

## Vigilance urged following confirmed record of Asian hornet in Belfast

The first confirmed sighting of an Asian Hornet in Northern Ireland was today confirmed by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

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## Green Party membership surges past 100,000 as polls show record support

The Green Party of England and Wales has today announced that its membership has surged past 100,000 members, the highest in the Party's history. This marks over a 45% increase since Zack Polanski was elected Leader of the party last month.

The news comes as the [recent polling shows](#) Greens on 15% nationally, their highest-ever figure, and just two points behind both Labour and the Conservatives.

The announcement comes just one week after the [Greens announced they had a bigger membership than the Liberal Democrats](#). Since then, it has been shown that the Liberal Democrats' membership is actually [just 60,000](#), and the Greens have grown an additional 17,000 in a week.

Green Party Leader **Zack Polanski** said:

"More than 100,000 people have now joined the Green movement, that's 100,000 people who believe politics can be honest, fair and hopeful again.

When I was elected Leader last month, I said that we're not here to be disappointed with Labour but that we're here to replace them. I was serious. Because while Labour talks about change, people can see in their weekly shop, their utility bills and crumbling services, Labour are offering more of the same.

The Greens are the only real opposition left in British politics. Standing up for fair taxes, a liveable planet, and a future where compassion and courage matter more than corporate interests. People are understandably disillusioned, but we are here to make hope normal again."

Under Polanski's leadership, the Party has seen a wave of new members, driven, in part, by growing frustration with the other parties' failure to tackle the cost-of-living crisis, the climate emergency, and the collapse in trust in politics.

The record-breaking membership figures follow the Greens' recent electoral success in local and parliamentary elections, alongside growing national visibility from high-profile media appearances, including Polanski's [BBC Question Time performance](#), which sparked widespread praise online.

Polanski added:

"This milestone shows that people are ready for something new. The old two-party system is broken. The Green Party is growing because we speak to the real challenges of this moment. Because we still believe that politics can be a force for good. The message is simple: if you want courage, integrity and hope, come join us."

The Green Party is now preparing for major autumn campaigns focused on fair taxation, and the cost-of-living crisis, as Labour scramble to present another austerity budget.

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## [Prisons must be places of hope, rehabilitation and support – Long](#)

Supporting prison staff and those in custody has never been more important than it is today, Justice Minister Naomi Long has said.

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## [Communities Minister joins Hannah Scott at launch of boat funded by his Department](#)

Communities Minister Gordon Lyons has attended a boat-naming ceremony at Bann Rowing Club with Olympic Gold Medallist Hannah Scott, MBE.

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# Department updates residents on Eglinton and Drumahoe flood alleviation measures

Officials from the Department for Infrastructure have reaffirmed the Department's commitment to progressing viable flood alleviation proposals for the Eglinton and Drumahoe areas.