

Caroline Lucas responds to suggestion Labour set to shelve Natural History GCSE

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Former Green Party MP, Caroline Lucas, has given her reaction to suggestions that plans for a Natural History GCSE [have been shelved](#) because it is “seen as a Conservative party initiative.” Caroline was one of the [key drivers of the GCSE in the last parliament](#). She said:

“I very much hope that Labour will look at this again, and appreciate both the popularity of the proposed Natural History GCSE, and the urgency of its introduction. The GCSE enjoys huge support, including from WWF and the Wildlife Trusts through to the Natural History Museum, the Association of School and College Leaders, 17 universities and thousands of young people themselves.

“It was a privilege to work with author and former BBC producer Mary Colwell, who has spearheaded the campaign, to persuade the last Government to agree to it. The curriculum has been prepared over several years by the OCR exam board, and it’s close to being ready to roll out. Stalling at this point would be a disaster, doing a massive disservice to students who desperately want to learn more about the natural world; failing to equip them with the skills of the naturalist which have increasingly been lost, and making it harder for all of us to restore and protect nature.

“Over the last half century, the world has lost 60% of the mass of mammals, birds, fish and reptiles – our education system urgently needs to rise to the challenge of reversing this shocking scale of loss.”

3 December 2024 / 3 December 2024 by [Green Party](#)

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Public urged to think before getting a pet this Christmas

DAERA Minister Andrew Muir and the Northern Ireland Companion Animal Welfare

Group (NICAWG) are urging the public to think carefully before getting a pet this Christmas.

O'Dowd announces £220,000 road improvement scheme for U6292 Temple Hill Road, Ballyholland, Newry

Infrastructure Minister John O'Dowd has announced that a £220,000 carriageway resurfacing scheme on the U6292 Temple Hill Road, Newry will commence on Thursday 5 December 2024.

Givan launches new Curriculum-Led Capital Investment Programme for schools

Education Minister, Paul Givan, has today announced a new Curriculum-Led Capital Investment Programme for schools throughout Northern Ireland.

Life Expectancy in Northern Ireland 2021-23: Headline Figures

The Official Life Expectancy Figures for Northern Ireland