

[Greens respond to Appeal Court hotel ruling](#)

29 August 2025 by [Green Party](#)

Responding to the Appeal Court ruling on the Bell Hotel in Epping, Green MP Ellie Chowns said:

“This court case is a distraction from the need to sort out the terrible legacy of 14 years of Conservative government misrule and Labour’s failure to come up with workable, humane solutions.

“It is inhumane, as well as costly to UK tax payers, for people seeking asylum to have to wait years for a decision and be housed in temporary accommodation like hostels and hotels.

“People have the right to claim asylum, and we all have the right to expect the government to run a fast and fair process to assess applications.

“The UK government quite rightly created safe and managed routes for people fleeing Ukraine. They need to offer the same to others seeking safety from similarly dangerous situations.

“It can be done, if the political will and leadership is there.

“People seeking asylum and protection must be allowed to work while their application is being decided. That’s the way to get them out of hotels and able to look after themselves and contributing to local communities.”

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[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.

Minister Muir reflects on an inspiring visit to Rathlin Island

DAERA Minister Andrew Muir has visited Rathlin Island to learn about progress on a number of projects on the island.

Rathlin Island Ferry Service contract extended

A contract extension has been accepted for the provision of the Rathlin Ferry service by Dunaverty Ltd.

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.