

## **Minister O'Dowd meets new DVA vehicle test examiners and staff during a tour of the Newtownards Test Centre**

Infrastructure Minister John O'Dowd has met a group of new vehicle examiners during a visit to DVA's Newtownards Test Centre. They are among approximately 40 new recruits undergoing training following a recent recruitment competition.

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## **O'Dowd – Children and young people have an important voice in shaping the future**

Infrastructure Minister John O'Dowd has encouraged young people to make their voices heard on decisions that impact them, now and in the future.

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## **Farmers urged to remain vigilant to Bluetongue threat**

The Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) for Northern Ireland (NI) is asking farmers to remain vigilant and to source animals responsibly in response to the confirmation of Bluetongue Virus (BTV-3) in a sheep in Norfolk following an investigation of a clinical suspect case.

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## **More economic pain and hardship isn't what people voted for, says Carla**

# Denyer

## 2. Press Releases

Responding to Keir Starmer's speech in which he said that the Labour government has inherited a £22bn black hole in the nation's finances, as well as a "societal black hole", **co-leader of the Green Party Carla Denyer MP said:**

"Enduring more economic pain and hardship isn't what people voted for. They were told they were voting for change. Not voting for things to get worse before they get better. Labour needs to be honest about the fact that they could choose to make things better for everyone if they were bolder and braver.

"What is being framed as tough choices is actually about political choices. People don't need a constant reminder that the Tories broke Britain. They need a new approach, not misguided fiscal rules that are set to make things worse.

"We must generate the funds needed for investment by shifting the burden away from the poorest onto the wealthiest. Labour's refusal to tax the super-rich shows that business as usual is very much still in business.

"Keir Starmer says the violent riots earlier this month exposed a deeply unhealthy society. But the health of a society can't be improved if it is forced to swallow the same failed medicine. The government can choose to provide the investment our communities are crying out for. This would help create hope and unleash the goodness of people to improve their communities."

27 August 2024 / 27 August 2024 by [Andrew Bell](#)

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## Extension of Mental Health Champion appointment

Health Minister Mike Nesbitt has extended the appointment of Professor Siobhan O'Neill as the Mental Health Champion for Northern Ireland.