## <u>Communities Minister Deirdre Hargey</u> <u>outlines her plans for 2021</u>

Communities Minister Deirdre Hargey has today set out some of her key priorities for the New Year including progressing the development of Casement Park

## <u>Minister determined to unlock care</u> <u>home visiting</u>

Health Minister Robin Swann today underlined his determination to see visits for care home residents facilitated across Northern Ireland over Christmas and into the New Year.

Under Department of Health visiting guidance issued in September, all care homes should facilitate a range of methods that provide for safely managed and meaningful contact between residents and their loved ones. That guidance has not been adopted uniformly throughout Northern Ireland's care home sector. Many families have reported that they have only had limited and impersonal contact with a relative since March.

#### Labour market statistics

The labour market statistics were published today by the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency.

### **Independent Review of Education**

Education Minister Peter Weir has today announced his intention to establish an Independent Review of Education.

# <u>Swann announces further change to blood donor deferral policy</u>

Health Minister Robin Swann has announced further changes to blood donation deferral rules to allow more people to donate blood.