA and the BVA agreed to continue to engage on these important issues with BVA offering assistance and advice were helpful. 	
<p>ACTION POINTS & OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION 1: RDO: DAERA to share recently revised comms on responsible dog ownership with BVA and seek input / ideas before next phase of communications campaign. OWNER: WELFARE POLICY BRANCH 	
<p>Notes written by - Neal Gartland</p>	<p>DATE: 30 OCT 2025</p>

Signed and Dated by Lead Policy Official: _NEAL GARTLAND 31/10/25

**Signed and Dated by Minister/Private Secretary: _____
10/11/25 _____**



MINISTER'S PRE-BRIEF AND MEETING NOTE

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PRE-BRIEF

MEETING

MEETING NOTE: 03 November 2025

INV / SUB Reference Number: INV-0828-2025

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		Meeting with Sinn Féin representatives - Lough Neagh (Cross Ref: SUB-0997-2025)		
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:	[REDACTED]			
External Attendees	Mary Lou McDonald TD Aoife Finnegan MLA Declan McAleer MLA Aine Murphy MLA Declan Kearney MLA			
KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change - legal obligations and consultation in respect of the climate action plan. Just Transition as a key priority and need for Agri food and processor involvement. 				

- Technologies to help effectively manage manures and help reduce pressures on excess P levels. The historic high P surplus in Northern Ireland was noted.
- Continued drive toward efficiency and reductions in imported feed into Northern Ireland.
- Proposal to retain the derogation for nutrient surplus going forward. Leaving the EU has had a significant impact on agriculture.
- Environmental protection - Farm funding to deliver better environmental outcomes. Methodology of how the agricultural programme will address both the environmental and agriculture objectives.
- NS collaboration to tackle environmental improvements and all island funding potential. Timeframe of the interventions.
- Roll out of slurry interventions/ programmes.
- Scaling up environmental initiatives whilst identifying any detrimental environmental impacts and to ensure ongoing legislative compliance.
- TB reactors issues. Sense of drift and true consultation and engagement with the public to mitigate perceived lack of action on TB.
- Commercial eel fishing and the associated financial implications, including potential compensation and support programmes. Communication and engagement with commercial fishing sector.
- “Food Table” scientific testing of Lough Neagh. Fat content of eels and whether or not the food table has improved to provide the long term improvement in eel health and fat content.
- Waste water pollution enforcement.
- The sustainable catchment programme as a mechanism for effective environmental improvement.
- UFU vote of no confidence in DAERA and its impact.
- Ownership of Lough Neagh.
- The progress made regarding the ownership of the bed of Lough Neagh and associated funding packages.

ISSUES AGREED: (must be completed)

- The need for a collaborative approach to tackle environmental improvement and issues in Lough Neagh.

ACTION POINTS & OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE:

- Action 1: Provide written update on Viability of feeding table- AFBI/FSA research and Financial eel package to Sinn Fein Delegation – [REDACTED], MFD
- Action 2: Consider COMMS with fishers/commercial fishing sector – [REDACTED], MFD
- Action 3: Provide written update on Ownership of Lough Neagh to Sinn Fein delegation – [REDACTED], Lough Neagh Team

Notes written by -

[REDACTED]

DATE:

03 November 2025

Signed and Dated by Lead Policy Official: [REDACTED] 5 November 2025

**Signed and Dated by Minister/Private Secretary: [REDACTED]
10/11/25_____**



MINISTER'S PRE-BRIEF AND MEETING NOTE

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PRE-BRIEF

MEETING

MEETING NOTE: 18 November 2025

INV / SUB Reference Number: INV-0858-2025

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		Meeting with the Earl of Shaftesbury and North Star Transition to discuss Lough Neagh		
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:	[REDACTED]			
External Attendees	Nick Shaftesbury, Earl of Shaftesbury Jyoti Banerjee, Co-founder and CEO – North Star Transition Vicky Vanderstichele, North Star Transition			
KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Star Transition work on Wye-Usk to transform the landscape into a health place for people and nature to thrive. • North Star Transition role in Fens transformative change towards a regenerative system. • Forever Lough Neagh Partnership. • Climate Action Plan. • Independent Environment Protection Agency proposal. 				

- Nutrient Action Plan.
- Waste Water issues including SORPI proposals and septic tank education.
- DAERA water quality communication strategy and water quality campaign.
- Just transition for agriculture.
- Lough Neagh community ownership – Lough Neagh Partnership national lottery funded report investigating the feasibility of acquiring and transferring ownership of the bed and soil to the public or community ownership

ISSUES AGREED: (must be completed)

- The need for a further discussion following publication of the Lough Neagh Partnership report in December 2025.

ACTION POINTS & OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE:

- Action 1: Set up Teams meeting following publication of the Lough Neagh Partnership report in December 2025.- [REDACTED]

Notes written by -

[REDACTED]

DATE:

19 November 2025

Signed and Dated by Lead Policy Official: [REDACTED] 21/11/25

Signed and Dated by Minister/Private Secretary: [REDACTED]
28/11/25



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

INV Number: INV-0833-2025

DATE OF MEETING: 2-12-2025

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		Meeting with Stewart Dickson MLA re Access to Beach at Greenisland		
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 type="checkbox"/> PS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APS	
OFFICIALS:	██████████, NIEA Natural Environment Division			
External Attendees:	Stewart Dickson MLA ██████████			
KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic access to the beach at Greenisland and current barriers preventing access. • Community discussion with the Council, NI Water and others to seek a way forward. • Public rights of way, DAERA vires for access to the countryside and related legislation including the Land Registration Act (NI) 1970. • The Minister for Infrastructure has agreed to meet the residents at the site. 				

ISSUES AGREED: (must be completed)

- Stewart Dickson and [REDACTED] will consider the legislation and issues further and write to the Minister again if they have follow-up queries that are within DAERA vires.

ACTION POINTS & OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE:

- None identified for officials at this time

Notes written by - [REDACTED]

DATE:

11/12/2025

Signed and Dated by most Senior Official in attendance: [REDACTED]
11/12/2025

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