

## **Minister to be final decision maker in Area-based Scheme Payment Reviews**

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has announced that the final decision in future reviews of area-based scheme payments, which have been heard by an independent panel, will now be taken by the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

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## **Ministers launch competition for Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service**

The First Minister and deputy First Minister have launched a competition to appoint a new Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service (HOCS).

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## **Biden-Harris meeting 'extremely beneficial' – Foster and O'Neill**

Today's meeting with President of The United States, Joe Biden and Vice President of the United States, Kamala Harris was extremely beneficial, the First Minister and deputy First Minister have said.

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## **All primary school pupils to return next week**

Primary school pupils in P4 to P7 will return to face to face teaching on 22 March.

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# Public Sector Pay Policy set for 2021/22

The Executive has agreed the 2021/22 Public Sector Pay Policy. This will enable public sector employers to engage with their staff groups and develop pay proposals for approval and implementation.