

North/South Ministerial Council



An Chomhairle Aireachta  
Thuaidh/Theas

annual report 2001

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The background is a solid dark blue. Overlaid on this are several large, light blue geometric shapes. There are two concentric circles in the center. Surrounding them are several irregular, angular shapes that resemble stylized letters or abstract forms, all drawn with a consistent light blue line weight.

INTRODUCTION BY JOINT SECRETARIES

# INTRODUCTION

We are very pleased to present the second Annual Report of the North/South Ministerial Council (NSMC). This covers the NSMC's activities for the year 2001. Established under the terms of the Belfast Agreement of Good Friday 1998, the NSMC brings together representatives of the Northern Ireland Executive and the Irish Government to develop consultation, co-operation and action within the island of Ireland on matters of mutual interest. Our task as Joint Secretaries, together with our colleagues in the Joint Secretariat, is to support the work of the Ministers in the Council and to help ensure the smooth and efficient conduct of its business.

In its second full year the Council has overseen the settling down of the North/South Bodies, with the procurement of permanent accommodation and the appointment of Chief Executives and other key personnel. During 2001, the Bodies

were, therefore, increasingly in a position to undertake their full programmes of work. Sound progress can now be reported in all areas coming within the mandate of the Council.


We should like to place on record our thanks to all Ministers from both jurisdictions and their officials for their strong support for the Secretariat and their unfailing courtesy in their dealings with us as Joint Secretaries and our staff.

We look forward to the continued success of the Council and to making a real difference in matters which are of tangible benefit to both parts of the island.

Dr. Peter Smyth  
Joint Secretary (North)

Tim O'Connor  
Joint Secretary (South)

Armagh  
September 2002



**CHAPTER 1**  
BACKGROUND TO THE NORTH/SOUTH  
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

# THE NORTH/SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

1.1 The North/South Ministerial Council (NSMC) was established on Thursday 2 December 1999 on the entry into force of the British-Irish Agreement, which was signed by the British and Irish Governments as part of the Agreement reached in the Multi-Party Negotiations in Belfast on Good Friday, 10 April, 1998 (“the Agreement”). The Agreement stipulates that the North/South Ministerial Council will bring together those with executive responsibilities in Northern Ireland and the Irish Government to develop consultation, co-operation and action within the island of Ireland - including through implementation on an all-island and cross-border basis - on matters of mutual interest and within the competence of each Administration, North and South. The NSMC comprises Ministers of the Northern Ireland Administration and the Irish Government, working together to take forward co-operation between both parts of the island to mutual benefit.

## AREAS OF OPERATION OF THE COUNCIL

1.2 The Agreement provided that at least 12 subject areas would be identified for co-operation and implementation for mutual benefit under the aegis of the Council. Co-operation in these areas would be implemented in two ways - in the case of at least six of them by means of existing bodies in each jurisdiction

separately (also commonly referred to as the Areas for Co-operation), and in the case of at least six others by means of new North/South Implementation Bodies (also commonly referred to as the North/South Bodies) operating at a cross-border or all-island level.

1.3 The Agreement also provided that the 12 Areas in question would be identified and agreed by the representatives of the Northern Ireland transitional Administration and the Irish Government, in consultation with the British Government as part of a work programme of the transitional North/South Ministerial Council.

1.4 Negotiations between the parties and the two Governments resulted in agreement on the 12 Areas. The outcome of these negotiations was set out in a Joint Statement issued by the First Minister (designate) and Deputy First Minister (designate) on 18 December 1998.

1.5 In that statement, the Six Areas identified as those in which co-operation would be taken forward by the new North/South Bodies, were:

Inland Waterways  
Food Safety  
Trade and Business  
Development  
Special EU Programmes  
Language (Irish and Ulster-Scots)  
Aquaculture and Marine  
Matters.

- 1.6 Aspects of six other Areas were identified as those in which co-operation would be taken forward by existing bodies in each jurisdiction separately:

Agriculture  
Education  
Environment  
Health  
Transport  
Tourism, including Tourism  
Ireland Limited.

- 1.7 In accordance with the Statement of 18 December, 1998, the British and Irish Governments subsequently concluded an Agreement on the establishment of the North/South Bodies - "Agreement between the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland establishing Implementation Bodies," signed on 8 March, 1999 ("the British-Irish Agreement of 8 March, 1999"). The British-Irish Agreement of 8 March, 1999 formally set out the functions and structure of the North/South Bodies and the common arrangements applying to them.
- 1.8 The British-Irish Agreement of 8 March, 1999 was given domestic effect, North and South, by means of the North/South Co-operation (Implementation Bodies) (Northern Ireland) Order, 1999, and the British-Irish Agreement Act, 1999, respectively.

## TRANSITIONAL MEETING OF NSMC

- 1.9 As mentioned above, the Agreement required that the North/South Ministerial Council, meeting in transitional form, should agree the areas where co-operation and implementation would take place. Accordingly, the Council met in transitional form on 1 December, 1999 in Belfast, at Parliament Buildings, Stormont.
- 1.10 At this meeting, the Council formally confirmed the 12 Areas and the arrangements in relation to them set out in paragraphs 1.5 to 1.8 above.
- 1.11 These 12 Areas constitute those matters on which the Council can take decisions by agreement on (a) policies for implementation separately in each jurisdiction and on (b) policies and actions at an all-island and cross-border level for implementation by the North/South Bodies. Further development of these arrangements is possible by agreement in the Council, and with the specific endorsement of the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Oireachtas, subject to the extent of the competences and responsibilities of the two Administrations.







**CHAPTER 2**

**THE OPERATION OF THE NORTH/SOUTH  
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

# THE FORMATS OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

- 2.1 The NSMC meets in a number of Formats. It meets in Plenary Format with the Northern Ireland Executive delegation led by the First Minister and Deputy First Minister and the Irish Government delegation led by the Taoiseach and the Tánaiste. The task of the Plenary is to take an overview of co-operation on the island and of the North/South institutions. The NSMC met in Plenary Format once in 2001. This was in Dublin on 30 November.
- 2.2 The NSMC also meets in Institutional Format with the Northern Ireland Executive being represented by the First Minister and Deputy First Minister and the Irish Government by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The task of the Institutional Format is to consider institutional and cross-sectoral issues, including in relation to the EU and to resolve any disagreements. The first NSMC meeting in Institutional Format took place in Belfast on 17 December 2001.
- 2.3 The NSMC meets in Sectoral Format to oversee co-operation in the agreed 12 Areas or Sectors, as described in Chapter 1. The NSMC meets in relation to these sectors a number of times each year. At these meetings, the Irish Government side is represented by the Minister responsible for that Sector, while the Northern Ireland Administration is represented by two Ministers nominated by the First Minister and Deputy First Minister on a cross-community basis, one normally being the Minister with responsibility for that Sector within the Executive. This is in line with the requirements of the Agreement and the Northern Ireland Act 1998 that participation by the Executive in the NSMC must be such as to ensure cross-community involvement.
- 2.4 During 2001, a total of 22 meetings in Sectoral Format were held.
- 2.5 All NSMC decisions are by agreement between the two sides in the Council.
- ## FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL
- 2.6 The Council carries out a number of functions in accordance with Strand Two of the Agreement. These were set out in the Agreement, as follows:
- To exchange information, discuss and consult with a view to co-operation on matters of mutual interest within the competence of both Administrations, North and South;
  - To use best endeavours to reach agreement on the adoption of common policies, in areas where there is a mutual cross-border and all-island benefit, and which are within the competence of both Administrations, North and South, making determined efforts to overcome any disagreements;

- To take decisions by agreement on policies for implementation separately in each jurisdiction, in relevant meaningful areas within the competence of both Administrations, North and South;
- To take decisions by agreement on policies and action at an all-island and cross-border level to be implemented by the North/South Bodies.

## NORTH/SOUTH BODIES

- 2.7** Each of the six North/South Bodies operates on an all-island basis. While having a clear operational remit, all function under the overall direction of the North/South Ministerial Council, with clear accountability lines back to the Council and to the Oireachtas and the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 2.8** The Bodies are:
- Waterways Ireland
  - The Food Safety Promotion Board (FSPB)
  - The Trade and Business Development Body (InterTradeIreland)
  - The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)
  - The North/South Language Body (consisting of two Agencies i.e. Foras na Gaeilge and Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch)
  - The Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission (FCILC) (consisting of two Agencies i.e. the Loughs Agency and The Lights Agency)

**2.9** In regard to three of the Bodies, InterTradeIreland, the North/South Language Body and the FCILC, the functions of each Body are exercised by a Board appointed by the NSMC. A fourth Body, the FSPB, has an advisory Board, also appointed by the NSMC. In its case, the functions of the Body are exercised by the Chief Executive. The remaining two Bodies, Waterways Ireland and the SEUPB, do not have Boards; in each of these cases, the functions of the Body are exercised by the Chief Executive.

**2.10** The North/South Bodies are funded from grants made by the two administrations, North and South. The Bodies may employ staff or may employ the services of other persons for particular purposes. In the initial stage of their establishment the Bodies have been largely staffed by civil servants seconded from their parent Departments, North and South. However, the Bodies have also been taking on directly recruited staff.

**2.11** Further information on the work of the North/South Bodies is set out in the Sectoral Reports in Chapter 5.

## AREAS FOR CO-OPERATION

- 2.12** The Areas for co-operation and the aspects that were agreed for initial consideration by the NSMC are as follows:
- **Transport:** strategic planning and development of cross-border co-operation (while co-operation would primarily arise in respect of road and rail planning, it would take account of issues arising in the port and airport sectors), and road and rail safety;

- **Agriculture:** discussion of CAP issues, animal and plant health policy and research and rural development;
- **Education:** education for children with special needs (eg autism, hearing impairment), educational underachievement, teacher qualifications, and school, youth and teacher exchanges;
- **Health:** accident and emergency planning; emergency services, co-operation on high technology equipment, cancer research and health promotion;
- **Environment:** research into environmental protection, water quality management and waste management in a cross-border context;
- **Tourism:** it was agreed to establish a publicly-owned limited company to market the island of Ireland overseas as a tourism destination.

**2.13** Further information on the work of the Council in these areas is set out in the Sectoral Reports in Chapter 5.

## NORTH/SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL JOINT SECRETARIAT

**2.14** The work of the North/South Ministerial Council is supported by a standing Joint Secretariat, staffed by members of the Northern Ireland Civil Service and the Irish Government Civil Service – see Chapter 6.



**CHAPTER 3**  
NSMC PLENARY FORMAT MEETING

# NSMC PLENARY MEETING



- 3.1** The Council met in Plenary Format in Dublin Castle on 30 November 2001. At this meeting the Irish Government delegation was led by the Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern TD and the Tánaiste, Ms Mary Harney TD, and the Northern Ireland Executive delegation was led by the First Minister, the Rt Hon David Trimble, MP, MLA and the Deputy First Minister, Mr Mark Durkan, MLA.
- 3.2** At this, the third Plenary Meeting, both sides in the Council acknowledged the importance of the occasion and expressed their satisfaction at recent positive developments in regard to the implementation of all aspects of the Belfast Agreement of Good Friday 1998.
- 3.3** The Council reviewed the programme of co-operation which it oversees and took decisions about a number of specific proposals.

## Activities

- 3.4** The Council noted the Annual Report on the activities of the North/South Ministerial Council from its establishment in December 1999 to 31 December 2000.
- 3.5** The Council also received a progress report on the work of the NSMC at meetings in Sectoral Format since January 2001. The Council noted with satisfaction the progress that has been made in implementing the work programme set out at the first Plenary meeting of the NSMC in December 1999. Both sides looked forward to continued progress being made in these areas to mutual benefit.
- 3.6** The Council considered and approved a schedule of NSMC meetings to take place over the coming months.

## North/South Consultative Forum

- 3.7** The Council received a progress report on work done by the Working Group established to take forward a study on the establishment of an Independent North/South Consultative Forum. The Council noted that more work was to be undertaken and agreed that further discussions on the issue would take place at the first Institutional Format meeting with a further progress report to be made at the next Plenary.

## Obstacles to Cross-Border Mobility

- 3.8** The Council received a report by the Joint Steering Group on the Study of Obstacles to Cross-Border Mobility on the island of Ireland. The Council noted the work done by the Joint Steering Group and the report produced by the consultants. It agreed that the two Administrations would not offer a view on the conclusions at this stage, pending publication of the report to allow interested organisations, including Government Departments and individuals, the opportunity to present their views on the recommendations and their implementation.
- 3.9** The Council also agreed that the present Steering Group would manage the consultation exercise and bring forward to the next NSMC Plenary, a paper summarising, evaluating and costing the recommendations in light of the outcome of the consultation and reaching conclusions, including on implementation proposals, where appropriate. Finally, the Council agreed that the Steering Group

should ensure that, in considering proposals, care should be taken to avoid creating barriers to East-West mobility and that the proposals should avoid creating unjustified advantage for cross-border workers beyond that available in the respective jurisdictions.

## Budgets

- 3.10** The Council recommended the budgets for the North/South Bodies to the Irish Government and the Northern Ireland Administration for 2002 totalling Stg.£54.37m/€92.07m. The respective contributions to this amount will be Stg.£40.01m/€67.74m from the Irish Government and Stg.£14.37m/€24.33m from the Northern Ireland Administration. The Council also noted provisional figures for Tourism Ireland Limited for 2002 of Stg.£26.78m/€45.33m with respective contributions to this amount of Stg.£19.46m/€32.95m from the Irish Government and Stg.£7.31m/€12.38m from the Northern Ireland Administration. They also noted indicative provisions for the North/South Bodies for 2003 and 2004.

## Economic Issues

- 3.11** The Council received a report on enhancing competitiveness in the two economies, which was commissioned by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, working in conjunction with *InterTradeIreland*, the Trade and Business Development Body. The Council noted the content and

findings of the report and that the conclusions covered a broad spectrum of work across a range of administrative functions. The Council requested that the relevant Government Departments and Agencies pursue the competitiveness agenda to mutual economic benefit, in the areas for which they have responsibility.

- 3.12** The Council noted the current position with regard to the Irish Government's Programme for Prosperity and Fairness and its National Development Plan and the Northern Ireland Administration's draft Programme for Government.
- 3.13** There was a discussion of the effects on the economies of both jurisdictions of the horrific events of 11 September 2001. The Council agreed that their aftermath posed significant challenges for the economies of both jurisdictions. The Council considered how the tourism agencies on the island of Ireland are developing proposals to reduce the impact on tourism.
- 3.14** There was also discussion on emergency planning in the light of the events of 11 September 2001. It was agreed that there is a need for continued cross-border co-operation in the health area and the structures in place in each jurisdiction with respect to planning for major incidents.
- 3.15** A list of the Ministers who attended the Plenary meeting is set out in Annex 1.





**CHAPTER 4**  
NSMC INSTITUTIONAL MEETING

# NSMC INSTITUTIONAL MEETING



- 4.1 The Council met in Institutional Format, on 17 December 2001 in Parliament Buildings, Belfast. At this meeting, the Northern Ireland Administration was represented by the First Minister, the Rt Hon David Trimble, MP, MLA and the Deputy First Minister, Mr Mark Durkan, MLA. The Irish Government was represented by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Brian Cowen, TD.
- 4.2 This first meeting in Institutional Format provided a useful opportunity to take stock of the functioning of the Council in its first two years of operation. At the meeting, the NSMC addressed the following issues:

## Transport Sectoral Arrangements

- 4.2.1 The Council recognised that it has not been possible to hold more than one meeting in the Transport Sector. It agreed, however, that the officials from both Administrations and the Joint Secretariat should explore the possibility of the next Sectoral Meeting on Transport concentrating on road safety issues, an area for which the Northern Ireland Minister of the Environment has responsibility.

## Lights Agency

- 4.2.2 The Council noted the work undertaken and the complexities that have arisen in the Lights Agency under the Foyle Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission in terms of pursuing a transfer of the existing

functions of the Commissioners of Irish Lights to the Lights Agency. It agreed that officials should review the matter further and offer advice to the next meeting of the Council in Institutional Format.

### North/South Co-operation outside the current Programme of Work of the NSMC

- 4.2.3** The Council considered a paper outlining current areas of co-operation between Departments and Agencies in both Administrations that do not come within the current programme of work of the NSMC. The Council agreed that officials from both Departments and the Joint Secretariat should consider areas of co-operation further and offer advice to the Council at its next meeting in Institutional Format.

### Cross-Sectoral Issues

- 4.2.4** The Council acknowledged progress to date in relation to issues of a cross-sectoral nature affecting the six North/South Bodies and Tourism Ireland Ltd, which were established under the Agreement. These included areas such as accountability, reporting and financial arrangements, including pension schemes and audits and freedom of information.

### Budgetary Provisions for North/South Bodies

- 4.2.5** The Council recommended the budgetary provisions for 2002 and the contributions from the Northern Ireland Executive and the Irish Government for the North/South Bodies, including Tourism Ireland Ltd.

### European Union Issues

- 4.2.6** The Agreement provides that the Council is to consider the European dimension of relevant matters, including implementation of EU policies and programmes and proposals under consideration in the EU framework. Ministers had a preliminary and helpful exchange of views on how arrangements giving effect to this might be developed, noting the respective roles of the NI Administration and the Council in the development of EU issues. The Council agreed that further work should be undertaken to consider the most effective way of pursuing its role under the Agreement in regard to the EU dimension. It agreed to establish a Working Group for this purpose, which would report back to the next meeting of the Council in Institutional Format.

### Consultative Forum

- 4.2.7** Ministers noted the work undertaken by a Working Group of officials from both Administrations set up following the Plenary meeting of the Council in Dublin on 26 September 2000 to undertake a study which would give effect to

the provision in paragraph 19 of Strand 2 of the Agreement. The Council agreed that the Independent Consultative Forum should be based on a formal interaction between structures representative of civil society in Northern Ireland and the South.

- 4.2.8 It also agreed that the Working Group should consult with the Northern Ireland Civic Forum and the Social Partners participating in the Central Review Mechanism of the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness with a view to bringing forward detailed proposals for consideration at the next Plenary meeting of the Council.

### Publication of First Annual Report of the North/South Ministerial Council

- 4.2.9 After the Council meeting, Ministers launched the first Annual Report of the North/South Ministerial Council. The Report contains a commentary on the operation of the Council and the North/South Bodies during their first year of existence and underlines, in tangible terms, the potential across many sectors of co-operation for the benefit of all the people throughout the island.



CHAPTER 5  
NSMC SECTORAL MEETINGS

# NSMC SECTORAL MEETINGS

## INTRODUCTION

**5.1.1** This Chapter provides an outline of the work of the NSMC in Sectoral Format during 2001. The Council covers 12 Sectors, corresponding to the 12 Areas which constitute those matters on which the Council can take decisions by agreement (a) on policies for implementation separately in each jurisdiction and (b) on policies and actions at an all-island and cross-border level for implementation by the North/South Bodies. A list of the Ministers who attended these meetings in 2001 is at Annex 3.

for the following navigation systems, which were previously under the respective control of the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands in the South and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland:

- The Shannon-Erne Waterway, The Erne System, The Grand Canal, The Barrow Navigation, The Lower Bann Navigation, The Royal Canal, The Shannon Navigation.

**5.2.3** Waterways Ireland is also charged with taking forward further studies and appraisals in relation to the possible restoration of the Ulster Canal.

**5.2.4** Waterways Ireland completed another phase of its establishment in 2001 when a number of important practical arrangements were put in place. It began functioning from an interim Headquarters in Enniskillen and work has started on establishing its new permanent Headquarters there. Regional offices were set up during the year in Scarriff, Carrick-on-Shannon, and in Dublin.

**5.2.5** The Body operates in three regions: Northern, Eastern and Western. By the end of 2001, Waterways Ireland had 244 staff, including three posts at Director level. The aim is to have the full staff complement in place during 2002.

## INLAND WATERWAYS SECTOR

### WATERWAYS IRELAND

**5.2.1** The Council meets in the Inland Waterways Sector in order to take decisions on policies and action to be implemented by Waterways Ireland. Details in regard to the Ministers attending the meetings of the Council in this Sector are contained in Annex 3.

### FUNCTIONS/OBJECTIVES

**5.2.2** Waterways Ireland's primary function is the management, maintenance, development and restoration of the inland navigable waterway system throughout the island, principally for recreational purposes. Waterways Ireland is responsible

- 5.2.6** Progress continued to be made on a number of other issues related to the administration of the new Body, including the putting in place of the necessary financial procedures, development of an information technology system and the preparation of an Equality Scheme required under the Northern Ireland legislation.
- 5.2.7** The 2001 Budget requirement for Waterways Ireland, approved at the Sectoral Meeting held in Scarriff, Co. Clare on 29 January, was IRE25.09m/Stg£20.07m.
- 5.2.10** During the year the Council received Waterways Ireland's assessment of the study on the feasibility of re-opening the Ulster Canal. The study is now being considered by the Department of Arts, Heritage Gaeltacht and the Islands in the South and by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure in Northern Ireland.
- 5.2.11** The Council approved proposals for the marketing and promotion of inland waterways and the establishment of an advisory group on marketing issues. It was decided that boating/cruising on the inland navigations should be marketed as a separate niche market and a joint Bord Fáilte/Northern Ireland Tourist Board brochure and marketing campaign was launched in 2001.

#### Activities

- 5.2.8** There were three meetings of the NSMC in its Inland Waterways Sector in 2001. These took place on 29 January, 27 June and 23 November. The appointment of Mr. John Martin as permanent Chief Executive of Waterways Ireland was approved at the meeting held on 29 January.
- 5.2.9** The Council gave its consent to plans from Waterways Ireland for the compulsory purchase of certain lands necessary for the improvement of the Shannon Navigation. In line with the decisions made by Council, Waterways Ireland continued with major capital projects on the Shannon Navigation including major navigation works in Limerick City, the Grand and Royal Canals and refurbishment of a number of Lough Erne Moorings. Three major navigation projects at Limerick, Ballinasloe and Boyle were completed during the year and opened to boats. The official opening of the Limerick project took place in July 2001.
- 5.2.12** The Council noted Waterways Ireland's first Annual Report which was presented to the Council. The Council acknowledged Waterways Ireland's role in protecting and developing the waterway heritage of the island. The Council also approved Waterways Ireland's Operational Plan for 2002.
- 5.2.13** Waterways Ireland also briefed the Council on a highly successful World Canals Conference, which was held in Dublin, Belfast and Lisburn in May 2001. Over 220 delegates participated in the Conference.

## FOOD SAFETY AND HEALTH SECTORS

### FOOD SAFETY PROMOTION BOARD

**5.3.1** The Council meets in the Food Safety and Health Sectors in order to consider matters for co-operation in Health as well as to take decisions on policies and action to be implemented by the Food Safety Promotion Board, which is a North/South Body. Details in regard to the Ministers attending the meetings of the Council in these Sectors are contained in Annex 3.

**5.3.2** The Food Safety Promotion Board is principally charged with the promotion of food safety and supporting North/South scientific co-operation and links between institutions working in the field of food safety. It has an Advisory Board of 12 members, appointed by the NSMC (see Annex 7).

### FUNCTIONS/OBJECTIVES

**5.3.3** The Food Safety Promotion Board carries out its role through public campaigns, conferences, training and advising professionals and the general public. It is also involved in supporting North/South scientific co-operation, and links between institutions working in the field of food safety - laboratories, statutory food safety enforcement agencies, international and domestic research bodies. The provision of advice to the Council on the development of cost-effective specialised laboratory testing also falls within the Board's remit. The Board also has a role to provide independent scientific assessment on food safety matters.

**5.3.4** Cross-border co-operation in all of these areas, between organisations working in these fields, is central to the work of the Board. The Board began operations by establishing a number of informal inter-disciplinary functional groups to assist in the elaboration of functions. The output from these groups was used to help develop an initial corporate strategy and annual plan.

### Activities

**5.3.5** The Food Safety Promotion Board established its head office in Cork, and this was opened formally on 24 November 2001, by Mr. Micheál Martin, TD, Minister for Health and Children, and Ms. Bairbre de Brún, MLA, Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in the presence of An Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern, TD.

**5.3.6** A meeting of the Council in the Food Safety Sector, arranged for 29 June 2001 did not take place, because no Northern Ireland Ministers were nominated to attend.

**5.3.7** The Council met once in the Food Safety Promotion Sector in 2001. This meeting took place on 16 November. The Council approved, in principle, the candidate recommended for the post of Chief Executive of the Body, and has approved the proposed management structure and staffing arrangements for the Body.

**5.3.8** The Council received a progress report on the work of the Food Safety Promotion Board on issues covering financial outturn for 2000, accommodation,



employment of staff, development of the website, awareness campaigns, award of research contracts and the forum on nutrition. The Council approved the Board's Corporate Strategy and Interim Plan for 2001 and noted a proposal to develop a three year multi-annual plan for submission to the Council when complete.

- 5.3.9** The Council approved the Board's draft Equality Scheme and the New TSN Action Plan for public consultation.
- 5.3.10** An Advisory Committee, with a membership of 16, comprising scientific experts and representatives of broader food safety interests was approved by the Council. The Committee will advise the Chief Executive on technical and scientific matters and will assist in identifying emerging issues in the areas of food safety, hygiene and diet.
- 5.3.11** The Food Safety Promotion Board worked closely with food safety authorities, North and South, in preparing consumer information. A booklet entitled "Is Beef Safe to Eat- BSE: The Facts" was made available through the safefood helpline and many of the major supermarkets and butcher shops. The FSPB was also engaged in providing consumer information and assurance through the media and its helpline in relation to the food safety of meat products during the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease.
- 5.3.12** The Board has also undertaken advertising initiatives on TV, radio and in the press, designed to increase public awareness of the risks of food poisoning and the preventative measures that can be taken in the home.

**5.3.13** In 2001, the Board, in association with the Environmental Health Officers' Association, piloted a certified food hygiene course in a number of secondary schools. The course is being further developed for roll-out to secondary schools in the South as part of the Transition Year programme. Further adaptation is planned to suit its inclusion in secondary schools in Northern Ireland.

**5.3.14** The FSPB continued its programme of commissioning research projects, which include areas covering nutrition, toxicology, microbiology, risk assessment and risk communication. Projects will be completed within two to three years and are being carried out in various research centres and universities throughout the island.

## TRADE AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SECTOR

### TRADE AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BODY - *InterTradelreland*

- 5.4.1** The Council meets in the Trade and Business Development Sector in order to take decisions on policies and action to be implemented by the Trade and Business Development Body - *InterTradelreland*. Details in regard to the Ministers attending the meetings of the Council in this Sector in 2001 are contained in Annex 3.
- 5.4.2** *InterTradelreland* exercises a range of functions in the trade and business sector, and works in close collaboration with the existing development agencies, North and South. Its overall objective is to promote North/South trade and business development.

## FUNCTIONS/OBJECTIVES

5.4.3 *InterTradelreland's* mission, as stated in its Corporate Plan 2002-2004 is "to lead the development of the island economy through distinctive knowledge-based interventions, which will produce significant returns in the areas of cross-border trade and business development". *InterTradelreland* exercises a valuable range of functions in the pursuit of this objective. Under the overall policy direction of the NSMC, *InterTradelreland* works in close collaboration with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Belfast, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Dublin, and with the existing development agencies, North and South.

5.4.4 *InterTradelreland* also has the objective of enhancing enterprise competitiveness in a North/South context in areas such as skills availability, telecoms, information technology and electronic commerce.

5.4.5 The Board of *InterTradelreland* is chaired by Dr Martin Naughton and the Vice-Chair is Dr Harold Ennis. The Chief Executive of *InterTradelreland* is Mr Liam Nellis. The Board members are set out in Annex 7.

### Activities

5.4.6 The facilitation and promotion of North/South trade and business development was strengthened during 2001 through the work of the Council in its Trade and Business Development Sector and through the delivery of new interventions by *InterTradelreland*. There were two meetings of the

NSMC in its Trade and Business Development Sector in 2001, which took place on 16 February and 28 September. The Council approved *InterTradelreland's* Corporate Plan for 2002-2004, which defines its mission statement and strategic goals. The plan is themed around the concept of knowledge, as relating to the generation and dissemination of the information and expertise which are required by business to expand all-island trade and business development activity. *InterTradelreland* will work closely with existing agencies, North and South, as they implement their strategies. Some of *InterTradelreland's* major programmes and promotional activities include:

- an EquityNetwork, to promote awareness and exploitation of private equity funding among small and medium sized enterprises;
- an all-island Knowledge Transfer Initiative to link business with the education sector;
- an all-island Business Model, including the reconciliation of trade and related data;
- the development of an all-island trade portal;
- Public Procurement initiatives;
- Trade Awareness and Networking events; and
- Provision of value-added business information services.

**5.4.7** The Council approved proposals by *InterTradelreland* for the operation of two distinct but complementary all-island/cross-border graduate placement programmes, branded as Focus and Fusion, which link graduates, third level institutions, and business, in a marketing and technology transfer collaboration. Business interest in and uptake of the programmes have been very encouraging. Implementation of the programmes is continuing.

**5.4.8** The Council also approved an ambitious *InterTradelreland* programme to stimulate the use of private equity as a means to accelerate business growth in the SME sector. *InterTradelreland* subsequently launched the programme - now branded as *EquityNetwork* - with a focus in 2001 on its awareness and demand generation elements. A major international conference on the subject in April 2002 is a key aspect of ongoing implementation of this programme.

**5.4.9** The Council approved for publication *InterTradelreland's* Annual Review of Activities and Annual Accounts for 2000 (*InterTradelreland's* first Annual Report).

**5.4.10** *InterTradelreland* provided a contribution to an all-island Report on Enhancing Competitiveness that was considered by the Council in plenary session in November. That contribution highlighted all-island competitiveness issues in the areas of information technology, e-Commerce, telecoms and skills availability. In line with a decision of the Council on the matter, *InterTradelreland* is pursuing work on the all-island

competitiveness agenda in the four areas mentioned, with a view to defining actions for implementation and reporting on progress to the Council.

## SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES SECTOR

### SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

**5.5.1** The Council meets in the Special EU Programmes Sector in order to take decisions on policies and action to be implemented by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). Details in regard to the Ministers attending the meetings of the Council in this Sector are contained in Annex 3.

### FUNCTIONS/OBJECTIVES

**5.5.2** The SEUPB has assumed certain responsibilities for the 1994 - 1999 PEACE and Ireland/Northern Ireland INTERREG IIA Programmes. The Finance Departments, North and South, previously undertook these functions. Additionally, the SEUPB is the designated Managing Authority for the new PEACE II and Ireland/Northern Ireland INTERREG IIIA Programmes. This gives it significant managerial, grant-making and oversight functions in relation to these Programmes and the new round of Community Initiative Programmes (LEADER+, EQUAL and URBAN II) financed by European Structural Funds. The SEUPB also has responsibility for monitoring and promoting the implementation of North/South co-operative actions through the medium of the Common Chapter in the National Development Plan (NDP) for

Ireland and the Northern Ireland Structural Funds Plan.

## Activities

**5.5.3** The Council met three times in the Special EU Programmes Sector in 2001. These meetings took place in Dublin and were held on 9 April, 20 June and 30 October.

**5.5.4** The Council dealt with a range of business, which can be categorised under four topics, namely:

- Implementation of the new EU-supported Programme for Peace and Reconciliation, 2000-2004 and preparation of proposals for the Ireland/Northern Ireland INTERREG IIIA Programme (2000-2006);
- Closure of the existing Programmes for Peace and Reconciliation 1995-1999 and INTERREG IIA 1994-1999;
- Development of implementation and monitoring frameworks for the Common Chapter of the National Development Plan and Northern Ireland Structural Funds Plan;
- Matters relating to the corporate structure and business activity of the SEUPB for 2000-2006.

**5.5.5** The SEUPB has been designated by the authorities, North and South, to be the Managing Authority for both the new Peace and Reconciliation and INTERREG IIIA Programmes. These Programmes represent investment of some €700m and €173m of EU and national funds respectively in Northern Ireland and the Border Region over the

Programmes' lives. Additionally, the SEUPB plays a role in co-ordinating the North/South dimensions of all other EU-supported Programmes on the island, covering both Community Support Framework (CSF) activity and a range of Community Initiatives (EQUAL, LEADER+ and URBAN II) North and South. During the year the Council reviewed and, where necessary, approved arrangements to enable the SEUPB to carry out its functions.

**5.5.6** In relation to the INTERREG IIIA Programme, the Council, at its April meeting, accepted the recommendations of an Action Team, established to report to the NSMC, regarding the role of the three Border Corridor Groups, (made up of 18 local authorities, North and South), in the context of the Programme.

**5.5.7** The Council established a Working Group to review progress on the implementation of the Common Chapter and to identify proposals for taking the initiative forward. The Working Group reported to the Council at its October meeting. The Council approved the establishment of a permanent Joint Steering Group to oversee the implementation of the Common Chapter. In addition, the Council agreed to the establishment of a joint Common Chapter working group of the Northern Ireland CSF and Irish NDP/CSF Monitoring Committees.

## LANGUAGE SECTOR

### THE NORTH/SOUTH LANGUAGE BODY AN FORAS TEANGA THA BOORD O LEID

**5.6.1** The Council meets in the Language Sector in order to take decisions on policies and action to be implemented by the North/South Language Body. Details of the Ministers attending the meetings of the Council in this Sector are contained in Annex 3.

### FUNCTIONS/OBJECTIVES

**5.6.2** The Language Body is a single Body reporting to the North/South Ministerial Council (NSMC), but composed of two separate and largely autonomous agencies: the Irish Language Agency/Foras na Gaeilge; and the Ulster-Scots Agency/Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch.

**5.6.3** Foras na Gaeilge has responsibility for the promotion of the Irish language on an all-island basis.

**5.6.4** Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch has responsibility for the promotion of greater awareness and use of Ullans and of Ulster-Scots cultural issues, both within Northern Ireland and throughout the island.

**5.6.5** The Chairperson of Foras na Gaeilge, Maighréad Uí Mháirtín, and the Chairperson of Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch, Lord Laird of Artigarvan, are joint Chairpersons of the Language Body. The Body has a Board of 24 members

appointed by the NSMC. A list of Board Members and their agencies is at Annex 7.

## FORAS NA GAEILGE

### FEIDHMEANNA/CUSPÓIRÍ

**5.6.6** Chomh maith le feidhmeanna Bhord na Gaeilge a thabhairt chuige féin, tugadh réimse leathan d'fheidhmeanna don áisínteacht chun cur lena héifeacht maidir le cur chun cinn na Gaeilge. Mar shampla, in achar an oideachais, foclóirí agus téarmaíochta, ghlac sí chuici féin cúram an Choiste Téarmaíochta agus ghlac as lámh na feidhmeanna a bhaineann le cúrsaí foilseacháin a bhí ag An Gúm agus ag an aonad tacaíochta Gaeilge i gColáiste Ollscoile Naomh Muire,

**5.6.7** Is í Maighréad Uí Mháirtín atá mar Chathaoirleach ar Fhoras na Gaeilge agus tá 15 ball eile ar an Bhord.

### Gníomhaíochtaí

**5.6.8** Agus an nós imeachta in úsáid aici trína ndéantar cinní i bhformáidí earnálacha eile, cheadaigh an Chomhairle an Dréachtphlean Stráitéiseach d'Fhoras na Gaeilge a chlúdaíonn an tréimhse 2001-2010 ag cruinniú earnálach na nUiscebhealaí Intíre ar an 27 Meitheamh 2001.

**5.6.9** Tháinig an Chomhairle i gceann a chéile aon uair amháin san fhormáid Earnálach Teanga i 2001. Tionóladh an cruinniú ar 7 Nollaig. Chomhaontaigh an Chomhairle i bprionsabal go raibh

an t-iarratasóir a bhí molta ag an phainéal roghnúireachta inghlactha ag an Fhoras Teanga Thuaidh/Theas don phost mar PF ar Fhoras na Gaeilge agus go bhféadfaí idirbheartaíocht a thionscnamh leis an iarratasóir maidir le teacht ar chomhaontú láithreach ar thuarastal tosaithe agus choinníollacha seirbhíse eile.

**5.6.10** Ag an chruinniú seo fuair an Chomhairle eolas cothrom le dáta chomh maith ar shaincheisteanna maidir le Pleanáil Chorpáraídeach a bhaineann le Foras na Gaeilge. Ina measc siúd bhí cuntas gairid ar ghníomhaíochtaí na hÁisinteachta atá molta do 2002, lena n-áirítear tionscnaimh in achar an oideachais, san earnáil phobail agus ghnó, san earnáil phoiblí, sna healaíona agus i gcúrsaí taighde. Tabharfar faoi thionscnaimh chun dea-chleachtas i gcúrsaí bainisteoireachta agus pearsanra a chur i gcrích.

**5.6.11** D'iarr an Chomhairle ar Fhoras na Gaeilge ról ceannasaíochta a ghlacadh air féin i bpróiseas comhairlithe chun moltaí a chur chun tosaigh ar na bearta is gá a dhéanamh le haghaidh athbhreithniú ar chaighdeán oifigiúil na Gaeilge scríofa.

**5.6.12** Chomhaontaigh an Chomhairle ar Chód Iompraíochta do Bhaill an Bhoird agus d'Fhoireann Fhoras na Gaeilge.

**5.6.13** D'aontaigh an Chomhairle gur chóir go gcuirfí amach le haghaidh comhairliú poiblí Dréacht-Scéim Chomhionannais An Fhorais Teanga agus Plean Gnímh Fhoras na Gaeilge i leith Aimsiú Nua Riachtanas Sóisialta

**5.6.14** Tá tús curtha ag Foras na Gaeilge leis an obair chun Foclóir Béarla/Gaeilge nua-aimseartha d'ardchaighdeán a thiomsú.

**5.6.15** Sa bhliain 2001 rinne Foras na Gaeilge breis agus IRE7m/€8.88m/Stg£5.6m a dháileadh ar thionscadail Ghaeilge ar fud an oileáin. Cuireadh maoiniú ar fáil do 18 n-eagraíocht Ghaeilge dheonach, thuaidh agus theas. Tugadh maoiniú do bhreis agus 100 tionscadal teanga, thuaidh agus theas, lena n-áirítear an tionscadal CLÁR i gcomhar leis an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Forbartha Tuaithe.

**5.6.16** Ceadaiodh maoiniú chomh maith d'iriseán Idirlín [www.beo.ie](http://www.beo.ie) agus síníodh conradh nua trí bliana leis an iriseán Gaeilge COMHAR.

**5.6.17** Anuas air sin cheadaigh Foras na Gaeilge urraíocht shuntasach do na tionscadail seo a leanas:

- Cluiche ceannais camógaiochta na hÉireann i bPáirc an Chrócaigh
- Féile an Phobail i mBéal Feirste
- Ros na Rún ar TG4
- Comórtas an Eolai Óig
- Féile Lá 'le Pádraig
- Cumann Bhantracht Tuaithe na hÉireann

## FUNCTIONS/OBJECTIVES

**5.6.18** As well as taking over the functions of Bord na Gaeilge, the Agency was given a wide range of functions to add to its effectiveness in promoting Irish. For example, in the area of education, dictionaries and terminology, it assumed responsibility for the Terminology Committee and took over the functions of An Gúm and St Mary's University College Irish-medium support unit, which deal with publications.

**5.6.19** Maighr ad U  Mh irt n is Chairperson of Foras na Gaeilge and there are 15 other members on the Board.

### Activities

**5.6.20** Using the procedure of decisions being made in other sectoral formats, the Council approved the Draft Strategic Plan for Foras na Gaeilge covering the period 2001-2010 at the Inland Waterways Sector meeting on 27 June 2001.

**5.6.21** The Council met once in its Language Sector format in 2001. The meeting took place on 7 December. The Council agreed in principle that the recommended candidate of the selection panel was acceptable for appointment by the North/South Language Body to the post of CEO of Foras na Gaeilge and that negotiations could be opened with the candidate with a view to reaching early agreement on starting salary and other conditions of service.

**5.6.22** At this meeting the Council also received an update on Corporate Planning issues relating to Foras na Gaeilge. These included an outline of the Agency's proposed activities for 2002, incorporating initiatives in the educational sphere, the community and business sector, the public sector, the arts, and in research. Initiatives to achieve best practice in management and personnel will also be undertaken.

**5.6.23** The Council requested Foras na Gaeilge to take a lead role in a consultative process with a view to bringing forward proposals on the steps necessary for a review of the official standard of written Irish.

**5.6.24** The Council approved a Code of Conduct for Board Members and Staff of Foras na Gaeilge.

**5.6.25** The Council agreed that the Language Body's Draft Equality Scheme and the Foras na Gaeilge New Targeting Social Need Action Plan should go to public consultation.

**5.6.26** Foras na Gaeilge has begun work on producing a modern, high quality English/Irish Dictionary.

**5.6.27** Foras na Gaeilge allocated over IR 7m/ 8.88m/Stg 5.6m in 2001 to Irish language projects throughout the island. Funding was provided for 18 voluntary Irish language organisations, North and South. In excess of 100 Language projects, north and south, including the CL R project in association with the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, received funding.

**5.6.28** Funding was also approved for an Internet magazine [www.beo.ie](http://www.beo.ie), and a new three year contract was signed with the Irish magazine COMHAR.

**5.6.29** Foras na Gaeilge also provided substantial sponsorship for the following projects:

- All-Ireland Camogie final in Croke Park
- F ile an Phobal in Belfast
- Ros na R n on TG4
- Young Scientist Competition
- Saint Patrick's Day festival
- Irish Country Women's Association



## THA BOORD O ULSTÈR SCOTCH THE ULSTER-SCOTS AGENCY

### DARGS/ETTLINS

**5.6.30** Tha darg o Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch (tha Ulstèr-Scotch Agentrie) wud be furtae fordèr mair wittin an yaisin o Ullans an maittèrs anent Ulstèr-Scotch fowkgates, ben Norlin Airlann an athort tha islann furbye.

**5.6.31** Laird Laird o Artigarvan bes tha Preses o Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch an thar bes seivin ithèr memmers oan tha Boord.

### Daeins

**5.6.32** Quhaniver its Leid Shaidin foregaiterin oan 7 Decemmer wus hauden, tha Council gat newins anent Hannlin Mintin maittèrs adae wi Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch. Thir taen in roadins fur leid an lear ontaks, an proponins anent takkin oan dagers fur tha Ulstèr-Scotch Agentrie.

**5.6.33** Tha Council homologatit tha thirlin throch-pittin fur a new Heid Guider fur tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch.

**5.6.34** Tha Council homologatit furbye a Rede o Sel-Guidin fur Boord memmers o Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch. Yins is fur makkin an inpittin tae tha Council o a Rede o Sel-Guidin quhaniver tha Agentrie haes its thirlin throchit.

**5.6.35** Tha Council homologatit furbye tha New Kempin Inlaik o Mense Jeein Rede o Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch fur inpittin tae apen discourse wi tha hale feck o resydentèrs.

**5.6.36** Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch haudit tae its darg o throchin its wisin, takkin tent o forderin tha Ulstèr-Scotch leid an fowkgates, giein a heeze tae tha lear o thaim, an fairin tha lippenin o tha baith amang tha resydentèrs. Amang tha pratticks at tha Agentrie fendit throch twa thoosan an yin wus:

- A feck o sillerin fur the Steidin o Ulstèr-Scotch Buik-Learin at tha Universitie o Ulstèr, Magee Collidge, quhilk wus stellit in Jennerwarry o twa thoosan an yin.
- Sillerin fur tha Ulstèr-Scotch Heirskip Cooncil.
- Sillerin inpit fur tha Ulstèr-Scotch bät o tha Maiden Citie Blythe-Tid hauden in Ageest twa thoosan an yin.
- Sillerin inpit fur an Ulstèr-Scotch gaiterin tae rin inbye tha Ulstèr Pipe Bann Gree-Kempin.
- A heid collogue o Ulstèr-Scotch curns, tha Gan Forrit collogue, hauden in Galgorm in tha coontie Antrim oan 24 Novemmer twa thoosan an yin.

### FUNCTIONS/OBJECTIVES

**5.6.37** The remit of Tha Boord o Ulstèr Scotch (the Ulster-Scots Agency) is the promotion of greater awareness and the use of Ullans and of Ulster-Scots cultural issues, both within Northern Ireland and throughout the island.

**5.6.38** Lord Laird of Artigarvan is the Chairman of Tha Boord o Ulstèr Scotch and there are 7 other members on the Board.



## Activities

**5.6.39** At its Language Sector meeting on 7 December, the Council received an update on the Corporate Planning issues relating to Tha Boord o Ulstèr Scotch. These included strategies for linguistic and educational programmes, and proposals for staff recruitment to the Ulster-Scots Agency.

**5.6.40** The Council approved the recruitment process for a new Chief Executive for Tha Boord o Ulstèr Scotch.

**5.6.41** The Council also approved a Code of Conduct for Board members of Tha Boord o Ulstèr Scotch. A Code of Conduct for the staff of the Agency will be submitted to the Council when the Agency completes its recruitment.

**5.6.42** The Council also approved Tha Boord o Ulstèr Scotch New Targeting Social Need Action Plan for submission to public consultation.

**5.6.43** Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch continued its work on fulfilling its mandate, focussing on developing the Ulster-Scots language and culture, promoting their study and increasing public understanding of both. Amongst the projects supported by the Agency in 2001 were:

- Part funding for the Institute of Ulster-Scots Studies at the University of Ulster, Magee College, which was launched in January 2001.
- Funding for the Ulster-Scots Heritage Council.
- Funding towards the Ulster-Scots element of the Maiden City Festival held in August 2001.
- Funding towards an Ulster-Scots

*gaitherin* to run alongside the Ulster Pipe Band Championships.

- A major conference of Ulster-Scots organisations, the Gan Forrit conference, held in Galgorm, Co. Antrim on 24 November 2001.

## AQUACULTURE AND MARINE SECTOR

### FOYLE, CARLINGFORD AND IRISH LIGHTS COMMISSION

**5.7.1** The Council meets in the Aquaculture and Marine Sector in order to take decisions on policies and action to be implemented by the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission (FCILC). Details in regard to the Ministers attending the meetings of the Council in this Sector are contained in Annex 3.

**5.7.2** The FCILC exercises its functions through two agencies. The functions of the Commission in relation to the Foyle and Carlingford Areas are exercised through an agency known as the Loughs Agency. The Loughs Agency is now operational and has replaced the Foyle Fisheries Commission. It is also intended that the FCILC will be the General Lighthouse Authority for the island of Ireland. This function currently rests with the Commissioners of Irish Lights which has accountability to the UK Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions, as Trustee of the General Lighthouse Fund. Under the relevant provisions, British and Irish legislation is to be brought forward to transfer the Commissioners of Irish Lights

functions to the FCILC, these functions being exercised through an agency of the FCILC known as the Lights Agency. The FCILC has a board of 12 members appointed by the NSMC. The members of the Board are set out in Annex 7. The Commission is chaired by Mr Peter Savage and the Vice-Chair is Lord Cooke of Islandreagh. The Board of FCILC met on 3 occasions during 2001.

## LOUGHS AGENCY

### FUNCTIONS/OBJECTIVES

- 5.7.3** The Loughs Agency was given responsibility for the functions of the Foyle Fisheries Commission on 2 December 1999. These functions, “the conservation, protection and improvement of the fisheries of the Foyle Area”, were extended to the Carlingford Area. In addition, the Agency is responsible for the promotion of the development of Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough for commercial and recreational purposes in the area of marine fishery and aquaculture matters, the development of marine tourism and the development and licensing of aquaculture in the Foyle and Carlingford Areas.
- 5.7.4** Fundamental to the Agency undertaking this full range of responsibilities is the amendment of the primary legislation under which the Foyle Fisheries Commission operated. The necessary amendments to this legislation - the Foyle Fisheries Act 1952 and the Foyle Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1952 - are in the course of preparation by the Department of Marine and Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture and

Rural Development.

- 5.7.5** The Chief Executive of the Loughs Agency is Mr Derick Anderson.
- 5.7.6** The Agency has a staff complement of 33.
- 5.7.7** The new Headquarters established at Prehen on the Foyle was officially opened in June. The new premises is also to contain interpretative and education facilities.

### Activities

- 5.7.8** Three meetings of the North/South Ministerial Council in its Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission format were held in 2001 on 6 April, 22 June and 26 October. At these meetings, the Council gave direction to the work of the Loughs Agency.
- 5.7.9** During the year the Council brought into effect a number of pieces of secondary legislation regulating the work of the Agency in relation to the conservation and protection of fish stocks viz: Foyle Area and Carlingford Area (Tagging and Log Book) Regulations 2001; Foyle Area and Carlingford Area (Close Season for Angling) Regulations 2001; Foyle Area and Carlingford Area (Angling) Regulations 2001; and Foyle Area and Carlingford Area (Licensing of Fishing Engines) Regulations 2001.
- 5.7.10** In April, the Council approved the submission of the Agency’s draft Equality Scheme to the Equality Commission for final approval.

**5.7.11** In June, the Council gave approval for the Loughs Agency to issue its draft New Targeting Social Need Action Plan for public consultation and noted the Agency's proposal to draw up a Co-ordinated Local Aquaculture Management System (CLAMS).

**5.7.12** The Council also authorised the Board of the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission to proceed with proposals to establish an Advisory Forum and Focus Groups as part of the Body's consultation arrangements.

**5.7.13** In October, the Council approved the Agency's proposal for the completion of its Interpretive Centre at its headquarters in Prehen.

**5.7.14** The Agency briefed the Council on its proposals to engage in a two-year genetic study of the salmon populations of the Foyle Area. This is to be the first ever examination of interaction between a rod fishery and underlying salmon population structure, the Study being undertaken in association with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Queens University Belfast, and the Marine Institute, Dublin.

**5.7.15** At its meeting in April the Council approved a proposal to defer a review of the Loughs Agency's staffing and structure until January 2002. The Council also approved a proposal that a review of the grading and salary of certain Loughs Agency field staff posts would be undertaken as soon as possible.

**5.7.16** The Council also noted the progress to date and timetable in relation to bringing forward the

fisheries legislation required under the Agreement on North/South Bodies between the UK and Irish Governments.

## THE LIGHTS AGENCY

**5.7.17** As mentioned in paragraph 5.7.2, under the relevant provisions, FCILC is to be the General Lighthouse Authority for the island of Ireland. This function currently rests with the Commissioners of Irish Lights (CIL). It was intended that these functions would be exercised through an agency of the FCILC known as the Lights Agency.

**5.7.18** There are specific provisions in the British-Irish Agreement Act, 1999 and the North-South Co-operation (Implementation Bodies) (Northern Ireland) Order, 1999 which acknowledge the need to put in place special arrangements for the Lights Agency in view of the unique East-West dimension and legislative and funding arrangements existing for CIL.

**5.7.19** The transfer of the functions of the Commissioners of Irish Lights to the FCILC, which was mandated in the British-Irish Agreement establishing the FCILC, has not to date proved possible. There are complex issues involved which require amendments to be made, by way of UK legislation, to the Merchant Shipping Act, 1995.

**5.7.20** Discussions are ongoing between the two Governments and the relevant Northern Ireland Departments to address the legislative, corporate and financial issues involved. This issue was discussed at a meeting of the NSMC in its Institutional Format held on 17 December 2001.

## AGRICULTURE SECTOR

- 5.8.1** The aspects of North/South co-operation in Agriculture that were agreed for initial consideration by the North/South Ministerial Council (NSMC) were Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) issues, animal and plant health policy and research, and rural development. Details in regard to the Ministers attending the meetings of the Council in this Sector are contained in Annex 3.
- 5.8.2** The NSMC met twice in the Agriculture Sector during 2001. These meetings took place on 6 April and 4 October.
- 5.8.3** The meeting in April concentrated on matters relating to animal health, and in particular, the issue of Foot and Mouth Disease. The Council was very pleased with the success of the joint efforts North and South in limiting the spread of the disease on the island. The Council agreed that a Steering Group of officials would be established to develop a strategy for the control of animal movements on the island, drawing on work done in both jurisdictions. This group would consider the means of prevention, containment and eradication of future epizootic disease outbreaks on the island.
- 5.8.4** At its meeting in October, the Council agreed that officials should continue discussions with the Development Agencies and with the Pig Industry to develop appropriate action to improve the competitive position of the pig sector on the island.
- 5.8.5** The Council has also discussed common concerns in relation to the World Trade Organisation, European Union enlargement and

Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.

- 5.8.6** The Council noted the progress made by the Steering Committee on Cross Border Rural Development in fulfilling its work programme as endorsed by the NSMC. The Council particularly noted the current state of research work commissioned by the Steering Committee in relation to (i) co-operation between cross-border rural communities and (ii) cross-border rural development education, training and research.

## EDUCATION SECTOR

- 5.9.1** The aspects of North/South co-operation in Education that were agreed for initial consideration by the North/South Ministerial Council (NSMC) were education for children with special needs; educational underachievement; teacher qualifications and school, youth and teacher exchanges. Details in regard to the Ministers attending the meeting of the Council this Sector are contained in Annex 3.
- 5.9.2** The Council met once in the Educational Sector on 28 November 2001.
- 5.9.3** A meeting of the Council in the Education Sector, arranged for 22 June 2001, did not take place, because no Northern Ireland Ministers were nominated to attend.
- 5.9.4** At its meeting on 28 November, the Council reviewed progress on each of the key areas for co-operation and underlined the importance of and mutual benefit to be derived from work in these areas.

- 5.9.5** The Council considered the progress reports from the Joint Working Groups which were established at a previous meeting and agreed the priorities and future work programmes of each of the Groups.
- 5.9.6** In relation to Special Education, where the initial focus is on autism and dyslexia, the Council agreed a number of actions, including the introduction of a special education exchange programme for teachers and the development of complimentary parent and teacher videos/CD-ROMs and of guidance material.
- 5.9.7** In another key area, Literacy and Numeracy, the Council approved the establishment of arrangements for the exchange of teaching materials. The Council also agreed actions aimed at improving pupil attendance and retention including the dissemination of good practice and to undertake a targeted pilot project aimed at improving parental involvement.
- 5.9.8** The Council also agreed further work by the Working Groups on Teachers Superannuation and Teacher Qualifications which aim to contribute to the reduction of barriers to North-South mobility in that profession.
- 5.9.9** In addition, the Council noted the Scoping Study by the Centre for Cross Border Studies in Armagh on the effectiveness of school, youth and teacher exchanges and, having regard to the outcomes from a recent consultative conference on the report, agreed that suitable processes and structures should be established to improve the ways in which exchanges are managed and facilitated.

- 5.9.10** In the context of co-operation in relation to EU programmes, the Council noted that bids would be invited shortly by the two Education Departments, acting jointly, for funding for cross-border projects under the EU Peace II Programme.

## FOOD SAFETY AND HEALTH SECTORS

### HEALTH CO-OPERATION

- 5.10.1** The Council in sectoral format also considers areas for co-operation in Health in addition to matters related to the Food Safety Promotion Board. The priorities identified for health co-operation are Accident and Emergency Services, Planning for Major Emergencies, High Technology Equipment, Cancer Research and Health Promotion.
- 5.10.2** Details in regard to the Ministers attending the meetings of the Council in these Sectors are contained in Annex 3.
- 5.10.3** The Council met once in the Food Safety and Health Sectors in 2001. This meeting took place on 16 November in Belfast.
- 5.10.4** A meeting of the Council in the Food Safety and Health Sectors, arranged for 29 June 2001 did not take place, because no Northern Ireland Ministers were nominated to attend.
- 5.10.5** At its meeting on 16 November, the Council received further reports on progress in implementing the programme of work it had approved at the previous meeting on 4 July 2000 for each of the five areas in the Health sector and reviewed the position in relation to each.

- 5.10.6** Under the heading, Accident and Emergency Services, two broad areas for co-operation have been identified. These are hospital services in the border areas and specialist services on the wider regional basis where delivery on an all-island catchment basis is viable.
- 5.10.7** A North South Regional Hospital Services Group (NSRHSG) has been established to consider the opportunities for developing partnerships covering the wider regional services. The Council requested the NSRHSG to consider the report of the Acute Hospitals Review in the North, which suggests that there is considerable potential to develop existing cross-border initiatives for the benefit of patients.
- 5.10.8** The Council noted that information will be exchanged on the respective reviews of renal services, North and South. The Council also noted progress on joint training, staff development and exchange opportunities in radiotherapy services.
- 5.10.9** In relation to Planning for Major Emergencies, the Council noted a programme of cross-border emergency planning training courses, covering the medical response to a major incident, and the proposals for the development of integrated communication protocols to activate hospital and community response in a major emergency.
- 5.10.10** The Council noted and endorsed the proposals for the introduction of "First Responder" schemes in border areas and the development of a Road Traffic Accident Response Strategy for Fire Brigades in border areas.
- 5.10.11** A joint commissioning and shared costs approach for an evaluation of a Helicopter Emergency Medical Service, to include options for the location(s) of such a service, was approved by the Council.
- 5.10.12** On the subject of High Technology Equipment, the Council endorsed the membership of and agreed a work programme for a Joint Health Technology Group which is charged with drawing up protocols for the assessment and evaluation of emerging and new technology in this field.
- 5.10.13** The Council noted the current co-operation on Cancer Research. A Memorandum of Understanding establishing a cancer Consortium between the National Cancer Institute in the USA and the Departments of Health, North and South, has created a framework within which an all-island infrastructure for joint programmes in clinical cancer research is being developed. Other initiatives in cancer research noted by the Council include: the establishment of cancer epidemiology fellowships; development of hospital infrastructure to conduct high quality cancer clinical trials and the plans to co-ordinate all-island clinical trial activity; the development of telesynergy communications links which will be of benefit for consulting on rare and difficult cancers and in postgraduate training; and, finally, the proposals to extend a scholar exchange programme under the aegis of the Cancer Consortium.



**5.10.14** A number of developments in collaborative work that have taken place in Health Promotion were noted by the Council. Within the year from November 2000, two major joint publicity campaigns had taken place; one on folic acid and one on the benefits of physical activity. The Council also noted that the two Health Departments are working together to develop a joint strategically planned health promotion programme and training resource.

## ENVIRONMENT SECTOR

**5.11.1** Areas for North/South co-operation that were agreed for consideration by the North/South Ministerial Council (NSMC) up to December 2001 included water quality management, waste management in a cross-border context, research into environmental protection, new technologies for monitoring, environmental databases, environmental impacts of agriculture and information exchange and environmental awareness.

**5.11.2** The NSMC met on three occasions in the Environment Sector in 2001. The meetings took place on 23 February, 15 June and 14 December. Details of the Ministers attending the meetings of the Council in this Sector are contained in Annex 3.

**5.11.3** A working group on water quality, supported by a technical advisory group, was set up to review and update work on the Erne and Foyle catchment management strategies proposed in 1997/1998 and to explore the issues associated with the future implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

Consultants commissioned by the working group, reported on the main issues in relation to current water management strategies for the Erne and Foyle catchments and made recommendations on the technical requirements for implementation of the WFD. The Council endorsed a set of principles for the delineation of International River Basin Districts (IRBDs) required under the WFD. The Council also endorsed the work undertaken to date by the working group and the general approach being adopted for the delineation of IRBDs. The Council has requested the working group to present recommendations as to the areas to be delineated.

**5.11.4** The Council agreed that a co-operative approach should be taken to develop proposals to encourage and support the expansion of waste recycling. These proposals include consideration of a Market Development Programme for the island and an island-wide Community Recycling Network. The Council approved the establishment, membership, terms of reference and work programme of a steering group of officials from the two jurisdictions, to consider and develop a structured co-operative approach to a joint Market Development Programme. The steering group will report progress to the Council. The Council also noted progress to date in identifying options to encourage the expansion of waste recycling, including the consideration of proposals for the establishment of an all-island Community Recycling Network and a joint North/South initiative to investigate areas of best practice within Europe, where recycling, and markets for recyclates, have been successfully established.

- 5.11.5** In relation to Environmental Research, the Environment and Heritage Service (EHS) of the Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are working together on the development of a jointly funded interactive website of current environmental research projects. The Council agreed the commissioning of a jointly funded contract to develop the website. It is expected that the website will be available early in 2002.
- 5.11.6** Work in the area of New Technologies for Monitoring is intended to develop a harmonised and compatible basis for monitoring methodologies and classification systems used. EHS and the EPA prepared a joint report on New Technologies for Monitoring, which was published and placed on the relevant agency websites. Three areas of the aquatic environment were selected for initial co-operation, as recommended in the joint report, namely chemical monitoring of surface waters, biological monitoring of surface waters, and fish stocks.
- 5.11.7** EHS and the EPA are taking forward an environmental database development and co-operation programme. The Council approved the planned work on a sample cross border area for comparison of land cover data, and noted the selection of the Dundalk/Newry area for this purpose. The Council also noted the progress in testing the compatibility of the separate EHS and EPA systems for cataloguing environmental information.
- 5.11.8** The Council agreed arrangements, including terms of reference and the establishment of a steering group to oversee a joint scoping study on the environmental impacts of agriculture. It is the intention that the study should examine nutrient management planning in agriculture and controls on the cross-border management/movement of slurries and spent mushroom compost. The study will identify strengths and weaknesses in current practices and controls both North and South and will provide a basis for developing co-operation in this area. The Council approved the arrangements for the recruitment and funding of two researchers who will work under senior scientific supervision provided by the relevant agriculture agencies in the two jurisdictions. The researchers will produce a joint report for presentation to the Council.
- 5.11.9** In the area of Information Exchange and Environmental Awareness Raising, the Council agreed that officials of ENFO, the Environment Information Service in the South, and EHS, should work together to explore and develop opportunities for further information exchange and joint environmental education/awareness raising in areas of common interest.

## TOURISM SECTOR

- 5.12.1** The North/South Ministerial Council (NSMC) met three times in the Tourism Sector in 2001. These meetings took place on 30 March, on 29 June, and on 7 November. Details of the Ministers attending the meetings of the Council in this Sector are contained in Annex 3.



- 5.12.2** The major decisions in this sector related to the setting up of the North/South Tourism Company, Tourism Ireland Ltd. Tourism Ireland Ltd. is a publicly-owned limited company which is responsible for marketing the island of Ireland overseas as a tourist destination. The Company was incorporated in December 2000 and its board was appointed in December 2000 by the NSMC.
- 5.12.3** The Council agreed that Tourism Ireland Ltd. would have an important role to play in enhancing co-operation between North and South in promoting tourism to the island. The Council expressed its determination to work closely with Tourism Ireland Ltd. and with the industry in ensuring that the future for tourism in both parts of the island is a positive one and that the potential of the industry is realised to the full.
- 5.12.4** The Council approved the appointment of Mr. Paul O'Toole as Chief Executive of Tourism Ireland Ltd. The Council also approved proposals on the staffing structure for the Company, which included details on remuneration, grading, conditions of service and numbers of staff in the new Company. Tourism Ireland's staff complement will include staff transferred to the company from Bord Fáilte Éireann and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board as well as those recruited externally.
- 5.12.5** The Council approved the Company's Operating Plan for 2001. The Operating Plan focuses on the Company's proposals for getting the company up and running in order to be able to take responsibility for the marketing campaign for the 2002 tourism season. The main activities for 2001 related to the commencement of operations, the development and launch of Phase II of Tourism Brand Ireland (TBI) and the planning of marketing programmes for 2002.
- 5.12.6** On 7 November 2001, the Company launched a comprehensive marketing programme which will be used to promote the island of Ireland as a tourist destination for the 2002 tourism season. This is the first integrated marketing programme for tourism on the island of Ireland. The launch, which took place in Dublin and Belfast was followed with a series of launches in Tourism Ireland's major overseas markets, namely the USA, Canada, Britain, Germany and France. The Company will have an annual marketing budget of approx. €26.6m/Stg£16.5m to carry out its activities.
- 5.12.7** The marketing programme incorporates both television and print advertising in a range of overseas markets and has a 2002 media budget in excess of €10m/Stg£6m.
- 5.12.8** In addition, the Council, in this format, has discussed the establishment of a number of Joint North/South Training Initiatives in the Tourism and Hospitality industries. The Council received an update on the support mechanisms and training arrangements for the Tourism and Hospitality Sector in both parts of the island. This included joint initiatives such as the International Fund for Ireland Tourism Programme which has facilitated North/South collaboration between the training agencies, tourism marketing boards and industry representative associations.

## TRANSPORT SECTOR

- 5.13.1** The aspects that were agreed for initial consideration by the North South Ministerial Council (NSMC) are strategic planning and road and rail safety. While co-operation would primarily arise in respect of road and rail planning, it would take account of issues arising in the port and airport sectors.
- 5.13.2** As no Northern Ireland Ministers were available, it was not possible to arrange any meetings in this Sector during 2001. However, it was decided at the Institutional Format meeting on 17 December 2001 that officials from both Administrations and the Joint Secretariat would explore the possibility of the next Sectoral meeting on Transport concentrating on road safety issues.

The background is a solid dark blue. Overlaid on this are several large, light blue geometric shapes. There are two concentric circles in the center. Surrounding them are several irregular, angular shapes that resemble stylized letters or abstract forms, all drawn with a consistent light blue line weight.

CHAPTER 6  
THE JOINT SECRETARIAT

# BACKGROUND

6.1 Strand Two of the Agreement specified that the North/South Ministerial Council was to be supported by a standing Joint Secretariat, staffed by members of the Northern Ireland Civil Service and the Irish Government Civil Service. The Southern side of the Joint Secretariat operates under the aegis of the Department of Foreign Affairs, while the Northern Ireland side operates under the aegis of the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister.

## STAFFING

6.2 The Memorandum of Understanding on Procedure agreed by the Council at the Inaugural Plenary meeting in Armagh on 13 December, 1999 set out the arrangements for, and the functions of, the Joint Secretariat of the Council. Under the terms of the Memorandum, it was agreed that the Joint Secretariat would be located in Armagh headed by Joint Secretaries, one appointed by each Administration. Each side was also required to nominate a deputy Joint Secretary and other administrative and clerical support staff. Officials from both sides of the Secretariat work alongside one another in shared office accommodation in Armagh. Dick Mackenzie served as the Northern Joint Secretary during 2001, having taken up his post in September 2000. (Following Dick Mackenzie's retirement, he has been succeeded as Northern Joint Secretary by Dr. Peter Smyth). Tim O'Connor is the Southern Joint Secretary, and he has been

in the post since December 1999. The two Deputy Joint Secretaries during 2001 were Helen Browne (South) and Pat Donaghy (North). An organisation chart is included in Annex 5.

## FUNCTIONS

6.3 Under the terms of the Memorandum, the functions of the Joint Secretariat include:

- arranging the schedule of Council meetings in different formats;
- securing prior political/Ministerial agreement to agendas for meetings of the Council;
- preparing or commissioning papers for meetings of the Council, including in relation to its work programme;
- drafting joint communiqués and records of decisions of the Council;
- communicating decisions of the Council and monitoring their implementation;
- drafting an annual report on the proceedings of the Council;
- acting as a channel of communication with Implementation Bodies and facilitating their development;
- liaising, where appropriate through the designated Department or Office in either jurisdiction with the Secretariat of the British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference, with the Secretariat of the British Irish Council and with the North/South joint

parliamentary forum and independent consultative forum when established;

- carrying out such other tasks as the Council may direct.

## FUNDING

- 6.4 The costs of meetings of the North/South Ministerial Council are borne by the host administration, with travel and subsistence costs for Ministers and officials being borne by their administrations - see Annex 4.
- 6.5 Staff costs associated with the Joint Secretariat are met by their parent administrations. All other costs associated with the Joint Secretariat or the Council are divided equally between the two administrations.





ANNEX 1  
ATTENDANCE AT PLENARY MEETING

## NORTH/SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING IN PLENARY FORMAT

Friday 30 November 2001, Dublin Castle

| List of Northern Ireland Ministers   | List of Southern Ministers   |
|--|--|
| <b>Rt Hon David Trimble MP MLA</b> (First Minister)                                  | <b>Bertie Ahern TD</b> (Taoiseach)   |
| <b>Mark Durkan MLA</b> (Deputy First Minister and Minister of Finance and Personnel) | <b>Mary Harney TD</b> (Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment)                         |
| <b>Bairbre de Brún MLA</b> (Minister of Health, Social Services & Public Safety)     | <b>Michael Woods TD</b> (Minister for Education and Science)   |
| <b>Sir Reg Empey MLA</b> (Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment)              | <b>Mary O'Rourke TD</b> (Minister for Public Enterprise)   |
| <b>Seán Farren MLA</b> (Minister of Employment and Learning)                         | <b>Brian Cowen TD</b> (Minister for Foreign Affairs)   |
| <b>Sam Foster MLA</b> (Minister of Environment)                                      | <b>Noel Dempsey TD</b> (Minister for the Environment and Local Government)                                 |
| <b>Michael McGimpsey MLA</b> (Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure)                 | <b>Dermot Ahern TD</b> (Minister for Social, Community & Family Affairs)                                   |
| <b>Martin McGuinness MP MLA</b> (Minister of Education)                              | <b>Síle De Valera TD</b> (Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands)                          |
| <b>Brid Rodgers MLA</b> (Minister of Agriculture & Rural Development)                | <b>John O'Donoghue TD</b> (Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform)                                  |
|  | <b>James McDaid TD</b> (Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation)  |
|  | <b>Micheál Martin TD</b> (Minister for Health and Children)  |
|  | <b>Liz O'Donnell TD</b> (Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs)                           |
|  | <b>Mary Coughlan TD</b> (Minister of State at the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands) |



The background is a solid dark blue color. Overlaid on this are several large, light blue geometric shapes. These include a large circle in the center, a large triangle pointing downwards on the left side, and a large triangle pointing upwards on the right side. The shapes are outlined and do not have a fill color.

ANNEX 2  
ATTENDANCE AT INSTITUTIONAL MEETING

## NORTH/SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING IN INSTITUTIONAL FORMAT

Monday 17 December 2001 - Inaugural Institutional Format Meeting,  
Parliament Buildings, Belfast

| Northern Ireland Ministers  | Southern Minister                             |
|---|---|
| Rt Hon David Trimble MP MLA (First Minister)<br><br>Mark Durkan MLA (Deputy First Minister) | Brian Cowen TD (Minister for Foreign Affairs) |

The background is a solid dark blue color. Overlaid on this are several large, light blue geometric shapes. These include a large circle in the center, a large triangle pointing downwards on the left side, and a large triangle pointing upwards on the right side. The shapes are semi-transparent, allowing the dark blue background to show through. The text is centered within the circle.

ANNEX 3  
ATTENDANCE AT SECTORAL MEETINGS

ATTENDANCE AT NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL SECTORAL MEETINGS 2001

| Date               | Sector                         | Venue                    | Northern Ireland Administration  | Irish Government   |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| Monday 29 January  | Waterways                      | Scarriff, Co Clare       | Mr Michael McGimpsey, MLA, Minister of Culture Arts & Leisure<br>Mr Denis Haughey, MLA, Minister in OFMDFM   | Ms Síle de Valera, TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage Gaeltacht and the Islands (Chair) |
| Friday 16 February | Trade and Business Development | Dundalk                  | Sir Reg Empey, MLA, Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment<br>Dr Seán Farren, MLA, Minister of Higher and Further Education, Training and Employment | Ms Mary Harney, TD, Tánaiste & Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Chair) |
| Friday 23 February | Environment                    | Belle Isle, Co Fermanagh | Mr Sam Foster, MLA, Minister of Environment (Chair)<br>Mr Mark Durkan, MLA, Minister of Finance and Personnel  | Mr Noel Dempsey, TD, Minister for the Environment and Local Government               |
| Friday 30 March    | Tourism                        | Letterkenny              | Sir Reg Empey, MLA, Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment<br>Dr Seán Farren, MLA, Minister of Higher and Further Education, Training and Employment | Dr James McDaid, TD, Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation (Chair)              |
| Friday 6 April     | FCILC                          | Dublin                   | Mrs Brid Rodgers, MLA, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development<br>Mr Sam Foster, MLA, Minister of Environment  | Mr Frank Fahey, TD, Minister for the Marine & Natural Resources (Chair)              |

| Date              | Sector                | Venue             | Northern Ireland Administration   | Irish Government  |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---|---|
| Friday 6 April    | Agriculture           | Dublin            | Mrs Brid Rodgers, MLA, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development<br>Mr Sam Foster, MLA, Minister of Environment         | Mr Joe Walsh, TD, Minister for Agriculture, Food & Rural Development (Chair)                        |
| Monday 9 April    | Special EU Programmes | Dublin            | Mr Mark Durkan, MLA, Minister of Finance and Personnel<br>Mr Dermot Nesbitt, MLA, Minister in OFMDFM                        | Mr Charlie McCreevy, TD, Minister for Finance (Chair)   |
| Friday 15 June    | Environment           | Dromad, Co Louth  | Mr Sam Foster, MLA, Minister of Environment<br>Mr Mark Durkan, MLA, Minister of Finance and Personnel                       | Mr Dan Wallace, TD, Minister of State at the Department of Environment and Local Government (Chair) |
| Wednesday 20 June | Special EU Programmes | Dublin            | Mr Mark Durkan, MLA, Minister of Finance and Personnel<br>Mr Dermot Nesbitt, MLA, Minister in OFMDFM                        | Mr Charlie McCreevy, TD, Minister for Finance (Chair)   |
| Friday 22 June    | FCILC                 | Derry/Londonderry | Mrs Brid Rodgers, MLA, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (Chair)<br>Mr Sam Foster, MLA, Minister of Environment | Mr Frank Fahey, TD, Minister for the Marine & Natural Resources                                     |

ATTENDANCE AT NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL SECTORAL MEETINGS 2001

| Date                | Sector                         | Venue            | Northern Ireland Administration  | Irish Government  |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|--|---|
| Wednesday 27 June   | Waterways                      | Enniskillen      | Mr Michael McGimpsey, MLA, Minister of Culture Arts & Leisure (Chair)<br>Dr Seán Farren, MLA, Minister of Higher and Further Education, Training & Employment  | Ms Sile de Valera, TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands |
| Friday 29 June      | Tourism                        | Coleraine        | Sir Reg Empey, MLA, Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (Chair)<br>Dr Seán Farren, MLA, Minister of Higher & Further Education, Training & Employment | Dr James McDaid, TD, Minister for Tourism, Sport & Recreation                 |
| Friday 28 September | Trade and Business Development | Newry            | Sir Reg Empey, MLA, Minister of Enterprise, Trade & Investment (Chair)<br>Dr Seán Farren, MLA, Minister of Employment & Learning                               | Ms Mary Harney, TD, Tánaiste & Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment  |
| Thursday 4 October  | Agriculture                    | Dromad, Co Louth | Mrs Brid Rodgers, MLA, Minister of Agriculture & Rural Development<br>Mr Dermot Nesbitt, MLA, Minister in OFMDFM   | Mr Joe Walsh, TD, Minister for Agriculture, Food & Rural Development (Chair)  |
| Friday 26 October   | FCILC                          | Bundoran         | Mrs Brid Rodgers, MLA, Minister of Agriculture & Rural Development<br>Mr Dermot Nesbitt, MLA, Minister in OFMDFM   | Mr Frank Fahey, TD, Minister for the Marine & Natural Resources (Chair)       |

| Date                 | Sector                | Venue              | Northern Ireland Administration  | Irish Government  |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--|---|
| Tuesday 30 October   | Special EU Programmes | Dublin             | Mr Mark Durkan, MLA, Minister of Finance & Personnel<br>Mr Dermot Nesbitt, MLA, Minister in OFMDFM                                 | Mr Charlie McCreevy, TD, Minister for Finance (Chair)   |
| Wednesday 7 November | Tourism               | Dublin             | Sir Reg Empey, MLA, Minister of Enterprise, Trade & Employment<br>Dr Seán Farren, MLA, Minister of Employment & Learning           | Dr James McDaid, TD, Minister for Tourism, Sport & Recreation (Chair)   |
| Friday 16 November   | Health/Food Safety    | Belfast            | Ms Bairbre De Brún, MLA, Minister of Health, Social Services & Public Safety (Chair)<br>Mr Dermot Nesbitt, MLA, Minister in OFMDFM | Mr Micheál Martin, TD, Minister for Health & Children<br>Dr Tom Moffatt, TD, Minister of State at Department of Health and Children |
| Friday 23 November   | Waterways             | Carrick-on-Shannon | Mr Michael McGimpsey, MLA, Minister of Culture, Arts & Leisure<br>Dr Seán Farren, MLA, Minister of Employment & Learning           | Ms Mary Coughlan, TD, Minister of State at the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (Chair)                      |
| Friday 28 November   | Education             | Dublin             | Mr Martin McGuinness, MLA, Minister of Education<br>Mr Dermot Nesbitt, MLA, Minister in OFMDFM                                     | Dr Michael Woods, TD, Minister for Education & Science (Chair)  |

ATTENDANCE AT NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL SECTORAL MEETINGS 2001

| Date               | Sector      | Venue     | Northern Ireland Administration  | Irish Government   |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------|--|--|
| Friday 7 December  | Language    | Newcastle | Mr Michael McGimpsey, MLA, Minister of Culture, Arts & Leisure (Chair)<br>Ms Bairbre de Brún, MLA, Minister of Health, Social Services & Public Safety | Ms Mary Coughlan, TD, Minister of State at the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands |
| Friday 14 December | Environment | Antrim    | Mr Sam Foster, MLA, Minister of Environment (Chair)<br>Mrs Brid Rodgers, MLA, Minister of Agriculture & Rural Development                              | Mr Noel Dempsey, TD, Minister for the Environment and Local Government                                 |





ANNEX 4  
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### 1 JANUARY 2001 - 31 DECEMBER 2001

#### Payments and Budget (North & South)

Total payments for the financial period 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2001 amounted to IR£2,566,320/Stg£2,025,365/€3,258,420 and a breakdown of the main expenditure areas is set out below.

#### NSMC Expenditure - 1 January 2001 - 31 December 2001

| Item                | IR£                 | Stg£                 | Euro              |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Salaries            | 1,181,200           | 931,850              | 1,499,770         |
| Administration      | 456,770             | 361,135              | 580,000           |
| NSMC Meetings       | 196,960             | 155,380              | 250,000           |
| Consultancy         | 150,840             | 119,000              | 191,520           |
| Capital Expenditure | 580,550             | 458,000              | 737,130           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        | <b>IR£2,566,320</b> | <b>Stg£2,025,365</b> | <b>€3,258,420</b> |



ANNEX 5  
JOINT SECRETARIAT ORGANISATION CHART

## NSMC JOINT SECRETARIAT ORGANISATION

NORTH

SOUTH

JOINT SECRETARIES

DEPUTY JOINT SECRETARIES

SECTORAL MANAGERS

SECTORAL OFFICERS

SECTORAL SUPPORT AND ADMINISTRATION

The background is a solid dark blue. Overlaid on this are several large, light blue geometric shapes. There are two concentric circles in the center. Surrounding them are several irregular, angular shapes that resemble stylized letters or abstract forms, all rendered in a lighter shade of blue than the background.

ANNEX 6  
NORTH/SOUTH BODIES CONTACT DETAILS

## NORTH/SOUTH BODIES CONTACT DETAILS

### WATERWAYS IRELAND

**Headquarters:**  
20 Darling Street  
Enniskillen  
Co. Fermanagh  
BT74 7EW

**Tel:** (028) 6632 3004  
**Fax:** (028) 6634 6237  
**Email:** [mail@waterways-ireland.org](mailto:mail@waterways-ireland.org)

**Northern Region:**  
Main Street  
Carrick on Shannon  
Co. Leitrim  
**Tel/Fax:** (078) 50898

**Western Region:**  
Market Square  
Scarriff  
Co. Clare  
**Tel:** (061) 922033  
**Fax:** (061) 922036

**Eastern Region:**  
Floor 2, Block C, Ashtown Gate,  
Navan Road, Dublin 15  
**Tel:** (01) 8680148  
**Fax:** (01) 8383647  
**E-mail:** [bjohnston@ealga.ie](mailto:bjohnston@ealga.ie)

### FOOD SAFETY PROMOTION BOARD

7 Eastgate Avenue  
Eastgate  
Little Island  
Cork  
**Tel:** (021) 230 4100  
**Fax:** (021) 230 4111  
**E-mail:** [info@safefoodonline.com](mailto:info@safefoodonline.com)  
**Website:** [www.safefoodonline.com](http://www.safefoodonline.com)

Abbey Court  
Lower Abbey Street  
Dublin 1  
**Tel:** (01) 817 1317  
**Fax:** (01) 878 3710

### INTERTRADEIRELAND - The Trade and Business Development Body

InterTradeIreland  
The Old Gasworks Business Park  
Kilmorey Street  
Newry  
Co. Down BT34 2DE

**Tel:** (028) 3083 4100  
**Fax:** (028) 3083 4155  
**E-mail:** [info@intertradeireland.com](mailto:info@intertradeireland.com)  
**Website:** [www.intertradeireland.com](http://www.intertradeireland.com)

### SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

EU House  
6 Cromac Place  
Belfast BT7 2JB

**Tel:** (028) 9026 6660  
**Fax:** (028) 9026 6661  
**E-mail:** [info@seupb.org](mailto:info@seupb.org)  
**Website:** [www.eugrants.org](http://www.eugrants.org)

European Union House  
11 Kevlin Road  
Omagh  
Co. Tyrone  
BT78 1LB

**Tel:** (028) 822 55750  
**Fax:** (028) 822 48427  
**E-mail:** [info@seupb.fsbusiness.co.uk](mailto:info@seupb.fsbusiness.co.uk)

European Union House  
Castle Meadow Court  
Dublin Road  
Monaghan

**Tel:** (047) 77003  
**Fax:** (047) 71258  
**E-mail:** [jack.oconnor@seupb.ie](mailto:jack.oconnor@seupb.ie)

## THE NORTH/SOUTH LANGUAGE BODY

FORAS NA GAEILGE  
Foras na Gaeilge  
7 Cearnóg Mhuirfean  
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Tel: (01) 639 8400  
Fax: (01) 639 8401  
E-mail: [eolas@forasnagaeilge.ie](mailto:eolas@forasnagaeilge.ie)  
Website: [www.forasnagaeilge.ie](http://www.forasnagaeilge.ie)

THA BOORD O ULSTER-SCOTCH  
Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch  
Franklin House  
10-12 Brunswick Street  
Belfast BT2 7GE

Tel: (028) 9023 1113  
Fax: (028) 9023 1898  
E-mail: [info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk](mailto:info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk)  
Website: [www.ulsterscotsagency.com](http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com)

## FOYLE, CARLINGFORD AND IRISH LIGHTS COMMISSION

Loughs Agency:  
22 Victoria Road  
Derry/Londonderry BT47 2AB

Tel: (028) 7134 2100  
Fax: (028) 7134 2720  
E-mail: [general@loughs-agency.org](mailto:general@loughs-agency.org)  
Website: [www.loughs-agency.org](http://www.loughs-agency.org)

Teach Eolais,  
Old Quay Lane  
Carlingford  
Co. Louth

Tel: (042) 9383888  
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ANNEX 7  
NORTH/SOUTH BODIES  
BOARD MEMBERS

## FOOD AND SAFETY PROMOTION BOARD ADVISORY BOARD

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Mr Don Anderson                             | Councillor Bertie Kerr<br>(Chairperson) |
| Mr Leslie Craig                             | Mr Damien O'Dwyer                       |
| Ms Carmel Foley                             | Dr Danny O'Hare                         |
| Mr Ronan Garvey                             | Ms Anne Speed                           |
| Professor Mike Gibney<br>(Vice Chairperson) | Professor Seán Strain                   |
| Professor Cecily Kelleher                   | Mr Michael John Walker                  |

## THE TRADE AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BODY BOARD MEMBERS

|                                       |                                     |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| The Duke of Abercorn                  | Mr Carl McCann                      |
| Ms Mary Ainscough                     | Mr Feargal McCormack                |
| Ms Mary Breslin                       | Dr Inez McCormack                   |
| Dr Harold Ennis<br>(Vice Chairperson) | Mr Kieran McGowan                   |
| Mr Barry Fitzsimons                   | Dr Martin Naughton<br>(Chairperson) |
| Ms Jackie Harrison                    | Mr Robbie Smyth                     |

## NORTH/SOUTH LANGUAGE BODY FORAS NA GAELIGE BOARD MEMBERS

|  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Mrs Maighr ad U  Mh irt n<br>(Chairperson of Foras na Gaeilge<br>Joint Chairperson of An Foras Teanga) | Ms Jacqueline N  Fhearghasa        |
| Mr Liam Corey  | Ms. Br d U  N ill                  |
| Ms Anne Craig  | Mr Maolsheachlain   Caolla         |
| Mr Gordon McCoy  | Mr Leachlain   Cath in             |
| Mr Patrick McGlone   | Mr Liam   Cuinneag in              |
| Mr Aod n Mac P il n  | Mr P draig   Duibhir               |
| Mr Gear id Mac Siacais   | Mr Gear id   hEara                 |
| Ms Treasa N  Ailp n  | Mr S amus   Tonnaigh<br>(deceased) |

## THA BOORD o ULST R-SCOTCH BOARD MEMBERS

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Lord Laird of Artigarvan<br>(Chairperson of Tha Boord o Ulst r-Scotch/<br>Joint Chairperson of<br>North/South Language Body) | Mr John Erskine      |
| Mr Pat Wall  | Dr Linde Lunney      |
| Mr James Devenney  | Mr John McIntyre     |
|  | Dr Philip Robinson   |
|  | Mr Eamon O'Domhnaill |

## THE FOYLE, CARLINGFORD AND IRISH LIGHTS COMMISSION BOARD MEMBERS

|   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Mr Jack Allen                                   | Ms Siobhan Logue                 |
| Mr Keith Anderson                               | Mr Joseph Martin                 |
| Mr Dick Blakiston-Houston                       | Mr Arthur Morgan                 |
| Lord Cooke of Islandreagh<br>(Vice Chairperson) | Mr Peter Savage<br>(Chairperson) |
| Mr Francis Feely                                | Mr Andrew Ward                   |
| Dr Patrick J Griffin                            |                                  |

## TOURISM IRELAND LIMITED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr Andrew Coppel  
(Chairperson)

Ms Ann Riordan  
(Vice-Chairperson)

Mr Roy Bailie

Mr Alan Clarke

Mr Dennis Galway

Mr Howard Hastings

Mr Tony Kelly

Mr Noel McGinley

Mr Felix Mooney

Mr Niall Reddy

Mr John Power

Mr Charles Sinnott



ANNEX 8  
DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

## DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

### CENTRAL DEPARTMENTS

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Deputy First Minister  
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Stormont Estate  
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Website: [www.taoiseach.gov.ie](http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie)

North/South Section  
Anglo/Irish Division  
Department of Foreign Affairs\*  
80 St Stephen's Green  
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Tel: (01) 478 0822  
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\* Co-ordinating role on Southern side

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and Gaeltacht Affairs  
Dún Aímhígin,  
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### HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY SECTORS

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and Public Safety  
Castle Buildings  
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## TRADE AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SECTOR

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Department for Employment and  
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## FOYLE, CARLINGFORD AND IRISH LIGHTS COMMISSION SECTOR

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