



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Research and Information Service Research Paper

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Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs)

Changes to constituency MLAs are detailed including resignations, deselections and replacements as a result of the election.

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Key Points

Eleven MLAs indicated their intention to retire, were deselected or declared they would not contest the election:

- Alex Maskey
- Chris Lyttle
- Emma Rogan
- George Robinson
- Jim Wells
- Paul Rankin
- Paula Bradley
- Robin Newton
- Sinéad Bradley
- Trevor Lunn
- William Humphrey

Among these was Alex Maskey who announced his intention to retire in August 2021. George Robinson also declared his intention to retire while Robin Newton was deselected.

Nine assembly Members failed to secure enough votes to be elected to the assembly:

- Clare Bailey
- Dolores Kelly
- Mervyn Storey
- Nichola Mallon
- Pat Catney
- Peter Weir
- Rachel Woods
- Rosemary Barton
- Roy Beggs

Most of these MLAs were replaced by new Alliance Party of Northern Ireland MLAs and one was displaced by another candidate in their own party. There are 20 new assembly Members.

Executive Summary

Prior to the election a number of MLAs were deselected or indicated their intention to retire including: Chris Lyttle (stepped down), Emma Rogan (deselected), George Robinson (retired), Jim Wells (deselected), Paul Rankin (co-opted temporarily), Paula Bradley (stepped down), Robin Newton (deselected), Sinéad Bradley (stepped down), Trevor Lunn (left party and stepped down), William Humphrey (stepped down) and Alex Maskey (retired). A summary table is included (page 4).

Several MLAs were not elected including: Clare Bailey, Dolores Kelly, Mervyn Storey, Nichola Mallon, Pat Catney, Peter Weir, Rachel Woods, Rosemary Barton and Roy Beggs. A summary table is included (page 7).

20 new Assembly MLAs were elected: Danny Baker, Peter McReynolds, Kate Nicholl, Eóin Tennyson, Cathy Mason, Alan Robinson, Diane Forsythe, Patricia O'Lynn, Nuala McAllister, David Honeyford, Jeffrey Donaldson (to be co-opted by Emma Little-Pengelly), Philip Brett, Nick Mathison, Connie Egan, David Brooks, Tom Elliot, Danny Donnelly, Patrick Brown, Sorcha Eastwood and Brian Kingston.

Further details of all these changes and the complete results of the election can be found in the Annex (page 9) which includes a listing of MLAs detailed in Hansard records for the final Plenary session before the Election (24 March 2022) compared to the election results.

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1 MLAs Not Standing

Prior to the election a number of MLAs were deselected or indicated their intention to stand down or retire. These changes are summarised in the table below:

Name	Constituency	Party	Details	Replacement	Party
Alex Maskey	West Belfast	Sinn Féin	Current speaker	Danny Baker	Sinn Féin
Chris Lyttle	East Belfast	Alliance Party of Northern Ireland	Stood down	Peter McReynolds	Alliance Party of Northern Ireland
Emma Rogan	South Down	Sinn Féin	Deselected	Cathy Mason	Sinn Féin
George Robinson	East Londonderry	Democratic Unionist Party	Retired	Alan Robinson	Democratic Unionist Party
Jim Wells	South Down	Formerly Democratic Unionist Party	Deselected/ Left party	Diane Forsythe	Democratic Unionist Party
Paul Rankin	Lagan Valley	Democratic Unionist Party	Temporary position	Jeffrey Donaldson (Now Emma Little-Pengelly)	Democratic Unionist Party
Paula Bradley	North Belfast	Democratic Unionist Party	Stood down	Philip Brett	Democratic Unionist Party
Robin Newton	East Belfast	Democratic Unionist Party	Deselected	David Brooks	Democratic Unionist Party
Sinéad Bradley	South Down	Social Democratic and Labour Party	Stood down	Patrick Brown	Alliance Party of Northern Ireland
Trevor Lunn	Lagan Valley	Independent	Left party/ Stood down	Sorcha Eastwood	Alliance Party of Northern Ireland
William Humphrey	North Belfast	Democratic Unionist Party	Stood down	Brian Kingston	Democratic Unionist Party

Alex Maskey, a Sinn Féin (SF) MLA for Belfast West was elected speaker in 2020 and currently holds this role pending developments. Alex Maskey announced his retirement in August 2021¹. Danny Baker is a new MLA for

¹ [Michelle O'Neill pays tribute to Alex Maskey](#), Sinn Féin, Michelle O'Neill, 05/08/2021, accessed: 16/05/2022

Belfast West. Danny Baker (SF) was co-opted onto Belfast City Council in 2017 and became Lord Mayor 2019.

Chris Lyttle, an Alliance Party of Northern Ireland (APNI) MLA for Belfast East announced he would stand down in October 2021². A new MLA, Peter McReynolds (APNI), replaces Chris Lyttle.

Emma Rogan, a SF MLA for South Down, was co-opted to join the Assembly in 2017 to represent South Down but was deselected in May 2021 and replaced by a new MLA, Cathy Mason (SF).

George Robinson, a Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) assembly MLA for East Londonderry, retired in March 2022. George Robinson represented the constituency at the Assembly since 2003. He was replaced by a new MLA, Alan Robinson (DUP).

Jim Wells, a DUP MLA for South Down since 1998, was deselected in January 2022 and resigned from the DUP in April. The seat is now held by a new DUP MLA, Diane Forsythe.

Paul Rankin, a DUP MLA for Lagan Valley, did not stand for election. Paul Rankin was co-opted to be MLA for Lagan Valley to replace Edwin Poots (DUP)³. Edwin Poots transferred to Belfast South to replace Christopher Stalford. Jeffrey Donaldson (DUP) was elected as an MLA for Lagan Valley but said he would remain an MP until the Northern Ireland Protocol was resolved leaving the Lagan Valley seat to be co-opted by Emma Little Pengelly (DUP)⁴.

Paula Bradley, a DUP MLA for Belfast North and deputy leader of the DUP did not seek re-election⁵ and has been replaced by a new DUP MLA, Philip Brett.

² [Privilege to have served as Alliance MLA for East Belfast, says Lyttle, as he announces intention to step down](#), Alliance, Chris Lyttle, 29/10/2021, accessed: 16/05/2022.

³ [Sir Jeffrey announces Paul Rankin as new Lagan Valley MLA](#), DUP, Jeffrey Donaldson, accessed: 16/05/2022

⁴ [New Lagan Valley MLA Announced – Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP](#), DUP, Jeffrey Donaldson, 12/05/2022, accessed: 16/05/2022

⁵ [DUP deputy leader Paula Bradley and MLA William Humphrey won't contest Assembly election](#), Belfast Telegraph, 18/03/2022, accessed: 16/05/2022.

Robin Newton, a DUP MLA for Belfast East since 2003, was deselected in February 2022 and replaced on the DUP ticket by local councillor David Brookes who was subsequently elected as an MLA for Belfast East.

Sinéad Bradley of the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) and MLA for South Down stood down in May 2021. The SDLP lost ground to APNI in the election leaving Colin McGrath as the only assembly MLA for the party in the South Down constituency. Patrick Brown (APNI) is a new MLA for South Down.

Trevor Lunn, an APNI MLA for Lagan Valley, left APNI in 2020 and remained in post as an independent without plans to contest the upcoming election⁶. APNI gained ground in Lagan Valley with two new MLAs, David Honeyford and Sorcha Eastwood being elected replacing both Pat Catney (SDLP) and Trevor Lunn.

William Humphrey, a DUP MLA for North Belfast, announced he would be stepping down after more than a decade at the Assembly⁷ and stated that he would not contest the election⁸. William Humphrey has been replaced by a new MLA, Brian Kingston (DUP).

⁶ [Trevor Lunn quits Alliance over 'irreconcilable problem'](#), Belfast Telegraph, Mark Bain, 03/03/2020 accessed:16/05/2022.

⁷ MLA Details: William Humphrey – AIMS Portal, accessed: 16/05/2022.

⁸ [DUP deputy leader Paula Bradley and MLA William Humphrey won't contest Assembly election](#), Belfast Telegraph, 18/03/2022, accessed: 16/05/2022.

2 MLAs Not Elected

In addition to these changes a number of MLAs were not elected including.

These MLAs and their replacements are detailed in the table below:

Name	Constituency	Party	Details	Replaced by	Party
Clare Bailey	South Belfast	Green Party	Lost seat	Kate Nicholl	Alliance Party of Northern Ireland
Dolores Kelly	Upper Bann	Social Democratic and Labour Party	Lost seat	Eóin Tennyson	Alliance Party of Northern Ireland
Mervyn Storey	North Antrim	Democratic Unionist Party	Lost Seat	Patricia O'Lynn	Alliance Party of Northern Ireland
Nichola Mallon	North Belfast	Social Democratic and Labour Party	Lost Seat	Nuala McAllister	Alliance Party of Northern Ireland
Pat Catney	Lagan Valley	Social Democratic and Labour Party	Lost Seat	David Honeyford	Alliance Party of Northern Ireland
Peter Weir	Strangford	Democratic Unionist Party	Lost Seat	Nick Mathison	Alliance Party of Northern Ireland
Rachel Woods	North Down	Green Party	Lost Seat	Connie Egan	Alliance Party of Northern Ireland
Rosemary Barton	Fermanagh and South Tyrone	Ulster Unionist Party	Lost seat	Tom Elliot	Ulster Unionist Party
Roy Beggs	East Antrim	Ulster Unionist Party	Lost seat	Danny Donnelly	Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

Clare Bailey, former Green Party (GP) MLA for Belfast South, will not be returning and has been replaced by a new MLA, Kate Nicholl (APNI). Kate Nicholl served as Belfast Lord Mayor from June 2021 until her election as an MLA in 2022⁹.

Dolores Kelly, former SDLP MLA for Upper Bann has been replaced by Eóin Tennyson (APNI).

⁹ [Kate Nicholl 'overwhelmed' to clinch South Belfast Seat](#), BBC, 07/05/2022, accessed: 16/05/2022.

Mervyn Storey (DUP) who has held his seat in North Antrim since 2003 has also been replaced, with Patricia O'Lynn (APNI) securing the votes to become a new MLA for North Antrim.

Nichola Mallon, former SDLP assembly Member for Belfast North, was replaced by new MLA, Nuala McAllister (APNI).

Pat Catney, former SDLP MLA for Lagan Valley, was replaced by a new MLA, David Honeyford (APNI).

Peter Weir, a DUP MLA for Strangford (and previously North Down)¹⁰ has been replaced by a new MLA, Nick Mathison (APNI).

Rachel Woods, former GP MLA for North Down, was replaced by a new MLA, Connie Egan (APNI).

Rosemary Barton, former UUP MLA for Fermanagh and South Tyrone was displaced by another UUP candidate, Tom Elliot who was an MLA for the constituency from 2003 to 2015 before becoming an MP from 2015 to 2017.

Finally, Roy Beggs, a former long serving UUP MLA for East, has been replaced by new a new MLA, Danny Donnelly (APNI).

¹⁰ MLA Details: William Humphrey – AIMS Portal, accessed: 16/05/2022.

3 Annex

The complete results by constituency are shown below. The column on the left shows the MLAs listed in Hansard records for the final Plenary session before the Election (24 March 2022). The column on the right shows the election results for comparison.

East Antrim

Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

Stewart Dickson

Democratic Unionist Party

David Hilditch

Gordon Lyons

Ulster Unionist Party

John Stewart

Roy Beggs

Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

Danny Donnelly

Stewart Dickson

Democratic Unionist Party

David Hilditch

Gordon Lyons

Ulster Unionist Party

John Stewart

East Belfast

Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

Chris Lyttle

Naomi Long

Democratic Unionist Party

Joanne Bunting

Robin Newton

Ulster Unionist Party

Andy Allen

Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

Naomi Long

Peter McReynolds

Democratic Unionist Party

David Brooks

Joanne Bunting

Ulster Unionist Party

Andy Allen

East Londonderry

Democratic Unionist Party

George Robinson

Maurice Bradley

Independent

Claire Sugden

Sinn Féin

Caoimhe Archibald

Social Democratic and Labour Party

Cara Hunter

Democratic Unionist Party

Alan Robinson

Maurice Bradley

Independent

Claire Sugden

Sinn Féin

Caoimhe Archibald

Social Democratic and Labour Party

Cara Hunter

Fermanagh and South Tyrone

Democratic Unionist Party

Deborah Erskine

Sinn Féin

Áine Murphy

Colm Gildernew

Jemma Dolan

Ulster Unionist Party

Rosemary Barton

Democratic Unionist Party

Deborah Erskine

Sinn Féin

Áine Murphy

Colm Gildernew

Jemma Dolan

Ulster Unionist Party

Tom Elliot

Foyle

Democratic Unionist Party

Gary Middleton

Sinn Féin

Ciara Ferguson

Pádraig Delargy

Social Democratic and Labour Party

Mark Durkan

Sinead McLaughlin

Democratic Unionist Party

Gary Middleton

Sinn Féin

Ciara Ferguson

Pádraig Delargy

Social Democratic and Labour Party

Mark Durkan

Sinead McLaughlin

Lagan Valley

Democratic Unionist Party

Paul Givan

Paul Rankin

Independent

Trevor Lunn

Social Democratic and Labour Party

Pat Catney

Ulster Unionist Party

Robbie Butler

Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

David Honeyford

Sorcha Eastwood

Democratic Unionist Party

Jeffrey Donaldson (Emma Little-Pengelly)

Paul Givan

Ulster Unionist Party

Robbie Butler

Mid Ulster

Democratic Unionist Party

Keith Buchanan

Sinn Féin

Emma Sheerin

Michelle O'Neill

Linda Dillon

Social Democratic and Labour Party

Patsy McGlone

Democratic Unionist Party

Keith Buchanan

Sinn Féin

Emma Sheerin

Linda Dillon

Michelle O'Neill

Social Democratic and Labour Party

Patsy McGlone

Newry and Armagh

Democratic Unionist Party

William Irwin

Sinn Féin

Cathal Boylan

Conor Murphy

Liz Kimmins

Social Democratic and Labour Party

Justin McNulty

Democratic Unionist Party

William Irwin

Sinn Féin

Cathal Boylan

Conor Murphy

Liz Kimmins

Social Democratic and Labour Party

Justin McNulty

North Antrim

Democratic Unionist Party

Mervyn Storey

Paul Frew

Sinn Féin

Philip McGuigan

Traditional Unionist Voice

Jim Allister

Ulster Unionist Party

Robin Swann

Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

Patricia O'Lynn

Democratic Unionist Party

Paul Frew

Sinn Féin

Philip McGuigan

Traditional Unionist Voice

Jim Allister

Ulster Unionist Party

Robin Swann

North Belfast

Democratic Unionist Party

Paula Bradley

William Humphrey

Sinn Féin

Carál Ní Chuilín

Gerry Kelly

Social Democratic and Labour Party

Nichola Mallon

Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

Nuala McAllister

Democratic Unionist Party

Brian Kingston

Philip Brett

Sinn Féin

Carál Ní Chuilín

Gerry Kelly

North Down

Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

Andrew Muir

Democratic Unionist Party

Stephen Dunne

Green Party

Rachel Woods

Independent

Alex Easton

Ulster Unionist Party

Alan Chambers

Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

Andrew Muir

Connie Egan

Democratic Unionist Party

Stephen Dunne

Independent

Alex Easton

Ulster Unionist Party

Alan Chambers

South Antrim

Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

John Blair

Democratic Unionist Party

Pam Cameron

Trevor Clarke

Sinn Féin

Declan Kearney

Ulster Unionist Party

Steve Aiken

Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

John Blair

Democratic Unionist Party

Pam Cameron

Trevor Clarke

Sinn Féin

Declan Kearney

Ulster Unionist Party

Steve Aiken

South Belfast

Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

Paula Bradshaw

Democratic Unionist Party

Edwin Poots

Green Party

Clare Bailey

Sinn Féin

Deirdre Hargey

Social Democratic and Labour Party

Matthew O'Toole

Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

Kate Nicholl

Paula Bradshaw

Democratic Unionist Party

Edwin Poots

Sinn Féin

Deirdre Hargey

Social Democratic and Labour Party

Matthew O'Toole

South Down

DUP

Jim Wells

Sinn Féin

Emma Rogan

Sinéad Ennis

Social Democratic and Labour Party

Colin McGrath

Sinéad Bradley

Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

Patrick Brown

Democratic Unionist Party

Diane Forsythe

Sinn Féin

Cathy Mason

Sinéad Ennis

Social Democratic and Labour Party

Colin McGrath

Strangford

Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

Kellie Armstrong

Democratic Unionist Party

Harry Harvey

Michelle McIlveen

Peter Weir

Ulster Unionist Party

Mike Nesbitt

Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

Kellie Armstrong

Nick Mathison

Democratic Unionist Party

Harry Harvey

Michelle McIlveen

Ulster Unionist Party

Mike Nesbitt

Upper Bann

Democratic Unionist Party

Diane Dodds

Jonathan Buckley

Sinn Féin

John O'Dowd

Social Democratic and Labour Party

Dolores Kelly

Ulster Unionist Party

Doug Beattie

Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

Eóin Tennyson

Democratic Unionist Party

Diane Dodds

Jonathan Buckley

Sinn Féin

John O'Dowd

Ulster Unionist Party

Doug Beattie

West Belfast

People Before Profit

Gerry Carroll

Sinn Féin

Aisling Reilly

Alex Maskey

Órlaithí Flynn

Pat Sheehan

People Before Profit

Gerry Carroll

Sinn Féin

Aisling Reilly

Danny Baker

Órlaithí Flynn

Pat Sheehan

West Tyrone

Democratic Unionist Party

Thomas Buchanan

Sinn Féin

Declan McAleer

Maolíosa McHugh

Nicola Brogan

Social Democratic and Labour Party

Daniel McCrossan

Democratic Unionist Party

Thomas Buchanan

Sinn Féin

Declan McAleer

Maolíosa McHugh

Nicola Brogan

Social Democratic and Labour Party

Daniel McCrossan