

# Parliament Buildings The Great Hall



Northern Ireland  
Assembly



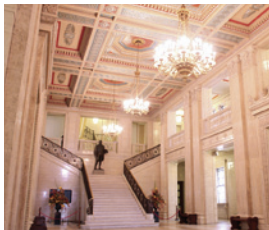


## The Great Hall

Parliament Buildings is home to the Northern Ireland Assembly. It has a grand central meeting area called the Great Hall. The Assembly Chamber and the Senate Chamber, which are directly opposite each other, lead off it.

The Great Hall is the most richly decorated part of Parliament Buildings. Its magnificent features include:

- plain cream Italian Travertine marble walls that contrast with the fine blue, red and gold artwork on the ceiling;
- five chandeliers: one central chandelier and four smaller aluminium copies. The main chandelier is made of cast metal adorned with gold and weighs a third of a ton (338 kg);



- a cream, golden and walnut Italian marble floor, laid out in a symmetrical pattern. This pattern is repeated on the ceiling directly above;
- a two-ton (2,230 kg) statue of the first Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, Sir James Craig, later Lord Craigavon. This stands at the top of the grand staircase.
- the Italian marble grand staircase.

### Why not visit?

You are welcome to visit the Great Hall between 9.00am and 4.00pm, Monday to Friday. You can watch full meetings of the Assembly (Plenary sittings) from the Public Gallery on Mondays from 12 noon and on Tuesdays from 10.30am.

There is no charge for visiting Parliament Buildings. When you arrive you will be asked to go through a security check.

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](mailto: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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