



North/South Ministerial Council
An Chomhairle Aireachta
Thuaidh/Theas

North/South Ministerial Council Annual Report 2005



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Introduction By Joint Secretaries





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Introduction

The publication of this Annual Report marks the sixth anniversary of the North/South Ministerial Council (NSMC).

As Joint Secretaries we are pleased to report sustained progress across the six North/South Implementation Bodies and Tourism Ireland (the Bodies).

We were both appointed as Joint Secretaries in 2005. On taking up our appointments we were conscious of the quiet success story of the NSMC and the Bodies since their inception in 1999.



As this report shows, 2005 was no exception. For example, InterTradelreland assisted over 2,400 companies to do business on an all-island basis. Both Language Agencies continued with their strong programmes of support in the Irish language and Ulster Scots sectors, including jointly organising and supporting events such as "Shared Musical Heritage". Waterways Ireland was involved in organising major sporting events like the Classic Fishing Festival on Lough Erne and the Water Ski World Cup Championship in Enniskillen. In Tourism, 2005 was another outstanding year, with over 8.1m visitors to the island, an increase of almost 400,000 over 2004. The Loughs Agency's innovative and interactive interpretive centre "Riverwatch" received more than 10,000 visitors. The benefits of European funding, administered by the Special European Programmes Body, continued to be evident. The INTERREG 111A programme saw the start of its largest funded project, the North West Business Complex which is situated along the Derry to Donegal corridor. Food safety promotion by safefood featured several powerful advertising campaigns including one on dietary salt intake. Another significant event in 2005 was the introduction of a pension scheme for personnel in North/South Bodies.

We wish to acknowledge the support of the people and organisations, North and South, with whom we worked during 2005. These include Government Ministers in both jurisdictions, their Departments and of course the Chief Executive Officers and dedicated staff of the Bodies. The commitment of the Board Members is an example and encouragement to all of us who work in the NSMC. We are deeply grateful for their generous and sustained dedication. Thanks are due once again to our colleagues in the Joint Secretariat for their hard work and professionalism.

In the context of both Governments' commitment to North/South co-operation we look forward with optimism to 2006.

Mary Bunting
Joint Secretary (North)

Joe Hayes
Joint Secretary (South)

Armagh
June 2006



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Chapter 1
The North/South Ministerial Council





Establishment

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 of 8 March 1999, 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.

1.2 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

1.3 The Agreement provided that at least 12 subject areas would be identified for co-operation and implementation. North/South co-operation in these areas would be taken forward in two ways - in the case of at least six of them by means of new North/South Implementation Bodies, and in the case of at least six others by means of existing bodies in each jurisdiction separately operating at a cross-border or all-island level.

1.4 The six Areas identified as those in which co-operation would be taken forward by the new North/South Implementation Bodies were:

- Inland Waterways;
- Food Safety;
- Trade and Business Development;

- Special EU Programmes;
- Language (Irish and Ulster-Scots); and
- Aquaculture and Marine Matters.

Aspects of six other Areas were identified as those in which co-operation would be taken forward by existing bodies in each jurisdiction separately (known as the 'Areas for Co-operation'):

- Agriculture;
- Education;
- Environment;
- Health;
- Transport; and
- Tourism

1.5 The Irish and British Governments subsequently concluded an Agreement on the establishment of the North/South Bodies on 8 March 1999 ("the Implementation Bodies Agreement"). This set out the functions and structure of the North/South Bodies and the common arrangements applying to them, and 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. Collectively, these organisations are known as the North/South Bodies, or simply as "the Bodies".

1.6 The 12 Areas constitute those matters on which the NSMC 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 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 remaining within the competences and responsibilities of the two Administrations.

The Formats of Council Meetings

1.7 Under Devolution the NSMC met in a number of Formats. Plenary Format involves 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 was to take an overview of co-operation on the island and of the North/South institutions.

1.8 In Institutional Format the NSMC brought together 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 was to consider institutional and cross-sectoral issues, including issues relating to the European Union, and to resolve any disagreements.

1.9 In Sectoral Format the NSMC oversaw co-operation in the agreed 12 Areas or Sectors. At these meetings, the Irish Government was 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 the relevant Sector within the Executive. This was 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.

Suspension of the Northern Ireland Assembly

1.10 Following the suspension of the Northern Ireland Assembly on 14 October 2002, an agreement between the UK and Irish Governments was made and contained in an exchange of notes dated 19 November 2002. This agreement provided a mechanism for decisions to be taken on policies and actions relating to the Bodies during the period of suspension of the Assembly. Interim Procedures have been

put in place by the NSMC Joint Secretariat for the processing of Ministerial decisions while the arrangements set out in the Exchange of Notes between the Governments apply. Decisions taken in 2005 are set out in Annex 1.

Functions of the Council

1.11 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; and
- 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 Implementation Bodies

1.12 Each of the six North/South Implementation Bodies operates on an all-island basis. While having a clear operational remit, all of them function under the overall direction of the NSMC, with accountability lines back, not only to the Council, the Oireachtas and the Northern Ireland Assembly, but also to the Finance and other Departments of government responsible for their funding in each jurisdiction.



The Implementation Bodies are:

- **Waterways Ireland;**
- **The Food Safety Promotion Board (FSPB);**
- **The Trade and Business Development Body (InterTradelreland);**
- **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); and
- **The Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission (FCILC)** (consisting of two Agencies i.e. the Loughs Agency and The Lights Agency - see page 17).

1.13 In regard to three of these Bodies - InterTradelreland, the North/South Language Body and the FCILC - the functions of each Body are exercised by a Board appointed by the NSMC. (Although strictly speaking not an Implementation Body, this is also the case with Tourism Ireland.) A fourth Body, the FSPB, has an advisory Board, also appointed by the NSMC, but 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.

1.14 Further information on the work of the Bodies is set out in Chapter 2.

Areas for Co-Operation

1.15 The matters within the Areas for Co-operation that were agreed for initial consideration by the NSMC are as follows:

- **Education:** education for children with special needs (eg autism, hearing impairment), educational under-achievement, teacher qualifications, and school, youth and teacher exchanges;

- **Agriculture:** discussion of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) issues, animal and plant health policy and research, and rural development;
- **Environment:** water quality management, waste management in a cross-border context, research into environmental protection, environmental databases, environmental impact of agriculture, and information exchange and environmental awareness, and identification of strategies and activities which would contribute to a coherent all-island approach to the achievement of sustainable development;
- **Health:** accident and emergency services, planning for major emergencies, high technology equipment, cancer research and health promotion;
- **Transport:** 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; and
- **Tourism:** it was agreed to establish a publicly-owned limited company to market the island of Ireland overseas as a tourism destination.

1.16 Further information on the work of the Council in these areas is set out in Chapter 2.

North/South Ministerial Council Joint Secretariat

1.17 A standing Joint Secretariat, staffed by members of the Northern Ireland Civil Service and the Irish Government Civil Service, supports the work of the NSMC. Further information on the work of the Joint Secretariat is set out in Annex 2.





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This chapter provides an outline of the decisions made and activities undertaken in each of the sectors in 2005.

Trade and Business Development Sector



Dr Martin Naughton (centre), Chairman of InterTradelreland, with Joey Moodley (left) and Dr Ivan Coulter (right) from Sigmoid Technologies. Sigmoid Technologies were the overall winners of the InterTradelreland EquityNetwork All-Island Seedcorn Competition with their innovative modular drug delivery technology.

Trade and Business Development Body - InterTradelreland

2.1.1 The Board of InterTradelreland is chaired by Dr Martin Naughton and the Vice-Chair is Mr Barry Fitzsimons. The Chief Executive of InterTradelreland is Mr Liam Nellis. The Board members are listed in Annex 5.

Functions/Objectives

2.1.2 InterTradelreland's Mission for the period 2005-2007 is to enhance the global competitiveness of the all-island economy to the mutual benefit of Ireland and Northern Ireland through measures such as the creation of knowledge-intensive all-island trade and business development networks and the implementation of all-island trade and business development programmes.

2.1.3 This mission statement unites the wider vision of a globally competitive island economy with *InterTradelreland*'s legislative all-island remit. *InterTradelreland*'s core means of delivery are the creation, the development and the exploitation of collaborative all-island business networks and a range of 'network enabling tools' addressing trade and business development needs to create value and secure competitive advantage for participating organisations.

Activities

2.1.4 *InterTradelreland* has several active sector-specific networks, such as those operating in biotechnology and life sciences (BioMedIreland), computer software (All Island Software Network), and crafts (Lionra). Other sector-specific networks will be added during 2006.

2.1.5 In its Areas of Excellence Networks, *InterTradelreland* is addressing areas such as the utilisation of equity finance as a tool for company growth (EquityNetwork), island-wide supply chain solutions (Logistics XP), and the exploitation of benchmarking resources (All Island Best Practice Network).

2.1.6 Support was also provided through Communities of Interest Networks such as micro-enterprises (MicroTrade), the USA/Ireland Research Partnership which is establishing linkages between the USA and research institutes and researchers on the island of Ireland, and Universities Ireland which is a high-level body promoting co-operation and collaboration among universities across the island.

2.1.7 Included within its science, technology and innovation portfolio in 2005, *InterTradelreland* offered the FUSION all-island technology transfer project, the INNOVA all-island collaborative research & development project and the expertiseireland all-island research portal, www.expertiseireland.com.

2.1.8 Included within its sales & marketing portfolio in 2005, *InterTradelreland* offered the ACUMEN programme which is designed to stimulate cross-border trade amongst small and medium enterprises, the Network & Getwork buyer-supplier programme, the Go-Source public procurement portal www.go-source.com, the Go-Tender training programme for SMEs to develop public procurement expertise and the FOCUS all-island strategic marketing and sales initiative.

2.1.9 *InterTradelreland* has continued its programme of Business & Economic Research and in 2005 published the following reports and facilities: Clothing and Textiles Sector Report, Trade Statistics Website (<http://tradestatistics.intertradeireland.com>), Business Linkages Report, Engineering a Knowledge Island 2020 (in collaboration with the Institute of Engineers of Ireland), Entrepreneurship on the island of Ireland 2004 and the Survey of Business Links on the island of Ireland Report.

2.1.10 During 2005 *InterTradelreland* has assisted more than 2,400 companies to develop their capabilities and knowledge to do business on an all-island basis, they have more than 500 companies working within their trade and business development programmes, have fifteen all-island business networks in operation and the aggregated trade and business development value of their projects in 2005 is in excess of £22m/€32.3m.

2.1.11 Further information on *InterTradelreland* can be found on the Body's website: www.intertradeireland.com.



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Food Safety Sector



Pictured at the launch of safefood's "Tackle Treats" campaign, to encourage parents to reduce the amount of treat foods in their childrens' diets

Food Safety Promotion Board

2.2.1 The Food Safety Promotion Board (FSPB) is principally charged with the promotion of food safety, and supporting scientific co-operation between institutions working in that field. It has an Advisory Board of 12 members, appointed by the NSMC. The Board is chaired by Mr Bertie Kerr, and the Vice-Chair is Professor Charlie Daly. The Chief Executive of the FSPB is Mr Martin Higgins. The Board members are listed in Annex 5.

Functions/Objectives

2.2.2 The FSPB operates under the brand identifier '**safefood**' or in the Irish language 'Biaslán', and comprises three directorates - Scientific and Technical, Marketing and Communications, and Planning and Resources. This structure ensures that the Body is adequately resourced and the necessary supports are in place to develop and implement the programmes that support its remit and the realisation of its mission.

2.2.3 The FSPB carries out its role through publicity campaigns, specialist conferences, and by training and advising both 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 development of cost-effective specialised laboratory testing falls within the Board's remit. The Board also has a role to provide independent scientific assessment of food safety matters. Cross-border co-operation between organisations working in these areas is central to the work of the Board.

Activities

2.2.4 Although the Food Safety Promotion Board's first Scientific Advisory Committee's term of office expired in January 2005, its guidance and expertise were crucial elements in the exceptional progress that was made during the year.

2.2.5 Dietary salt intake on the island of Ireland is more than double the recommended dietary intake. A one third reduction in dietary salt intake in the population would have beneficial effects on cardiovascular health. The first phase of the salt campaign took place over a three week period in May 2005. The media used was press and radio. The radio advertisements were aired again during October 2005. The next phase of the salt campaign is in development. This will focus on raising awareness that we can adjust our taste buds to a lower salt intake by gradually decreasing the amount of salt in our diets over a six week period. The message will be targeted to individuals in catering establishments.

2.2.6 The preliminary findings of the National Children's Food Survey in the Republic of Ireland highlighted the fact that treat foods such as confectionary, snacks, cakes and biscuits account for a 1/5th of total calorie and dietary fat intake in 5-12 year olds. The first phase of the current mass media campaign focuses on raising awareness of 'treat foods'

i.e. confectionary, biscuits, cakes and savoury snacks. These foods are a major source of dietary fat and saturated fat in the diet. A food group based approach will be taken and sugary/fizzy drinks will also be included in the campaign. The key target audience is parents/guardians with children. Children are deemed to be the main target for this message, however these dietary changes will need to be transferred to children primarily through those that are buying and preparing the food for them.

2.2.7 The key message to parents is that these 'foods are high in sugar and fat' should be included in children's diets as a treat rather than considered staples in the diet. It will also be communicated that :

- These are 'nutritionally poor foods' i.e. foods high in fat and/or sugar and low in micro nutrients;
- A high intake of these foods is storing up long term consequences for children including increasing their risk of: cardiovascular disease, obesity, diabetes and cancer; and
- In the short term these foods may lead to poor concentration, under nourishment and loss of sustained energy.

2.2.8 Communications were further enhanced through the great success of the Lablinks Laboratory Newsletter, issued in print and electronic formats, which made laboratories more aware of activities within their own service and throughout the island of Ireland. The Laboratory Synergy Programme, formerly the Laboratory Collaborative Action Programme, reached further milestones during the year. At the same time an internal cross-Directorate team involving the Science and Technical Directorate and the Planning and Resources Directorate was set up to develop rapid food data reporting systems in both Northern Ireland and the Republic.

2.2.9 In order to address in part its function in relation to carrying out independent science-based assessment of the food chain, as well as adopting the theme of complementary



working and added value, **safefood** has initiated a consumer focus review programme which involves two comprehensive food chain screening exercises each year for the next three years. During 2005 two reviews were commenced, one on Chicken and one on Fish. Each review focuses on a particular food category or process with the objectives of:

- Providing consumers with the most relevant and pertinent information available to enable them to make informed choices in respect of the food they eat;
- helping consumers understand (a) how the food safety system works, (b) the efforts being taken by the regulators, producers, and industry, to reduce the inherent risks, and (c) the prudent sensible steps that can be taken to address both perceived and potential risks; and
- providing opportunities to promote good practice along the food chain.

2.2.10 The purpose of these reviews is to profile the food category, identify and describe the relevant food safety issues pertaining to it at various points along the food chain, and to identify opportunities to communicate the human health benefits to, and influence the behaviour of, the various stakeholders.

2.2.11 **safefood** also put in place an audit committee, which met during the year to oversee internal controls. Work was undertaken on the formulation of a new Corporate Plan to cover the period 2005 to 2007. The thrust of this comprehensive plan was to develop a complementary role for **safefood** that was focused on measurable outcomes.

2.2.12 A timely structural review was carried out by a firm of external consultants who reviewed major areas concerning strategy, people, processes, and structure. In summary, the main functional recommendations were the formalisation of the Senior Management Team into an Executive Board, the changing of some individual reporting structures to include a Directorate of Human Health and Nutrition.

2.2.13 Further information on **safefood** can be found on the Body's website: www.safefoodonline.com.

Aquaculture and Marine Sector



The new INTERREG funded Fisheries Protection Vessel for Carlingford Lough

Foyle, Carlingford And Irish Lights Commission

2.3.1 The NSMC 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).

2.3.2 The Implementation Bodies Agreement provides that the FCILC would exercise its functions through two agencies. The functions of the Commission in relation to the Foyle and Carlingford Areas are exercised through the Loughs Agency (which in respect of its remit inherited the functions of the Foyle Fisheries Commission). The Implementation Bodies agreement also provides that the FCILC should be the General Lighthouse Authority for the island of Ireland. This function currently rests with the Commissioners of Irish



Lights, which has lines of accountability to the UK Department for Transport acting as Trustee of the General Lighthouse Fund. British and Irish legislation will be required for the Body to become the general Lighthouse Authority for the island of Ireland and those functions are to be exercised through an agency of the FCILC known as the Lights Agency. However, at its plenary meeting on 28 June 2002, the NSMC, having considered the provisions for the transfer of the functions currently carried out by the Commissioners of Irish Lights, recognised that complex issues surrounded such a transfer and asked the relevant Ministers and Departments, North and South, to examine the alternative possibilities as a matter of urgency and bring back proposals to Council. It is intended to take this matter forward upon restoration of devolved government in Northern Ireland.

2.3.3 The FCILC has a Board of 12 members appointed by the NSMC which exercises the functions of the Body in relation to the Foyle and Carlingford areas through the Loughs Agency. The Board is chaired by Mr Peter Savage. The Chief Executive of the Loughs Agency is Mr Derick Anderson.

Loughs Agency

Functions/Objectives

2.3.4 The FCILC 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.

2.3.5 In addition, through the Agency, FCILC is responsible for the promotion and 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.

2.3.6 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 Communications, Marine and Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland (DARDNI).

Activities

2.3.7 Significant progress was made in the preparation of those Bills which will amend the Agency's primary legislation to facilitate the development and regulation of shellfisheries and aquaculture in the Foyle and Carlingford Areas. As part of this process the Agency undertook a public consultation on its draft implementation plan for the regulation of shellfisheries and aquaculture in Lough Foyle. Further preparation for this responsibility included the development of carrying capacity models for both Loughs. This project known as the SMILE project will provide models for Strangford, Belfast and Larne Loughs as well as Foyle and Carlingford and is being undertaken in partnership with DARDNI, Institute of Marine Research (Portugal), Plymouth Marine Laboratory and CSIR (South Africa) and will provide an important tool for the development of sustainable oyster and mussel fisheries in the Loughs.

2.3.8 In this area the Agency secured funding from Interreg IIIA for the purchase and deployment of 4 monitoring buoys, which together with 2 currently deployed will measure nutrient levels and other parameters in the Loughs to populate the models and provide a sound scientific basis for the management of the Loughs. This funding measure also supported the Agency in the upgrading of its patrol vessel in Carlingford Lough to a 13 metre Rigid Inflatable Boat and the provision of a new fish counter at Omagh on the River Strule. This facility was constructed in partnership with Omagh District Council.

2.3.9 The development of the Agency's management regime for the salmonid stocks of the catchments continues with further work on the genetics programme being commissioned and the development of a pre fisheries abundance model for salmon stocks in the Foyle Area being initiated in partnership with DARDNI, Marine Institute, University of Glasgow and the Institute National de la Recherche Agronomique France. The stocks of salmon in the Foyle Area continue to exceed conservation limits with the highest number recorded (8,500) since the fish counter on the River Finn was installed in 2000 some 2,000 in excess of the average.

2.3.10 Work to rebuild the stocks in the Carlingford Area continues and gained support for the EEA Cohesion Fund for the provision of a counter on the Clanrye River at Newry and for the reinstatement of 7 instream habitat units on the upper reaches of the river. Similar work will also be funded from this source on the River Dee in Co Donegal. Other reinstatement works were undertaken throughout the catchments as part of the Agency's conservation and protection programme.

2.3.11 Marine tourism development was progressed with the preparation of a draft strategy and action plan for the development of marine tourism and leisure in the Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough areas and the Agency provided funding to support the preparations for the European Celtic maritime Festival which will occur in May & June 2006 on the north coast of the island and in Lough Foyle. It is anticipated that this area of work will be greatly enhanced by the implementation of the recently finalised review of the staffing structure that will allow the deployment of experienced staff in this important area.

2.3.12 The Agency's education programme continued to develop around the interpretive centre "Riverwatch" with over 10,000 visitors recorded during the year. Many of them participated in the outreach programmes such as Adopt a stream, hatchery in the classroom and Vital Signs, www.vitalsignsireland.org. A pilot programme was also successfully completed in partnership with the Youth Justice Agency with four young men whose risk of reoffending was reduced from high to low.

2.3.13 Other events held in 2005 included a very successful angling fair at the Agency's HQ in March with more than 4,000 attending and in August Europe's only "saltwater fly fishing and lure festival" was held in Carlingford. The Angling Academy for young people was held in both areas with more than 100 participating with many catching their first fish.

2.3.14 Further information on the Loughs Agency can be found on the Body's website: www.loughs-agency.org.



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Special EU Programmes Body



Vital Signs, a Loughs Agency project funded by INTERREG IIIA through the Irish Central Border Area Network, where children work together to provide statistical information on water quality which is used by scientists with the aim of developing awareness, knowledge and responsibility between children and their environment.

2.4.1 The Mission Statement of the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) sets out its objective to develop co-operation, understanding and action between people and organisations in Ireland and Northern Ireland through consultation and the implementation of EU social, economic, reconciliation and cultural programmes. The Chief Executive of the SEUPB is Mr Pat Colgan.

Functions/Objectives

2.4.2 The SEUPB's principal responsibility is as the Managing Authority for the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (PEACE II) and the INTERREG IIIA Programme. The SEUPB also has the role of the Paying Authority for the INTERREG IIIA Programme.

2.4.3 During 2005 the Body continued its role in monitoring and promoting the Common Chapter, the strategic framework for cross-border co-operation across a broad range of sectors, and maintained its oversight role of the North/South elements of the Community Initiatives URBAN II, LEADER + and EQUAL in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Activities

2.4.4 2005 was a very important year for the PEACE and INTERREG Programmes, especially for PEACE II which saw the Programme extended for a further two years. At the beginning of the year the proposed extension to the PEACE II Programme received overwhelming endorsement from the European Council of Ministers, EU Commission and the European Parliament, with the Council of Ministers formally adopting the extension on the 24 January 2005. On Friday 3 June, EU Commissioner for Regional Policy, Danuta Hübner, officially launched the two year extension at a ceremony in Belfast's prestigious Waterfront Hall.

2.4.5 Commissioner Hübner; Jeff Rooker (Finance Minister for Northern Ireland); Brendan Smith, TD (Minister of State for Agriculture and Food) and young people from two PEACE funded projects - Greater Shantallow Community Arts and Cross Border Cultural Pathways - spoke at the event. Commissioner Hubner also visited a number of PEACE II funded projects during her time in Northern Ireland.

2.4.6 A series of information events, aimed at promoting the extension and encouraging applications, were held in towns throughout the eligible area following the launch. A user-friendly and plain guide to PEACE funding was also launched at the same time.

2.4.7 In March the PEACE II Programme held its second 'Celebrating Success' event at Belfast's City Hall. Over 250 project representatives attended the event which highlighted the work of fifteen projects that were selected for their

approach to exemplar peace and reconciliation work. Among the guests of honour at the event were Second Permanent Secretary, Dr Andrew McCormick, Department of Finance and Personnel, Noel O'Gorman, Department of Finance and Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Tom Ekin. Attendees also received the latest update on the recently EU approved extension to the Programme for a further two years.

2.4.8 In June the PEACE Programme launched the Community Uptake Analysis Report. This independent research carried out by Helm Corporation in association with Trutz Hasse and was designed to assess the current spread of funding across the two main communities and explore the complex relationship between religious background, areas of deprivation, quantity of funding applications and approved funding levels. Importantly, one of the key findings of the report confirmed that "there is no residual direct effect from the religious composition of a specific area to the amount of funding received, thus clearly showing that there is no bias in the distribution of funds."

2.4.9 Amongst its many achievements throughout the year, the INTERREG IIIA Programme saw the start of its largest funded project, the North West Business Complex, an integral part of the North West Technology Zone. Situated along the Derry to Donegal corridor the state of the art centre, with a total of 43 units ranging from 425 square foot to 2000 square foot, will offer units aimed at office based companies as well as specialised food preparation units, all supported by the latest technology and resource services.

2.4.10 As a member of the Association of Border Regions, the Special EU Programmes Body was asked to submit proposals on particular achievements in the area of cross-border cooperation. The INTERREG IIIIA Programme submitted two partnerships, one from the Irish Central Border Area Network and the other from Co-Operation and Working Together. CAWT, a cross border health and social care partnership, won the 'Sail of Papenburg' Award for its excellence in cross-border co-operation.



2.4.11 Another major INTERREG IIIA project launched during year was the TRACE project, a €2.6m/£1.8m cross border initiative co-ordinated by the University of Ulster, Queen's University, Belfast and Blackwater Regional Partnership supported by Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough, Armagh City and District and Monaghan County Councils. Centred around the Blackwater River, Oona Water in County Tyrone, Mountain Water in County Monaghan and the Creaghan Stream in County Armagh this project is an important step in developing a better understanding of the waters and to ensure long-term solutions to protect and preserve the environment for future generations.

2.4.12 The PEACE II and INTERREG IIIA Programmes were set very challenging financial targets (known as N+2) for 2005. PEACE II was required to spend €231m/£159m and INTERREG IIIA €31m/£21m. Both N+2 targets were successfully met.

2.4.13 By the end of the year a total of 257 projects had been supported by the INTERREG IIIA Programme with a spend of €82m/£56.5m. By December 2005, PEACE II had supported a total of 5,417 projects with a cumulative spend of €599m/£413m.

2.4.14 Further information on SEUPB can be found on the Body's website: www.seupb.org.

Language Sector

The North/South Language Body (An Foras Teanga/Tha Boord O Leid)

Functions/Objectives

2.5.1 The Language Body is a single Body reporting to the NSMC, but composed of two separate agencies - the Irish Language Agency/Foras na Gaeilge, and the Ulster-Scots Agency/Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch.

2.5.2 The Chairperson of Foras na Gaeilge, and the Chairperson of Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch, are joint Chairpersons of the Language Body. Maighrèad Uí Mháirtín is Chairperson of Foras na Gaeilge. James Devenney was acting chairperson of Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch until 11 October. Mark Thompson was appointed Chairperson from 12 October. The Body has a Board of 24 members appointed by the NSMC. A list of Board Members and their agencies is at Annex 5.



Launch of Irish Language version of Office and Windows XP



Foras na Gaeilge

Functions/Objectives

2.5.3 Through Foras na Gaeilge the Body has responsibility for the promotion of the Irish language on an all-island basis.

2.5.4 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.

2.5.5 Maighréad Uí Mháirtín is Chairperson of Foras na Gaeilge and there are 14 other members on the Board (see Annex 5). The acting Chief Executive is Mr Ferdie Mac an Fhailigh. During 2005 the Chief Executive was Mr Seosamh Mac Donncha.

Activities

2.5.6 Activities undertaken by Foras na Gaeilge during the year included:

- Core-funding of 17 Irish language and educational organisations North and South, including additional organisational projects.
- On-going administration of the three-year local community support scheme, Scéim Phobail Gaeilge 2005-2007, including three major capital projects.
- Establishment of An Grúpa Comhairleach Gnó, the representative business advisory forum, and development of the business-orientated campaign, Gnó Means Business.
- Creation and administration of two pilot support schemes for the use of Irish in the business sector, An Scéim Chomharthaíochta Gaeilge/Dátheangaí and Scéim ar Ábhair Ghaeilge/Dhátheangacha.
- Creation and administration of interdepartmental minor funding scheme, Scéim Faoi Bhun.
- Creation and successful outcome of two media-related grant-in-aid schemes, Scéim Nuachtán Seachtainiúil Gaeilge 2004-2008 and Scéim Iris Ghaeilge 2005-2007.
- Over 400 arts-related projects, ranging from the traditional arts to film-making, drama companies to the visual arts, arts festivals to workshops and seminars, sean-nós singing to residencies, from publications to puppetry, were supported and funded.
- An accreditation scheme for Irish language translators was devised and advertised in December 2005.
- Over 20 projects relating to the development of terminology, websites, software, and other facilities for translators and for the public service were supported and funded.
- In partnership with Tha Boord of Ulstèr-Scotch, An Foras co-sponsored a number of projects, including the post of Cultural Officer in Altnaveigh House Cultural Society.
- The Irish language Officers' Scheme was gradually phased out as contracts came to an end in the south and arrangements were put in place for the implementation of a similar scheme in the north.
- Eleven editions of the Foras na Gaeilge monthly newsletter SAOL were published.
- A joint survey, 'Turning on and Tuning into Irish Language Radio in the 21st Century', commissioned by Foras na Gaeilge, The Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and The Broadcasting Commission of Ireland on attitudes of the public in the South towards Irish language radio programming was launched.

- As part of the Foras na Gaeilge sponsorship programme, sponsorship was provided for the All-Ireland Camogie Final, Ros na Rún, Féile an Phobail the Óxegen' concert and Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann.
- An all-island campaign for Irish language books was organised in association with The Arts Council, CLÉ - Irish Book Publishers and ÁIS
- A four week all-island TV advertising campaign was organised at the end of 2005.
- Foras na Gaeilge in association with Microsoft launched the Irish language versions of Windows XP and Office 2003.
- An International Conference on Minority languages teaching (Voces Diversae) was organised. Arising from the conference a Steering Committee to guide the work of the proposed European Group of Educators has been set up and a website has been designed by Carmarthen College of Education.
- A very successful "Summer Camp Scheme" was organised and thirty nine groups were awarded funding under the scheme.
- Funding was provided through INTO to assist two Teacher Training Colleges to draw up a course for teachers embarking on the SCG.
- Twelve books were published including, general fiction, folklore, songbook with accompanying audio disks and a first French reader in Irish.
- Primary School Project, Séideán Sí Integrated multi-media pack published for First Class.
- Maths for Fourth Class in Primary school as well as Leaving Cert texts in History, Maths and Home Economics. A Dictionary of Religious terms covering Leaving and Junior Certificate courses was published on CD.
- English-Irish Dictionary Project Phase One was formally completed and preparatory work begun on Phase Two tendering process.
- Over 4,500 terminological enquiries were dealt with, and some 2,300 miscellaneous terms or terminological phrases were discussed and sanctioned, including some 600 television terms collected for a new edition of our Dictionary of Television & Radio Terms.
- Some 2,000 business terms were reviewed or sanctioned by the Business Subcommittee and a further 1,000 education terms by the Education Subcommittee.
- A Database of Public Service Terminology was established on the www.gaeilge.ie site in order to assist the bodies implementing the Official Languages Act 2003.
- Áis supplied books to 309 bookshops throughout the island, 16 in Britain, 4 in continental Europe, 7 in the United States and 2 in Australia and New Zealand. A total of 272,131 units were distributed during 2005 and turnover amounted to €1,267,226.45/£869,950.96.

2.5.7 Further information on Foras na Gaeilge can be found on the Agency's website: www.forasnagaeilge.ie.



North/South Ministerial Council
An Chomhairle Aireachta
Thuaidh/Theas



Leadhill Dancers: Highland dancers from Leadhill Primary School, Belfast, in performance at Castlereagh Borough Council offices.

Tha Boord O Ulster Scotch

The Ulster-Scots Agency

Functions/Objectives

2.5.8 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.

Activities

2.5.9 The Ulster-Scots Agency's Business Plan for 2005 is aligned with the 2005-07 Corporate Plan and is designed to fulfil the Agency's Mission Statement "to promote the study, conservation, development and use of Ulster-Scots as a living language, to encourage and develop the full range of its attendant culture and to promote an understanding of the history of Ulster-Scots".

2.5.10 Mark Thompson was appointed to the Board in June 2005 and then appointed Chairman of the Agency in

October, where he took over from the acting Chairman Jim Devenney. There are 7 other Board members. The Chief Executive of the Agency is Mr George Patton.

2.5.11 Throughout 2005 the Ulster-Scots Agency has continued to develop participation, awareness and understanding of all aspects of Ulster-Scots language, culture and history and through its financial assistance scheme has provided support to almost 400 Community groups organising events in a diverse range of Ulster-Scots activities, geographically spread throughout Northern Ireland and counties Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan. One example of financial grant assistance is the support the Agency provided to the Portadown Cultural Society for the Ulster-Scots element of their festival in July 2005. The Agency contributed £5,000/€7,257 towards a total project costing £6,700/€9,724 for this very successful festival which aimed to explore and demonstrate the group's Ulster-Scots linkages in the form of music and exhibitions.

2.5.12 The Ulster-Scots Agency supported Ballycarry Community Association in their organisation of the Broadisland Gathering in September 2005 to the tune of £1,200/€1,742. The Broadisland Gathering provided a celebration of Ulster-Scots heritage and culture, music and dance. The event attracted in the region of 4,000 people. There were a variety of entertainments, including pipe band concerts, musical groups, Scottish dancers and pageantry. Visitors from different areas of Northern Ireland and elsewhere attended including Canada, Australia and the USA. It proved

a positive event which was very constructive to the overall perception of Ulster-Scots and what it meant to the community, especially with the participation of the youth of the community.

2.5.13 The Agency has continued to develop the working relationship with its sister agency, Foras na Gaeilge, jointly organising and supporting events such as "Shared Musical Heritage" and developing internal policies, for example, risk management. The "Shared Musical Heritage" event was presented in both jurisdictions to invited guests and members of the public and demonstrated the cultural overlap in the musical traditions of both communities.

2.5.14 The Agency appointed a Director of Language and Education, who commenced employment in October 2005 and this has significantly impacted on the opportunities to promote linguistic and educational activity. One example of financial assistance relating to Ulster-Scots language is the support offered towards the publication of selections from "the Ulster Miscellany" (an anthology that includes the first significant collection of Scotch verse composed in Ulster published in a major book) which will raise awareness of the history and literary heritage of Ulster-Scots communities in north-west Ulster.

2.5.15 Further information on the Ulster-Scots Agency can be found on the Agency's website at www.ulsterscotsagency.com.



North/South Ministerial Council
An Chomhairle Aireachta
Thuaidh/Theas

Inland Waterways Sector



Competitor at the Water Ski World Cup Championships in Enniskillen

Waterways Ireland

Functions/Objectives

2.6.1 Waterways Ireland's primary function is the management, maintenance, development and restoration of specified inland navigable waterway systems throughout the island, principally for recreational purposes. Waterways Ireland is responsible for the navigation systems detailed in

paragraph 2.6.2, which were previously under the respective control of the Department of Community, Rural, and Gaeltacht Affairs in the South and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland.

2.6.2 The systems referred to above are - the Shannon-erne Waterway, the Erne System, the Grand Canal, the Barrow Navigation, the Lower Bann Navigation, the Royal Canal, and the Shannon Navigation.

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

2.6.4 The Body operates in three regions: Northern, Eastern and Western.

2.6.5 The Chief Executive of Waterways Ireland is Mr John Martin.

Activities

2.6.6 The waterways contribute to the recreational and healthy well being of millions of visitors each year through the wide range of waterway and waterside activities on offer along the 1,000km waterway system. The development of the waterways also brings increased economic activity and benefits to the local waterway economies. In 2005, Waterways Ireland continued to enhance the facilities and services offered on the waterways to meet the needs of increasingly demanding and sophisticated local and visiting tourists.

2.6.7 The marketing and promotion of the waterways, which includes both destination and product marketing, built on the foundation laid in 2004. The range of promotional activities undertaken included:

- The development and distribution of new publications for the seven waterways including “A Taste of the Waterways, Favourite Places to Eat and Drink” and the “What’s On Guide 2005”.
- Targeting new markets through four new guides to angling facilities on the waterways and a new canoe trail guide for Lough Erne;
- Promotion of the waterways at Boat and Angling Consumer and Trade Shows in Dublin, London, Düsseldorf and Birmingham;
- Joint promotional activities with the Heritage Boat Association (HBA) along the Barrow Navigation, the

IWAI in Dublin and the Canoe Association of Northern Ireland (CANI);

- Organisation of major international sporting events such as the Classic Fishing Festival on Lough Erne and the Water Ski World Cup Championship in Enniskillen in partnership with Fermanagh District Council and the Northern Ireland Events Company;
- Design and development of a new website for Waterways Ireland to increase awareness of the inland waterways by illustrating the characteristics of each waterway and the navigation links between the waterways. The new website, which is fully dynamic and interactive, features the seven navigable waterways with information and movie clips on navigation and activities on each waterway. The site is updated daily with information on development and maintenance projects, up-to-date marine notices and customer, navigational and promotional information;
- Development of a promotional DVD with footage of all seven waterways filmed during the 2005 season. The DVD illustrates the range of activities and breadth of spectacular scenery on each of the waterways;
- Installation of signage with illustrations for angling areas; and
- Research on facilities and user requirements and the economic impact of the private boating industry.

2.6.8 In 2005, work continued on the implementation of the Waterways Ireland Strategy for Enhanced Customer Service, which commits the organisation to service excellence and demands that each customer is treated with courtesy and respect. The Strategy for Enhanced Customer Service is underpinned by a detailed Codes of Practice for Quality Customer Care and Procedures for Handling Customer Complaints.

2.6.9 From an Operational and Technical viewpoint, 2005 was again a very busy and productive year for Waterways



Ireland with a range of development, planning and design projects along the seven navigations undertaken, including:

- Significant work on the **Royal Canal** restoration project, including the completion of the Begnagh Bog stretch and the installation of two new bridges to replace the Bord na Mona culverts. In addition, work at Webb's Bridge, Abbeyshrule was substantially completed. The restoration project is funded under the National Development Plan.
- On the **Lower Bann Navigation**, the navigational infrastructure and channel markers were maintained and upgraded. Additional Moorings were installed at Toome, The Cutts, Carnroe and Movanager.
- On the **Erne System** a new and upgraded jetty was installed at Riverview in Enniskillen. The Riverview Jetty upgrade was part of the Waterways Ireland contribution to the £1.3m/€1.89m Queen Elizabeth Road Boulevard Scheme being implemented by Fermanagh District Council as part of the Enniskillen Integrated Development Plan.
- Work was completed at Kiltybardan on the **Shannon-Erne Waterway**, to provide an additional 50 metres of mooring space.
- On the **Shannon Navigation**, the harbours at Garrykennedy, Portrunny and Mountshannon were extended with the addition of mooring space and the new Harbour extension at Cleighran More on Lough Allen was official opened in June.
- On the **Barrow Navigation** dredging and bank

protection works were carried out on various stretches of the waterway.

- Extensive bank strengthening work was completed on the Edenderry Branch of the **Grand Canal** and dredging took place at various locations on the Barrow Line of the **Grand Canal**.

2.6.10 For further information on Waterways Ireland can be found on the Body's website: www.waterwayireland.org.

Tourism Sector



Trinity College Dublin

Tourism Ireland

2.7.1 The NSMC in this sector oversees the work of Tourism Ireland, the publicly-owned limited company which is responsible for marketing overseas the island of Ireland as a tourist destination. The Company has a Board of 12 members appointed by NSMC (see Annex 5). The Chairperson of the Company is Mr Andrew Coppel and the Vice-Chairperson is Ms Ann Riordan. The Chief Executive is Mr Paul O'Toole.

Activities

2.7.2 Overseas visitor performance in 2005 indicates that over 8.1m visitors came to the island of Ireland by the end of 2005, an increase of 394,000. Overseas tourism revenue is forecast at €3.9 billion/£2.7 billion (+7.2%). This is in excess of the target set of +6.8%.

2.7.3 In 2005 Tourism Ireland focused on the following priorities



- reinvigorating the GB market
- helping Northern Ireland tourism industry to reach its potential.
- encouraging the spread of overseas visitors to all the regions of Ireland
- access development
- e-marketing

2.7.4 Reinvigorating the GB Market: A major strategic review was undertaken in the Great Britain market. Arising out of the review, Tourism Ireland had an agreed path forward with tourism industry partners and public sector agencies focusing on three central themes of promotion, product and welcome.

2.7.5 Helping Northern Ireland Tourism Reach Its Potential: Tourism Ireland continued to work closely with the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) and the NI industry to grow visitors to Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland was prominently featured in the full range of island of Ireland marketing activities in GB, Europe, North America and New & Developing Markets and in particular focused on the winning themes and signature projects identified by the NITB.

2.7.6 Encouraging the Spread of Overseas Visitors to All the Regions of Ireland: Ensuring a more equitable spread of the benefits of overseas tourism was a key priority in 2005 as the tourism industry continued to face major challenges in its efforts to achieve a better spread of business to the regions in an intensely competitive and changing marketplace.

2.7.7 Access Development: A key focus of Tourism Ireland's work is to engage in co-operative marketing programmes with, air and sea carriers. This work was intensified in 2005 and the organisation actively worked with air and sea carriers to maximise awareness of existing and new routes.

2.7.8 e-marketing: Tourism Ireland established an all-island, industry wide e-marketing partnership group in 2005. It finalised an e-marketing strategy which will serve Irish tourism in the international market place for the next three years and will oversee the development of the next generation website for launch in early 2006. Tourism Ireland already has an extensive online presence with 24 websites in 14 languages. In 2005, there were 5 million unique visitors to tourismireland.com. Of particular note is that there has been a 40% increase in "click-throughs" to industry and partner sites, representing well over one million sales leads for tourism providers. The site can be seen as www.discoverireland.com.

2.7.9 New Marketing Communications: Tourism Ireland completed its TV advertising campaign as part of its complete new suite of marketing communications. The three year, €50m/£34.5m global advertising and media campaign was produced by JWT (J. Walter Thompson). The campaign, which was in development over the past year and firmly rooted in consumer research in key markets across the globe was launched during the first week in December and rolled out in the markets in February 2006. Our key message underpinning the campaign will be *"Great Places and Activities - Brought to Life by Great People"*.

2.7.10 The Corporate Plan 2005-2007 which when implemented will see 9 million visitors to the island. The plan also sets out a comprehensive corporate programme to deliver value for money. Further details are available at www.tourismireland.com/corporate.

2.7.11 Further information on Tourism Ireland can be found on the Company's website: www.tourismireland.com.

Education Sector

2.8.1 The aspects of North/South co-operation in Education that were agreed for initial consideration by the North/South Ministerial Council were education for children with special needs; educational under-achievement; teacher qualifications; and school, youth and teacher exchanges. To this end a number of Joint Working Groups were established.

Activities

North/South Exchange Consortium

2.8.2 During 2005 the 2 major pieces of research commissioned by the Consortium, to ascertain current North/South exchange activity and to identify gaps in provision, were completed and published. This will be followed by a wide-ranging Consultative Process to gauge stakeholders' views on its findings and recommendations about future policies, structures and programmes for north/south school, youth and teacher exchange and cooperative activity.

Literacy/Numeracy Working Group

2.8.3 Discussions and exchange of expertise continue on projects such as the DE (N.I) "Linguistic Phonics" initiative and "Raising achievement Programme" and the Department of Education and Science Initiative "Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS)".

EU Peace II Programme

2.8.4 Projects funded directly under Measure 5.5 - "education, cross-border school and youth co-operation" are continuing with 6 of the 14 approved projects due to continue activities until mid/late 2006.

2.8.5 A two year extension to the current Peace II Programme was launched in June 2005. Under the extension Measure 5.5 which is jointly implemented by DES and DE (NI) was subsumed into Measure 5.4 - "promoting joint approaches to social education, training and human resource development".

Special Educational Needs (SEN) Cross-Border Professional Exchange Programme

2.8.6 A joint North-South conference of Special Needs Education professionals, experts was held in the Slieve Russell Hotel in February 2005 to officially launch this project. This was very well attended and also involved guest speakers and a video link-up with contributors from the United States. The Programme's Autism, Dyslexia and Marginalised Youth North-South cluster groups have had very productive meetings throughout the year and a number of useful resources will be produced as a result.

Pupil Attendance/Retention Working Group

2.8.7 The North/South Working Group met in April 2005. Issues discussed included pupil retention data, the Northern Ireland PAM Project which is an initiative to promote attendance in Primary Schools such as a poster campaign and certificates for pupils, research into the scale/nature of bullying and the The School Age Mothers Programme in Northern Ireland. The group last met in December 2005. The main theme of that meeting was 'Tackling Educational Disadvantage in Schools in the context of Social Economic Disadvantage'.



Middletown

2.8.8 The Department of Education and the Department of Education and Science continue to work closely in a collaborative partnership to put in place the appropriate structures and mechanisms for the establishment of the Middletown Centre of Excellence. The key areas progressed include the development of a Masterplan for the refurbishment of the site and a plan to tender for the design team and to advertise for recruitment consultants to appoint the senior management team.

Agriculture Sector

2.9.1 The agreed aspects of North/South co-operation in Agriculture are Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) issues, animal and plant health policy and research, and rural development.

2.9.2 The Agriculture Departments, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland (DARDNI) and the Department of Agriculture and Food (DAF), continued to progress the development of an All-Island Animal Health and Welfare Strategy. This involves the convergence of animal health and welfare policies North and South and the development of joint strategies for dealing with animal diseases. During 2005, Ministers met and noted progress on the development of the strategic approach to animal health and welfare.

- Work of the nine policy working groups and the Steering Group continued to take forward various initiatives. The main achievements to date include the development of complementary approaches towards preventing the introduction of animal disease, the convergence of policy on Scrapie, and the strengthening of co-ordination and co-operation on issues such as contingency planning (and in particular in relation to avian influenza), BSE, TB, Brucellosis and cross-border fraud. Ongoing work continues on a wide range of other issues including live trade issues, animal identification and traceability, disease testing programmes, animal welfare, the alignment of disease testing programmes animal by-products and bio-security.
- Work continues between DARDNI and the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (DCRGA) on the implementation of a number of cross-border measures under the Peace 2 Programme and Interreg IIIA Programme.
- Work continues between the two Agriculture Departments towards the development of an All-Island Strategy for

the regulation of plant protection products. Contacts in the sector were maintained and updated. The first phase of a 4-year cycle of usage surveys for plant protection products, conducted on an all-island basis, was completed. It related to use in 2003 on grassland and fodder crops. The second phase, relating to use on cereals, potatoes, sugar beet and oilseed crops in 2004 was progressed. Survey work for a third phase involving use on grassland and fodder crops was initiated.

- Cooperation in relation to plant health issues was further developed. Communications between officials from DAF and DARDNI were routine and the Plant Health Liaison Group met on one occasion. Discussion centred around emerging plant health problems and existing plant pests and diseases such as *Phytophthora ramorum* (Sudden Oak Death), Potato Cyst Nematode and Fireblight, the extent of these pest and diseases in the two jurisdictions and the arrangements in place to safeguard against them.
- Under the EU subsidiarity approach to the establishment of measures for the coexistence of GM and non-GM crops, difficulties in the implementation of measures could arise at the borders between Member States, especially where farm boundaries do not coincide with national borders. DAF, in collaboration with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government has worked closely with the DARDNI and the Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland to harmonise the approach to the coexistence measures to be introduced North and South. The primary objective of this collaboration is to ensure compatibility of measures for farmers on both sides of the border. To this end, a number of North - South meetings have been held between representatives of the relevant Departments to harmonise coexistence measures.



Environment Sector

2.10.1 The aspects of North/South co-operation in Environment that were agreed for initial consideration by the NSMC include water quality management, waste management in a cross-border context, research into environmental protection, environmental databases, environmental impact of agriculture, and information exchange and environmental awareness; and identification of strategies and activities which would contribute to a coherent all-island approach to the achievement of sustainable development.

2.10.2 In 2005 progress continued on the mandated work programme.

Ongoing projects include:

- The Working Group on Water Quality established under the North-South Ministerial Council (Environment) continued to meet on a regular basis. The Group comprises officials from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the South and the Department of the Environment (DOE) and the Environment and Heritage Service (EHS) in the North.
- A high degree of co-ordination continued in relation to implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive. In particular work was ongoing on an EU INTERREG 111A funded North/South project (NS-SHARE) to implement the Water Framework Directive and to enhance water management on a cross-border basis. The project, costing over €7.5m/£5.1m, commenced in August 2004, and is due to be completed in 2008.
- A North/South Market Development Steering Group - comprising representatives of the DEHLG, DOE (Northern Ireland), Enterprise Ireland, the UK based Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP), Invest Northern Ireland, EPA and the Northern Ireland Waste Management Advisory Board - is working to identify options to encourage the expansion of waste recycling on an all-island basis, and in particular, to develop a

joint approach to marketing and manufacturing development for secondary materials and recyclates.

- Phase One of a study commissioned by the North South Market Development Steering Group to determine the feasibility of establishing a paper mill on the island of Ireland, was completed at the end of 2005 and paves the way for Phase Two which will focus on how to stimulate business interest. The study is led by the North South Market Development Steering Group and is funded jointly by the DOE through WRAP and by DEHLG.
- The all-island fridges and fridge freezers recycling scheme ended on 12 August 2005. The award winning scheme proved very successful and was a good example of North South partnership. During the course of its operation over 165,000 units were collected for recycling throughout the island. The North South partnership ended with the implementation of the WEEE Directives in Ireland in August 2005.
- The EHS and the EPA have been taking forward an environmental research database development programme aimed at providing wide access to shared information. A North/South website of Environmental Research projects (aNSwer - www.answer-online.org) was launched in 2002. It is an interactive website which also includes a shared database for recording sources of environmental information, which was populated initially with information on water. Much progress was made in 2005 in both promoting and populating the website.
- DEHLG Information Agency and EHS continued to raise environmental awareness in areas of common interest through a joint education work programme. This included joint education and awareness exhibitions, web-site links, sharing of publications and the provision of development opportunities through the staff exchange programme.

Health Sector

2.11.1 The aspects of North/South co-operation in Health that were agreed for initial consideration by the NSMC were Accident and Emergency Services, Planning for Major Emergencies, High Technology Equipment, Cancer Research and Health Promotion.

Activities

2.11.2 Progress was made in the designated areas of health co-operation in 2005 as follows:

2.11.3 **Accident and Emergency Services:** This area covers acute services generally as well as accident and emergency services.

2.11.4 A North South Regional Hospitals Service Group was established to oversee developments in this field and to consider opportunities for developing partnerships covering wider regional services. Progress was achieved in a number of areas including joint training, shared services in renal dialysis and dermatology, neo-natal intensive care and provision of tertiary cancer care.

2.11.5 Local initiatives continued to be advanced including an expansion of the Oral and Maxillo-Facial Service at Altnagelvin Hospital which will provide a cross-border service for people in the North West.

2.11.6 The potential for further development of supra-regional joint working opportunities continued to be explored. For example, in November, proposed co-operation in the delivery of radiotherapy services was discussed by the Health Ministers and will be taken forward by officials in 2006.

2.11.7 **Planning for Major Emergencies:** This area has a high degree of potential for practical North South working including hospital and community related emergency

planning, pre-hospital emergency care and fire services. Work is taken forward on a project basis, utilising CAWT, the informal cross-border health initiative, which was commissioned by the two Health Departments to undertake the work.

2.11.8 Projects include:-

- a Cross Border First Responder Scheme which is building capacity within communities along the border region to provide basic life support through programmes of education and training in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and basic First Aid;
- a project which aims to establish emergency planning fora between the border Trusts in Northern Ireland and corresponding Health Service Executive regions in the South - to integrate emergency planning, improve emergency links, develop networking relationships and joint training opportunities, and co-ordinate emergency planning exercises;
- a third project to develop cross-border emergency incident plans.

2.11.9 Consideration of the development of a Road Traffic Accident Mobilisation and Response Strategy for fire brigades in border areas and the further development of combined community fire prevention awareness and education programmes continued during the year.

2.11.10 **Co-operation on High Technology:** The objective in this area is the assessment of the economic and treatment benefits, on an all island basis, of new and emerging high technologies with a view to achieving optimal patient care. Little progress on a North South basis occurred in 2005 due to emphasis being directed into other areas for co-operation activity. However, the evaluation of new and emerging health



technologies to ensure that all the people on the island benefit from their potential is clearly an important area for health co-operation and will be the subject of review and renewed focus, North and South.

2.11.11 **Cancer Research:** This takes place in the context of the activities of the Consortium established in 1999 involving the National Cancer Institute, Washington and the two Health Departments, North and South. The Consortium seeks to help develop cancer services but particularly to enhance the research output of the cancer academic community in Ireland North and South.

2.11.12 Renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding will be formalised in 2006.

2.11.13 Achievements from the collaboration continue, with clinical trials, establishment of an All-Island Cancer Network, publication of All-Island Cancer Statistics Reports by the Cancer Registries, Epidemiological Research Fellowships, Scholar and Nursing Exchange Programmes continuing.

2.11.14 A recent focus has been on cancer prevention, with the establishment of the Prevention Working Group which met in Belfast in June 2005.

2.11.15 **Health Promotion:** Co-operation on various Health Promotion initiatives continued apace during 2005.

2.11.16 Active joint co-operation during the year included the following:-

- **Research:** into Health and Lifestyle issues;
- **Joint hosting of international Conferences:** on Health Promoting Hospitals, Mental Health, Breast Feeding and Obesity.
- **Joint Training:** for health promotion practitioners.

- **North and South representation in strategic planning fora:** on Men's Health, Breastfeeding, Suicide Prevention and Obesity.

2.11.17 The Obesity Task Force in the South launched its Report in May 2005 and the Childhood Obesity Task Force in Northern Ireland launched its Fit Futures Report in March 2006.

2.11.18 Ministers met in Dublin and Belfast during the year when smoking and suicide prevention were among the items discussed.

Transport Sector

2.12.1 The aspects of North/South co-operation in Transport that were agreed for initial consideration by the NSMC were 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.

Activities

2.12.2 Regular meetings of the Cross Border Roads Steering Group brought together representatives from the NI Roads Service and Department for Regional Development and the National Roads Authority and Department of Transport to discuss matters of mutual interest and to co-ordinate policies and procedures for the development of the strategic road networks in both jurisdictions.

2.12.3 There was close liaison between the Department for Regional Development, along with the National Roads Authority and Louth County Council, in relation to the construction of the scheme which will link the Newry by pass at Cloghogue to the Dundalk by pass at Ballymascanlon. It is anticipated that the scheme will be completed in 2007.

2.12.4 The Department of Transport and the Department for Regional Development are implementing bodies under measure 2.1 of the INTERREG IIIA Programme and have EU funding for a number of joint road projects including realignment of N54/A3, feasibility study for Ballynacarry Bridge (N53/A37) and INSTANT (a multi-modal traffic management and information system for cross-border traffic between Dublin and Belfast).

2.12.5 The National Safety Council worked closely with the Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland in developing joint road safety campaigns. During 2005 two new cross boarder campaigns were introduced and launched. A new young peoples' campaign was launched in Belfast in March and a hard hitting anti drink drive campaign was launched in Dublin in November.

2.12.6 The new metric speed limit system came into effect in the Republic of Ireland on 20 January 2005. In addition to the change in the measurement of speed limits from miles per hour to kilometres per hour, there was significant changes to the speed limit structure. Throughout the preparation for the changeover and in the lead-in period to January 20th, the Metrication Changeover Board liaised with the authorities in Northern Ireland (particularly the DRD and DoE) regarding the progression towards the metrication of speed limits. A cross border awareness campaign was undertaken in Northern Ireland and in Ireland.

2.12.7 With regard to rail safety issues, regular contact and sharing of best practice on policy and legislation in both jurisdictions continued throughout 2005. This work is particularly relevant with regard to the shared Belfast Dublin Enterprise service. Frequent sharing of information also occurs in the light of impending EU Directives aimed at creating greater harmonisation of railways across Europe.

2.12.8 The modalities underpinning this work are largely taken forward by the Department for Regional Development and the Department of Transport through official level co-operation.

2.12.9 A Trans-European Network (Rail) project to improve the Belfast-Cork route through the removal of speed restrictions is underway. During 2005, Translink commissioned a study to examine the scope for further investment to enhance the Belfast to Dublin Enterprise service, looking at the feasibility of a more frequent service with a reduced journey time. Discussions have taken place with Iarnród Éireann but the proposals remain at an early stage of development.

2.12.10 Following close consultation both Governments decided, in principle, to offer a joint package of funding of over €15m /£10m to City of Derry Airport in March 2005. The funding represents 75% grant support of qualifying expenditure and is subject to conditions including obtaining of State Aid clearance from the EU and actions to be undertaken by Derry City Council. Following official level meetings, formal notification has been made to the EU Commission regarding the proposed capital funding for the Airport.



North/South Ministerial Council
An Chomhairle Aireachta
Thuaidh/Theas

Annex 1
Decisions Taken Under
Interim Procedures in 2005





Under the Interim procedures in place the following decisions were taken in 2005.

Trade and Business Development Sector

- **Approved** on 5 January, the *InterTradelreland* Business Plan for 2005.
- **Approved** on 28 April, the determination made by *InterTradelreland* to provide and maintain the North/South Pension Scheme, with the Scheme commencing on the 29 April 2005; and **agreed** that future adjustments to operational components of the Scheme, namely the IDR Procedure, Financing Arrangements and CEO Pension Committee Operating Rules, shall be agreed between participating Bodies and Sponsor Departments with the approval of Finance Departments and without further reference to the NSMC.
- **Noted** on 5 October, *InterTradelreland's* Annual Report and Accounts for 2004.
- **Approved** on 26 October, the reappointment of Mr Liam Nellis as Chief Executive Officer of the Trade and Business Development Body, *InterTradelreland*, for a further period of five years with effect from 27 October 2005.
- **Approved** on 10 November, the *InterTradelreland* Business Plan for 2006; **recommended** the budget provision for *InterTradelreland* in the table for 2006, including the respective Northern Ireland and Southern contributions; and **noted** the projected total budget for 2007.
- **Extended** on 7 December, the term of Board Members for one year, to 12 December 2006, subject to earlier termination by NSMC, at its absolute discretion, by notice in writing; **agreed** that Mr Martin Naughton's appointment as Chairperson and Mr Barry Fitzsimons' appointment as Vice-Chairperson be extended; and **authorised** the Joint Secretaries to write to Board Members confirming extension of their term of appointment.

Food Safety Sector

- **Approved** on 28 April, the determination made by the Food Safety Promotion Board to provide and maintain the North/South Pension Scheme, with the Scheme commencing on the 29th April 2005; and **agreed** that the future adjustments to operational components of the scheme, namely the IDR Procedure, Financing Arrangements and CEO Pension Committee Operating Rules, shall be agreed between participating Bodies and Sponsor Departments with the approval of Finance Departments and without further reference to the NSMC.
- **Approved** on 14 June, a new Scientific Advisory Committee representing a wide variety of interests and disciplines, including the consumer and the food industry; and the appointment of Professor Charles Daly as Chair.
- **Noted** on 12 July, the Food Safety Promotion Board's Annual Report 2003 incorporating Financial Statements for 2002 and 2003; and the Review of Activities for 2001.
- **Extended** on 7 December, the term of office of Board Members for one year, to 12 December 2006, subject to earlier termination by NSMC, at its absolute discretion, by notice in writing; **agreed** that Mr Bertie Kerr's appointment as Chairperson and Professor Charlie Daly's appointment as Vice-Chairperson be extended; and **authorised** the Joint Secretaries to write to Board Members confirming extension of their term of appointment.
- **Approved** on 22 December, the Food Safety Promotion Board Business Plan for 2006; **recommended** the budget provision for the Food Safety Promotion Board in the table for 2006, including the respective Northern Ireland and Southern contributions; and **noted** the projected total budget for 2007.

Aquaculture and Marine Sector

- **Approved** on 31 January, the extension of the Advisory Forum's term of appointment for a further year to December 2005.
- **Noted** on 4 August, the Foyle Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission - Loughs Agency Financial Statements and Annual Report for the periods ending 31 December 2001 and 31 December 2002.
- **Approved** on 10 August, the Foyle Area and Carlingford Area (Angling) (Close Seasons for Angling) (Amendment) Regulations 2005; and **authorised** the Joint Secretaries to the North/South Ministerial Council to sign and approve on their behalf.
- **Approved** on 1 December, the Loughs Agency's Business Plan for 2006; **recommend** the budget provision for Loughs Agency in the table for 2006, including the respective Northern Ireland and Southern contributions; and **noted** the projected total budget for 2007.
- **Approved** on 1 December, the draft Foyle Area and Carlingford Area (Licensing of Fishing Engines) (Amendment) Regulations 2005; and **authorised** the Joint Secretaries to the North/South Ministerial Council to sign and approve on their behalf.
- **Extended** on 7 December, the term of Board Members for one year, to 12 December 2006, subject to earlier termination by NSMC, at its absolute discretion, by notice in writing; **agreed** that Mr Peter Savage's appointment as Chairperson and Lord Cooke of Islandreagh's appointment as Vice-Chairperson be extended; and **authorised** the Joint Secretaries to write to Board Members confirming extension of their term of appointment.
- **Approved** on 13 December, the process for the recruitment of the new Foyle and Carlingford Area Advisory Forum; and **authorised** the FCILC to employ independent consultants to undertake the recruitment and selection of the Advisory Forum members.

Special EU Programme Sector

- **Approved** on 5 April, the creation of a fixed-term Finance Manager post for the SEUPB.
- **Approved** on 28 April, the determination made by the Special EU Programmes Body to provide and maintain the North/South Pension Scheme with the Scheme commencing on the 29 April 2005; and **agreed** that future adjustments to operational components of the Scheme, namely the IDR Procedure, Financing Arrangements and CEO Pension Committee Operating Rules, shall be agreed between participating Bodies and Sponsor Departments with the approval of Finance Departments and without further reference to the NSMC.
- **Agreed** on 29 June, the proposed amendments to the PEACE II Operational Programme to complete the formal approval process.
- **Approved** on 8 September, the SEUPB Business Plan for 2006; **recommended** the budget provision for the SEUPB for 2006, including the respective contributions North and South; and **noted** the projected total budget for 2007.

Language Sector

- **Approved** on 28 February, the redeployment of 2 posts from ITÉ to Foras na Gaeilge on the terms and conditions set out above; and that any future general round increases to the salary scales or conditions of service shall be agreed, in accordance with public service pay awards, between the relevant sponsoring Departments, with the approval of the Departments of Finance and without further reference to the NSMC.
- **Noted** on 10 March, the Language Body Annual Report and Accounts for the period ended 31 December 2000.



- **Approved** on 23 March, the Financial Assistance Schemes for the Irish Language Agency and the Ulster-Scots Agency; and **approved** retrospectively the arrangements previously employed by the Agencies in providing financial assistance.
- **Approved** on 24 March, the remuneration and other conditions of service and the assimilation arrangements that shall apply to the CEO of Foras na Gaeilge, in accordance with the requirement of the Implementation Bodies Agreement, Annex 2, part 7, paragraph 3.
- **Approved** on 4 April, the Corporate Plans 2005-07 for Foras na Gaeilge and the Ulster-Scots Agency respectively and the Business Plans 2005 for Foras na Gaeilge and the Ulster-Scots Agency respectively. **Recommended** the budget provision for the North/South Language Body for 2005, including the respective contributions North and South; and noted the projected total for 2006-2007.
- **Approved** on 28 April, the determination made by the Ulster-Scots Agency of the North/South Language Body to provide and maintain the North/South Pension Scheme, with the Scheme commencing on the 29 April 2005; and **agreed** that future adjustments to operational components of the Scheme, namely the IDR Procedure, Financing Arrangements and CEO Pension Committee Operating Rules, shall be agreed between participating Bodies and Sponsor Departments with the approval of Finance Departments and without further reference to the NSMC.
- **Approved** on 28 April, the determination made by Foras na Gaeilge of the North/South Language Body to provide and maintain the North/South Pension Scheme, with the Scheme commencing on the 29 April 2005; and **agreed** that future adjustments to operational components of the Scheme, namely the IDR Procedure, Financing arrangements and CEO Pension Committee Operating Rules, shall be agreed between participating Bodies and Sponsor

Departments with the approval of Finance Departments and without further reference to the NSMC.

- **Agreed** on 20 June, that Mr Mark Thompson should be appointed to the Board of the North/South Language Body from the date of this decision (ie 20 June 2005 to 12 December 2005).
- **Agreed** on 2 August, a revised budget of £1.809m/€2.62m for the Ulster-Scots Agency in 2005. This additional in-year funding of £40,000/€58,055 to the Ulster-Scots Agency will meet the projected shortfall in its cultural programme budget and enable it to lift its self-imposed moratorium.
- **Agreed** on 12 October, that Mr Thompson should be appointed as Chairperson of the Ulster Scots Agency and will be Joint Chairperson of the North/South Language Body from the date of this decision until 12 December 2005.
- **Extended** on 7 December, the term of office of Board Members for one year, to 12 December 2006, subject to earlier termination by NSMC, at its absolute discretion, by notice in writing; **agreed** that Maighr  ad U   Mh  irt  n's appointment as Chairperson of the Irish Language Agency and Mr Mark Thompson's appointment as Chairperson of the Ulster-Scots Agency be extended; and **authorised** the Joint Secretaries to write to Board Members confirming extension of their term of appointment.

Inland Waterways Sector

- **Approved** on 8 March, the remuneration and other conditions of service that shall apply to the CEO of Waterways Ireland, in accordance with the requirements of the Implementation Bodies Agreement, Annex 2, Part 7, paragraph 3.2.
- **Approved** on 3 April, additional funding of £387,000/€560,870 for Waterways Ireland projects in Northern Ireland in 2004/2005.

Annex 1

Decisions Taken Under Interim Procedures in 2005

- **Approved** on 28 April, the determination made by Waterways Ireland to provide and maintain the North/South Pension Scheme, with the Scheme commencing on the 29 April 2005; and **agreed** that future adjustments to operational components of the Scheme, namely the IDR Procedure, Financing Arrangements and CEO Pension Committee Operating Rules, shall be agreed between participating Bodies and Sponsor Departments with the approval of Finance Departments and without further reference to the NSMC.
- **Noted** on 29 June, Waterways Ireland's Annual Report and Accounts for 2003.
- **Consented** on 5 August, to the compulsory acquisition of the lands at Longford Bridge, Ballymahon, County Longford.
- **Approved** on 9 August, the determination made by Waterways Ireland i.e. that the new arrangement to be put in place linking pay awards for Waterways Ireland employees based in Northern Ireland to pay awards applying to Northern Ireland Civil Service employees is to: "retain existing pay scales for existing employees, linking increases in these scales to increases in Northern Ireland Civil Service scales and placing all new employees on analogous Northern Ireland Civil Service pay scales, linking increases in these scales to increases in Northern Ireland Civil Service scales".
- **Consented** on 12 August, to the granting of a 40 year lease by Waterways Ireland for a 30-metre stretch of the weir at Tarmonbarry to allow the project to proceed.
- **Consented** on 27 August, to the granting of a 900 year lease by Waterways Ireland for 1.813 hectares of river frontage at the Jolly Mariner at Athlone, Co Westmeath to Mr John Lally.
- **Noted** on 3 December, Waterways Ireland's Annual Report and Accounts for 2004.

Tourism Sector

- **Approved** on 7 April, the Corporate Plan for 2005-2007 and its Operating Plan for 2005; and **recommended** the budget provision for 2005 including the respective Northern and Southern contributions; and the projected total budgets for 2006 and 2007.
- **Approved** on 28 April, the determination made by Tourism Ireland to provide and maintain the North/South Pension Scheme, with the Scheme commencing on the 29 April 2005; and **agreed** that future adjustments to operation components of the Scheme, namely the IDR Procedure, Financing Arrangements and CEO Pension Committee Operating Rules, shall be agreed between participating Bodies and Sponsor Departments with the approval of Finance Departments and without further reference to the NSMC.
- **Noted** on 12 September, Tourism Ireland's Annual Report and Accounts for 2004.
- **Noted** on 9 December, the resignation of Ms Gillian Bowler, Chair of Fáilte Ireland, as a member of the Board of Tourism Ireland Limited; **agreed** that a member of Fáilte Ireland be appointed to the first Board of Tourism Ireland Limited in place of the Chair of Fáilte Ireland; **approved** the appointment of Mr Patrick O'Donoghue, member of Fáilte Ireland as a member of the Board of Tourism Ireland Limited on the same terms as the existing Board members; **approved** the requisite change in Article 39 of the Articles of Association as follows: The sentence "the first Board of Directors shall serve for a period of not exceeding five years" shall be changed to read "the first Board of Directors shall serve for a period not exceeding six years"; **directed** the Joint Secretaries to advise, in writing, the Company Secretary, of the consent to the change to Article 39; **extended** the initial period of appointment of the first Board of Tourism Ireland Limited from five to six years, the decision to become effective when the approved change to Article 39 is made by the members of the Company; and **agreed** that the appointment of Mr Andrew Coppell as Chairperson and Mrs Ann Riordan as Vice-Chairperson be extended from five to six years.



North/South Ministerial Council
An Chomhairle Aireachta
Thuaidh/Theas





Background

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 Civil Service. The Southern side of the Joint Secretariat operates under the aegis of the Department of Foreign Affairs, while the Northern side operates under the aegis of the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister.

Staffing

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 and 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. Joe Hayes is the Southern Joint Secretary and Mary Bunting is the Northern Joint Secretary. The Deputy Joint Secretaries are Barbara Jones (Southern) and Pat Donaghy (Northern).

Functions

Under the terms of the Memorandum, the functions of the Joint Secretariat prior to suspension included:

- 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.

In addition to the functions above the Joint Secretariat also co-ordinates the Interim Procedures process as outlined in paragraph 1.10 of this Report, and facilitates the development of arrangements within the North/South Bodies to deliver best practice in terms of corporate governance and accountability.

Funding

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 (See Annex 3).





Financial Information
1 January 2005 - 31 December 2005

Expenditure

Total expenditure for the financial period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005 amounted to £1,357,868/€1,982,169 and a breakdown of the main expenditure areas is set out below.

NSMC Joint Secretariat Expenditure
1 January 2005 - 31 December 2005

Item	£	€
Salaries	964,801	1,408,382
Administration	332,227	484,974
Meetings/Conferences	20,845	30,430
Project Expenditure	39,995	58,383
Total	1,357,868	1,982,169

Annex 4
North/South Bodies Contact Details





North/South Ministerial Council
An Chomhairle Aireachta
Thuaidh/Theas

North/South Bodies Contact Details

Waterways Ireland

Headquarters:

20 Darling Street
Enniskillen
Co Fermanagh
BT74 7EW

Tel: (028) 6632 3004

Fax: (028) 6634 6236

Email: info@waterwaysireland.org

Website: www.waterwaysireland.org

Northern Region:

Somervue House
Old Dublin Road
Carrick on Shannon
Co Leitrim

Tel: (071) 96 50787

Fax: (071) 96 22866

Western Region:

Market Square
Scarriff
Co Clare

Tel: (061) 922033

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Eastern Region:

Floor 2
Block C
Ashtowngate
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E-mail: info@waterwaysireland.com

Food Safety Promotion Board

7 Eastgate Avenue
Eastgate
Little Island
Cork

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Fax: (021) 230 4111

E-mail: info@safefoodonline.com

Website: www.safefoodonline.com

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Abbey Court
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Fax: (01) 4480699

E-mail: info@fseai.ie

INTERTRADEIRELAND - The Trade and Business Development Body

InterTradeIreland
The Old Gasworks Business Park
Kilmorey Street
Newry
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Tel: (028) 3083 4100

Fax: (028) 3083 4155

E-mail: info@intertradeireland.com

Website: www.intertradeireland.com

Special EU Programmes Body

EU House
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Website: www.seupb.org

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E-mail: omagh@seupb.org

EU House
Castle Meadow Court
Monaghan

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Fax: (047) 71258
E-mail: interreg@seupb.ie

The North/South Language Body

Foras na Gaeilge
7 Cearnóg Mhuirfean
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Tel: (01) 639 8400
Fax: (01) 639 8401
E-mail: eolas@forasnagaeilge.ie
Website: www.forasnagaeilge.ie

Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch

Franklin House
5th Floor
10-12 Brunswick Street
Belfast
BT2 7GE

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

Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission

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

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

Teach Eolais
Old Quay Lane
Carlingford
Co Louth

Tel: (042) 9383888
Fax: (042) 9383888
E-mail: carlingford@loughs-agency.org



North/South Ministerial Council
An Chomhairle Aireachta
Thuaidh/Theas

Tourism Ireland

Tourism Ireland

5TH Floor
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Redmond's Hill
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Tel: (01) 476 3400

Fax: (01) 476 3666

E-mail: info@tourismireland.com

Website: www.tourismireland.com

Regional Office

Tourism Ireland
Beresford House
2 Beresford Road
Coleraine
BT52 1GE

Tel: (028) 7035 9200

Fax: (028) 7032 6932

E-mail: corporate.admin@tourismireland.com

Website: www.tourismireland.com

Annex 5
North/South Bodies Board Members (2005)





North/South Bodies Board Members (2005)

Food Safety Promotion Board Advisory Board

Mr Bertie Kerr
(Chairperson)

Professor Charlie Daly
(Vice Chairperson)

Mr Don Anderson

Mr Leslie Craig

Ms Carmel Foley

Professor Patrick Fottrell

Mr Odran Flynn

Mr Patrick McColgan

Ms Catherine Murphy

Mr Damien O'Dwyer

Ms Anne Speed

Professor Sean Strain

The Trade And Business Development Body

Dr Martin Naughton
(Chairperson)

Mr Barry Fitzsimons
(Vice Chairperson)

Ms Mary Ainscough

Ms Mary Breslin *

Mr Trefor Campbell **

Mr John Fitzgerald

Mr Jack Gilmour

Ms Jackie Harrison

Mr Carl McCann

Mr Feargal McCormack

Dr Inez McCormack

Mr Robbie Smyth

* Deceased November 2005

** Resigned 2 June 2005

North/South Language Body - Foras Na Gaeilge

Mrs Maighr  ad U   Mh  irt  n
(Chairperson of Foras na Gaelige/
Joint Chairperson of An Foras Teanga)

Liam Corey

Anne Craig

Gordon McCoy

Aod  n Mac P  il  n

Gear  id MacSiaca  s

Patrick McGlone *

Treasa N   Ailp  n

Caitr  ona N   Cheallaigh

Mair  ad Nic Sheagh  ain

Maolsheachlainn    Caolla  

Leachlainn    Cath  in

P  draig    Duibhir

Gear  id    hEara

Diarmuid    Murch  

Br  d U   N  ill

* Resigned on 17 June 2005

Tha Boord O Ulster Scotch

Mr Mark Thompson *
(Chairperson of Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch/
Joint Chairperson of North/South Language Body)

Dr Ian Adamson

Dr P  draig de Bh  al

Mr James Devenney
(Acting Chairperson until 11 October 2005)

Dr Linde Lunney

Mr   amonn    D  mhnaill

Mr Alistair Simpson

Mr Robert Stoker

* Appointed as Board Member on 20 June 2005 and appointed
Chairperson of Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch/Joint Chairperson
of North/South Language Body on 12 October 2005



North/South Ministerial Council
An Chomhairle Aireachta
Thuaidh/Theas

The Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission

Peter Savage
(Chairperson)

Lord Cooke of Islandreagh
(Vice Chairperson)

Mr Jack Allen

Mr Dick Blakiston-Houston

Mr Francis Feely

Dr Patrick J Griffin

Ms Siobhan Logue

Ms Jacqui McConville

Mr Joseph Martin

Mr Tarlach O Crosain

Mr Andrew Ward

Tourism Ireland Limited

Mr Andrew M Coppel
(Chairperson)

Ms Ann Riordan
(Vice-Chairperson)

Ms Gillian Bowler *

Mr Alan Clarke

Mr Dennis Galway

Mr Howard Hastings

Mr Tony Kelly

Mr Tom McGrath

Mr Felix Mooney

Mr Patrick O'Donoghue **

Mr John Power

Mr Shaun Quinn

Mr Charles Sinnott

* Resigned 11 November 2005

** Appointed 7 December 2005





North/South Ministerial Council
An Chomhairle Aireachta
Thuaidh/Theas

Departmental Information

Central Departments

Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister

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Belfast
BT4 3SR

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Executive Secretariat*

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First Minister
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Northern Ireland Division

Department of the Taoiseach
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North/South Section

Anglo/Irish Division

Department of Foreign Affairs**
80 St Stephen's Green
Dublin 2

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E-mail: dfa@iveagh.irlgov.ie

Website: www.irlgov.ie/iveagh

* Co-ordinating role on Northern Ireland

* * Co-ordinating role on Southern side

Inland Waterways Sector

Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure

3rd Floor Interpoint
20-24 York Street
Belfast
BT15 1AQ

Tel: (028) 9025 8825

Fax: (028) 9025 8906

E-Mail: dcal@dcalni.gov.uk

Website: www.dcalni.gov.uk

Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

Dún Aímhígin
43-49 Mespil Road
Dublin 4

Tel: (01) 647 3000

Fax: (01) 647 3051

E-Mail: eolas@pobail.ie

Website: www.pobail.ie

Health and Food Safety Sectors

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Castle Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3SJ

Tel: (028) 9052 0500
Fax: (028) 9052 3136
E-Mail: webmaster@dhsspsni.gov.uk
Website: www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

Department of Health and Children
Hawkins House
Hawkins Street
Dublin 2

Tel: (01) 635 4000
Fax: (01) 635 4001
E-Mail: webmaster@health.irlgov.ie
Website: www.doh.ie

Trade And Business Development Sector

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
Netherleigh
Massey Avenue
Belfast
BT4 2JP

Tel: (028) 9052 9900
Fax: (028) 9052 9273
E-Mail: information@detini.gov.uk
Website: www.detini.gov.uk

Department for Employment and Learning
Adelaide House
39-49 Adelaide Street
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Tel: (028) 9025 7777
Fax: (028) 9025 7778
E-Mail: info.tea@delni.gov.uk
Website: www.delni.gov.uk

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Kildare Street
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Tel: (01) 631 2121
Fax: (01) 631 2827
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Website: www.entemp.ie

Special Eu Programmes Sector

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BT19 7NA

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Fax: (028) 9185 8109
E-mail: DFP.enquiries@dfpni.gov.uk
Website: www.dfpni.gov.uk

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