

NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL
INLAND WATERWAYS SECTORAL FORMAT
GAOTH DOBHAIR

9 JULY 2009

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

1. The ninth North South Ministerial Council meeting in Inland Waterways sectoral format was held in Gaoth Dobhair, Co. Donegal on 9 July 2009.
2. The meeting was attended by Éamon Ó Cuív TD, Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Nelson McCausland MLA, Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure and Caitríona Ruane MLA, Minister for Education. Minister Ó Cuív chaired the meeting.

Progress Report

3. The Chief Executive of Waterways Ireland, Mr John Martin, presented a report on progress including the following significant achievements:
 - Waterways Ireland received a sustainability award from the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors for its Headquarters and the award for Best Marina Development for Boyle Marina County Roscommon at the Local Authority Management Awards.
 - 79 metres of additional moorings have been provided, with 23 metres at the Round 'O' Enniskillen, 20 metres at Camus on the Lower Bann and 36 metres at Portglenone on the Lower Bann.
 - Further development of the Lakelands Initiative campaign for the Erne Shannon system from Belleek to Limerick continues with the distribution of brochures under the overarching title of "Lakeland

and Inland Waterways". The 2009 Sponsorship Programme has been well received and over 50 events approved.

The Royal Canal

4. The Council received a presentation on the restoration of the Royal Canal. The Council noted the successful enhancement of the Royal Canal to further develop access to the waterways and waterside activities and to complete its connection to the Shannon.

Restoration of the Clones-Upper Lough Erne Section of the Ulster Canal

5. The Council received a progress report on the restoration work for the Clones–Upper Lough Erne section of the Ulster Canal including a survey of this section of the canal to be completed by mid July. The Council also noted the recent consultations with local stakeholders and the programme for completion of the project.

Annual Report and Accounts

6. The Council noted Waterways Ireland's Annual Report and Accounts 2008.

Property Disposals

7. The Council agreed proposals for a number of property disposals in the context of a range of development projects on the waterways.

Property Matters

8. The Council noted progress on Property Management issues including the Pilot Registration project. It also noted the future plans in relation to Property Registration on both the Royal Canal and Grand Canal.

Next Meeting

9. The Council agreed to meet again in Inland Waterways sectoral format in November/December 2009.

Joint Secretariat
9 July 2009