

North South Ministerial Council
Joint Secretariat



An Chomhairle Aireachta
Thuaidh Theas
An Chomhrúnaíocht

NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

NORTH SOUTH LANGUAGE BODY MEETING

**NSMC JOINT SECRETARIAT OFFICES,
ARMAGH,**

10 APRIL 2025

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

1. The twenty-ninth North South Ministerial Council Language Body meeting was held in the NSMC Joint Secretariat Offices, Armagh on 10 April 2025. The meeting was attended by Gordon Lyons MLA, Minister for Communities, Minister Dara Calleary TD Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, and Aisling Reilly MLA, Junior Minister at the Executive Office. Minister Calleary chaired the meeting.

LANGUAGE BODY PROGRESS REPORT

2. The Council noted the progress reports from Tha Boord o Ulstèr Scotch and Foras na Gaeilge relating to the period since the last sectoral meeting, held in May 2024; and
3. Ministers welcomed key achievements of the North/South Language Body since the last sectoral meeting including:

Tha Boord o Ulstèr Scotch/ Ulster Scots Agency

- (i) supporting 9 Ulster-Scots community festivals reaching approximately 56,000 people;

- (ii) awarding Ulster-Scots Flagship Status to 5 primary schools, following the completion of an 18-month programme of work;

Foras na Gaeilge

- (iii) hosting the Irish language publishing awards at An Taibhdhearc, the National Irish Language Theatre in Galway.
- (iv) delivery of a two-day Language Planning Conference (Comhdháil Pleanála Teanga 2024) in Dublin in Autumn 2024.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

- 4. The Council approved the North/South Language Body 2025 Business Plan and recommended the associated Budget/Grant provision.
- 5. The Council noted that discussions have begun between The Body and Sponsor Departments regarding the next Corporate Planning period, 2026-2028, which will include a collaborative review of a range of governance and procedural matters within the agencies.
- 6. The Council noted that the Consolidated Annual Report and Accounts for 2022 for the Language Body will be laid shortly before the Houses of the Oireachtas and in the Northern Ireland Assembly, and that the audit of the 2023 accounts is near completion.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

- 7. The Council appointed Board Members to a number of North South Implementation Bodies.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 8. The Council agreed to hold its next Language Body meeting in Autumn 2025.

Joint Secretariat

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