

PRESS RELEASE

Appointments to the Drainage Council for Northern Ireland

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Lord Rooker, has announced the names of those appointed to serve on the Drainage Council for Northern Ireland for the period 2006 to 2009. The Drainage Council is responsible for ensuring the impartial and uniform application of the Rivers Agency flood defence and drainage programme throughout Northern Ireland.

Name	Interest Represented
Alderman Hubert Nicholl	Ballymena District Council
Councillor Michael Gillespie	Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council
Councillor Gerry McHugh	Fermanagh District Council
Councillor Mrs Catherine McCambridge	Moyle District Council
Councillor Alan Graham	North Down District Council
Alderman Edwin Poots MLA	Lisburn Borough Council
Councillor Jim McBriar	Ards Borough Council
Alderman Roy Beggs	Larne Borough Council
Councillor Oliver Hughes	Magherafelt District Council
Councillor William King	Coleraine Borough Council
Mr Robert Cummings	Agricultural
Dr Alexandra McGarel	Conservation
Mr Gerald Crawford	Fisheries
Mr Garth Boyd	Industry
Miss Janice Gault	Tourism
Dr Harold Johnston	Drainage Specialist
Mr Pat McBride	DOE Planning Service
Mr John Hagan	DARD Rivers Agency

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. The Drainage Council for Northern Ireland comprises of 18 members. Of the 18 members 10 are required to represent District councils; 5 members, each representative of Agriculture, Conservation, Fisheries, Industry, Tourism interests, with a Drainage Specialist and 2 ex-officio representatives of DOE Planning Service and DARD Rivers Agency.
2. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are elected by members at the first meeting of the Council.
3. The Minister of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development makes appointments to the Drainage Council.
4. Members of the Drainage Council can claim travel expenses reasonably incurred on Drainage Council business but receive no other remuneration for their work.

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF APPOINTEES

Alderman Hubert Nicholl is a Political Researcher with the DUP. He is a member of the DUP and a member of the North Eastern Education and Library Board.

Councillor Michael Gillespie is a former school governor. He is a member of Sinn Fein and holds no other public appointment.

Councillor Gerry McHugh Former member of Assembly Agriculture and Rural Development Committee. He is a member of Sinn Fein and holds no other public appointment.

Councillor Mrs Catherine McCambridge is a former nurse. She is a member of the SDLP and holds no other public appointment.

Councillor Alan Graham is a self-employed farmer. He is a member of the DUP and holds no other public appointment.

Alderman Edwin Poots MLA, is a member of the DUP and has experience working with economic/rural development committees. He has held one previous public appointment.

Councillor Jim McBriar is a former self-employed farmer. He is a member of the Alliance Party and a member of the Strangford Lough Management and Advisory Committee.

Alderman Roy Beggs is a former MP. He is a member of the UUP and is Vice Chairperson of the North Eastern Education and Library Board.

Councillor Oliver Hughes is a self-employed business man. He is member of Sinn Fein and is a committee member of the National Association of Councillors.

Councillor William King is a retired farmer and President of the Northern Ireland Ploughing Association. He is a member of the UUP and has held one previous public appointment.

Mr Robert Cummings is a self-employed farmer. He is a member of the Armagh and Dungannon Primary Care Group.

Dr Alexandra McGarel is the Freshwater Policy Officer and local Project Manager with the WWF Northern Ireland. She is a member of the Food Standards Advisory Committee for which she receives remuneration.

Mr Gerald Crawford is a retired Chief Executive of Foyle Fisheries Commission. He is a Council Member of the Institute of Fisheries Management and holds no other public appointment.

Mr Garth Boyd has worked in the Agric-supply industry for a number of years and is currently Chief Executive of United Feeds Ltd. He holds no other public appointment.

Miss Janice Gault is Chief Executive of the NI Hotels Federation and is currently a member of the EU Funding panel for the NITB.

Dr Harold Johnston is a Senior Lecturer and Director of Education for Civil Engineering at Queens University Belfast teaching hydraulics and hydrology courses. He is currently a Representative for the South Eastern Education and Library Board on a school Board of Governors.

Mr Pat McBride is Director of Operations of the Department of Environment , Planning Service

Mr John Hagan is Chief Executive of the Rivers Agency of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.