NI Assembly Election 2022 — Statement by the Secretary of State

News story

Statement by the Northern Ireland Secretary, Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP, regarding the NI Assembly election results.



"Congratulations to all those who have been elected to represent people across Northern Ireland.

"I encourage the parties to form an Executive as soon as possible. The people of Northern Ireland deserve a stable and accountable local government that delivers on the issues that matter most to them.

"The electorate delivered a number of messages on Thursday. They were clear that they want a fully functioning devolved government in Northern Ireland, they want the issues around the Protocol addressed, and that they want politics to work better.

"Over the coming days I will be meeting with all the party leaders and will urge them to restore the Stormont institutions at the earliest possible moment, starting with the nomination of an Assembly Speaker within 8 days.

"The Government remains committed to the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and will continue to work with the Northern Ireland Parties and the Irish Government to deliver its vision for reconciliation, equality, respect for rights and parity of esteem.

"Together, we must move forward towards a brighter future — that means delivering for all the people of Northern Ireland."

Background -

Earlier this year, the <u>NI Ministers</u>, <u>Elections and Petitions of Concern Act</u> completed its journey through Parliament. Having this Act in place further supports the devolved institutions by extending the time allowed for the appointment of Ministers to the Executive following an election.