

## A week in the life of an MLA – Wednesday/Thursday

### KEY:

N: Narrator

SA: Steven Agnew

AR: Alastair Ross

JAD: Jo-Anne Dobson

SR: Sue Ramsey

JA: Jim Allister

N: On Wednesdays and Thursdays MLAs work in small groups called committees. The committees are made up from MLAs from different parties and this is when they do detailed work.

SA: Wednesdays and Thursdays we tend to have Committee. So committees there, are there to scrutinise the minister and the department so for example, if you are on the Education Committee your role is to scrutinise the work of the Education Department.

AR: During those committee meetings we will either go through legislation that is relevant to that committee or indeed will ask officials to come along and give evidence on a particular issue. This tends to be where the nitty gritty of the work is done particularly in legislation work that's gone through via a fine toothcomb and a lot of detail. Committees will then either collectively decide that they can bring forward committee amendments to legislation or indeed individual members will be able to bring forward amendments themselves.

JAD: As Agricultural Spokesperson and on the Education Committee I would receive correspondence from constituents on a wide range of those issues and therefore then I can bring these forward to the committee.

SR: Sometimes committees don't see eye to eye with departments and sometimes committees actually want to bring forward recommendations to ministers.

JA: Committees have the right to call for papers and for ministers to come before them in regard to any issue and they invite evidence quite often from the general public and interested stakeholders to come and give evidence and then they compile a report on a particular subject.