

North South Ministerial Council  
Joint Secretariat



An Chomhairle Aireachta  
Thuaidh Theas  
An Chomhrúnaíocht

**PAPER NSMC LAN 1 (13) JC**

**NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

**NORTH SOUTH LANGUAGE BODY MEETING**

**NSMC JOINT SECRETARIAT OFFICES,  
ARMAGH**

**6 MARCH 2013**

**JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ**

1. The seventeenth North South Ministerial Council Language Body meeting was held in Armagh on 6 March 2013. The meeting was attended by Carál Ní Chuilín, MLA, Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure, OFMDFM Junior Minister Jonathan Bell MLA, and Dinny McGinley TD, Minister of State at the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Minister Ní Chuilín chaired the meeting.
2. The meeting dealt with issues relating to the Language Body and its two constituent Agencies, Tha Boord o Ulstèr Scotch (the Ulster-Scots Agency) and Foras na Gaeilge (the Irish Language Agency).

**OPENING REMARKS**

3. Ministers discussed events relating to languages which are taking place as part of Ireland's Presidency of the European Union.
4. Ministers also congratulated both Agencies on organising successful events recently – Foras na Gaeilge for the launch of the major new English-Irish

dictionary and the Ulster-Scots Agency for the official opening of its new regional office in Raphoe.

## **BUSINESS PLANS AND BUDGETS 2012**

5. The Council approved the Language Body Business Plans and Budgets 2012.

## **FORAS NA GAEILGE – REVIEW OF CORE FUNDING**

6. Ministers agreed to extend the existing core funding arrangements to 31 December 2013. They also directed that plans be advanced for introducing a revised model for core funding, that takes account of the relevant language Strategies in both jurisdictions, with a view to making a final decision no later than June 2013.

## **ULSTER-SCOTS AGENCY – FLAGSHIP SCHOOL PROGRAMME**

7. Ministers noted the presentation by the CEO of the Ulster-Scots Agency, which outlined the flagship school programme and other projects being progressed as part of the Agency's Ulster-Scots and Education Initiative.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

8. The Council agreed that its next Language Body meeting would take place in June 2013.

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