

## **Chickenpox vaccination to be offered to children in Northern Ireland from 2026**

Children in Northern Ireland will be offered a free vaccination against chickenpox for the first time from 2026.

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## **Minister Kimmins announces the award of £1.6million contract for Creenagh Bridge replacement and carriageway works**

Infrastructure Minister, Liz Kimmins, has announced the award of an estimated £1.6million contract for a road improvement scheme on A45 Ballynakilly Road, Coalisland with works expected to commence in September 2025 and to be complete in summer 2026.

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## **Minister Lyons announces £100k funding for the Travel Awards for Bands Programme**

Communities Minister Gordon Lyons has confirmed funding for a new programme which will support bands to play at showcase opportunities outside Northern Ireland.

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## **Givan: Nearly 3 in 10 Pupils Falling Behind in Literacy and Numeracy**

Education Minister Paul Givan has responded to the publication of 2024–25 End of Key Stage Assessment outcomes, highlighting the urgent need for a renewed focus on literacy and numeracy across Northern Ireland's schools.

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## **Final opportunity to register for Soil Nutrient Health Scheme as deadline extended by one week**

DAERA Minister Andrew Muir is urging farm businesses to take this final opportunity to register for the Soil Nutrient Health Scheme. To help with this, the closing date for registration has been extended to midnight on Monday 8 September 2025.