

Parliament Buildings The Assembly Chamber



Northern Ireland
Assembly



The Assembly Chamber

The Assembly Chamber is probably the most recognisable room in Northern Ireland. Often seen on television news programmes, it is where the Northern Ireland Assembly holds all its debates.

Ministers come to the Chamber to explain the work of their departments. Committees consider legislation and recommendations for debate as part of the process of making laws and MLAs raise local concerns there.

Parliament Buildings was designed to have two chambers – a House of Commons and a Senate.





Today, there is a single elected body of 108 MLAs. They meet in the Assembly Chamber, the former House of Commons.

In January 1995 a fire, caused by an electrical fault, destroyed the Chamber. While restoring it to its original grandeur, the entire building, excluding the Senate Chamber, was upgraded.

There are a number of magnificent features in the Chamber. These include a series of columns decorated with gold leafing at the top. At the upper level two side galleries have been added. This gives the Assembly Chamber four viewing galleries and twice as many seats for public viewing as before. The public gallery has recently been enhanced to provide wheelchair friendly access plus loop system support for those with hearing impairment.

Why not visit?

You can arrange a tour of Parliament Buildings by contacting the Events Office on +44 (028) 9052 1802/1975 or e-mailing eventsoffice@niassembly.gov.uk. Tours last 30–45 minutes and provide information on Parliament Buildings, past and present. You will find out how political life in Northern Ireland has developed, and about the architecture of the building and Stormont Estate.



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