



BRITISH-IRISH PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
TIONÓL PARLAIMINTEACH NA BREATAINE AGUS NA HÉIREANN

TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT
THE ASSEMBLY'S ACTIVITIES IN 2016

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TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

THE WORK OF THE BRITISH-IRISH PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY IN 2016

Introduction

1. This is the twenty-first annual report of the Assembly since it was decided at the Plenary Session in May 1996 that such a Report should be made. This Report summarises the work of the Assembly during the calendar year 2016.

Membership of the Assembly

2. The Irish general election in February 2016 led to significant changes in the Irish delegation. Changes to other delegations took place following elections in Guernsey in April, in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in May and in the Isle of Man in September. As the UK general election in May 2015 had resulted in changes in the Westminster delegation, there has been a major reconstitution of the Assembly's membership as a whole in the space of little more than 18 months.
3. A list of Members and Associate Members at the start and close of 2016 is set out at Appendix 1.

Political developments

General Overview of British-Irish political developments

4. 2016 saw continued strengthening of relations between the UK and Ireland, with several visits showcasing the ties between the UK and Ireland.
5. In the lead up to, and in the period immediately following the UK referendum on membership of the European Union on 23rd June 2016, there was extensive bilateral engagement at head of Government, and ministerial level between Ireland and UK. In addition there was substantial official level engagement on the issues affected by the result of the referendum.
6. There was a royal visit by the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall to Co Donegal in May. Key themes of the visit were cross-border co-operation, and relationships between businesses and communities on both sides of the border. The visit continued to build on the Queen's state visit in 2011 and the President's state visit to the UK in 2014 and the Royal couple's visit in 2015. The Prince and Duchess visited Donegal Town and the Letterkenny Institute of Technology.
7. In April, President Michael D Higgins and Mrs Sabina Higgins visited the Irish in Britain archive at the London Metropolitan University and attended the 'Imaging Ireland' concert at the Royal Festival Hall.

8. In October, the President and Mrs Higgins also visited London, where the President gave an address on Irish poet and revolutionary Eva Gore-Booth at the headquarters of the Trade Unions Congress. The visit also included the launch of the President's book of speeches 'When Ideas Matter'.
9. A general election was held in Ireland on 26th February 2016. Fine Gael won 50 seats, Fianna Fáil won 44, Sinn Féin won 23, Labour won 7, AAA-PBP won 6, Independents 4 Change won 4, the Social Democrats won 3, Green Party won 2, and Independents won 19.
10. A programme for government was published on 29th April, and Enda Kenny TD was elected Taoiseach by the Dáil on 6th May and a government was formed which included Fine Gael and independent TDs.

Government of Ireland, May 2016	Minister
Taoiseach and Minister for Defence	Enda Kenny TD
Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality	Frances Fitzgerald TD
Minister for Finance	Michael Noonan TD
Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform	Paschal Donohoe TD
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade	Charles Flanagan TD
Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation	Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD
Minister for Education and Skills	Richard Bruton TD
Minister for Health	Simon Harris TD
Minister for Social Protection	Leo Varadkar TD
Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Michael Creed TD
Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment	Denis Naughten TD
Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government	Simon Coveney TD
Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs	Heather Humphreys TD
Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport	Shane Ross TD
Minister for Children and Youth Affairs	Katherine Zappone TD

11. The British-Irish Council had another year of continued collaboration. There were three summits in the year, the first in Glasgow in June, the second in July (an extraordinary summit to discuss the outcome of the UK referendum on membership of the EU) held in Cardiff, and the third in November also held in Cardiff.
12. The fifth annual meeting of the Irish Secretaries General (SGs) and UK Permanent Secretaries (PSs) took place in London on 5th/6th October. The summit was focused on the next steps following the outcome of the UK referendum on membership of the EU. This engagement is valuable, to facilitate broader collaboration between

Governments and their administrations, and had particular relevance in the context of the referendum result.

13. There was significant engagement between Ireland and the devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales. In June, the President and Mrs Higgins visited Glasgow and Edinburgh. This visit included a meeting between the President and the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon MSP, as well as the President addressing members of the Scottish Parliament. In addition, First Minister Sturgeon visited Dublin in November. Her programme included meetings with the President and then Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Charlie Flanagan TD.

Commemorations

14. A wide range of commemorative events took place throughout 2016 to mark the centenaries of the Easter Rising and the Battle of the Somme. 'Ireland 2016' was Ireland's programme of national and international events marking the centenary of the Easter Rising of 1916, which culminated in a State Ceremonial event outside Dublin's GPO on Easter Sunday 2016, led by President Higgins with members of Government and other key dignitaries in attendance, including Britain's then Ambassador to Ireland Dominick Chilcott. In addition, more than 600 events took place in over 156 locations around the world involving thousands of Ireland's diaspora. Led by Ireland's network of Embassies and Consulates, these commemorative events brought the 'Ireland 2016' programme to a global audience and showcased a diverse array of cultural performances including concerts, exhibitions, film screenings and lectures.
15. The Irish Embassy in London organised a number of events as part of the 'Ireland 2016' programme, including the Embassy Lecture Series which examined many topics related to the Easter Rising, as well as the Battle of the Somme. President Higgins attended the 'Imagining Ireland' concert at the Royal Festival Hall in London on 29th April, which was also attended by the then Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP.
16. 'Rising to Reconciliation' which took place in the Abbey Theatre on 10th April 2016, marked the 18th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement and the journey of reconciliation from Easter 1916 to Easter 1998 and beyond. The event incorporated music, poetry and drama and was attended by President Higgins and others including then Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP, John Hume and Senator George Mitchell.
17. On 26th May 2016 at Grangegorman Military Cemetery, an Irish State Ceremonial event to mark the deaths of British soldiers during the Easter Rising was held. The event, which included participation by the British Army in the ceremony, reflected the Government's commitment to remember all those who lost their lives in the Rising, in a manner that respected the different historical narratives and traditions on the island of Ireland. Then Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Charles Flanagan TD, and then British Ambassador Chilcott laid wreaths in memory of the soldiers who died.

18. A large number of events took place across these islands and beyond to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of the Somme. A joint Anglo-French ceremony led by HRH the Prince of Wales and then French President, Francois Hollande, and attended by President Higgins, took place at the Theipval Memorial in France on 1st July.
19. A ceremony, organised by the Somme Association, was also held at the Ulster Tower on 1st July in remembrance of role of the 36th Ulster Division in the Battle of the Somme. It was attended by HRH the Prince of Wales, the Duchess of Cornwall, Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Heather Humphreys TD, and then First Minister Arlene Foster MLA.
20. Ireland's State Ceremony marking the centenary of the Battle of the Somme took place on 9th July in the Irish National War Memorial Gardens in Islandbridge, in the presence of President Higgins and then Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD. The event, organised in conjunction with the Royal British Legion, incorporated a wreath laying ceremony led by President Higgins and others including then Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP, then Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness MLA, members of the Diplomatic Corp and other key dignitaries.
21. On 3rd September a ceremony, organised by the Somme Association, was held at the Ginchy Cross at Guillemont marking the role of the 16th Irish Division at Guillemont and Ginchy. It was attended by Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Heather Humphreys TD, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP, and Minister Alastair Ross MLA, of the Northern Ireland Executive Office.
22. On 9th September then Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Charles Flanagan TD, represented the Irish Government at a ceremony in St. Stephen's Green, Dublin to mark the centenary of the death of Thomas Kettle, a former Home Rule MP who died during the Somme campaign.
23. The Remembrance Sunday Ceremony at Belfast City Hall on 13th November was led by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP and attended by Tánaiste Frances Fitzgerald TD and other key dignitaries. Then Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD, also attended the Remembrance Sunday ceremony in Enniskillen.

North South Co-operation

24. There were 16 meetings of the North South Ministerial Council (NSMC) during 2016 including two Plenary meetings. At these meetings Ministers discussed the economic challenges facing both jurisdictions and opportunities for co-operation. Ministers, North and South, worked to develop priorities for North/South co-operation in their respective sectoral areas especially where it could lead to economic recovery, job creation, the best use of public funds and the most effective delivery of services to citizens.
25. In response to the outcome of the UK referendum to leave the EU the NSMC, at its Plenary meeting on 4 July 2016, agreed to work to ensure that the interests of the

island of Ireland and its people are protected and that the benefits of North/South co-operation are fully recognised in any new arrangements which emerge in the United Kingdom's future relationship with the European Union. Ministers agreed to conduct a full audit in all sectors to identify the possible impacts, risks, opportunities and contingencies arising in the phases preceding and following the UK's withdrawal from the EU. This work was in turn discussed at ministerial sectoral meetings and it was agreed that it will continue to be a key discussion item at future meetings. At the Plenary meeting on 18 November 2016 the Northern Ireland Executive and the Irish Government agreed to be guided by a number of common principles in taking forward their decisions.

26. During 2016 progress was made in a number of key areas of North/South co-operation including the new Radiotherapy Unit at Altnagelvin Area Hospital which opened in November and will treat patients from both sides of the Border. There was also continued co-operation on the transport with Ministers North and South signing a co-operation statement relating to candidate CEF/TEN-T projects in both jurisdictions. Ministers also worked closely together in support of the Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU) bid to deliver a world class proposal for hosting the 2023 Rugby World Cup tournament on the island of Ireland.
27. The continuing importance of European funding, in particular the PEACE and INTERREG programmes which are 85% funded by the EU, to co-operation and regional development was re-iterated. Both administrations have agreed an approach to maximise the drawdown and impact of the PEACE IV and INTERREG VA 2014-2020 programmes. They have committed to continue to work together with a view to securing funding for successor Programmes and agreed that the matter will be kept under review at future NSMC meetings.

Political Developments in Northern Ireland

28. 2016 was a busy year regarding political developments in Northern Ireland. In May, an Assembly election took place which returned the DUP and Sinn Féin as the two largest parties. Arlene Foster and Martin McGuinness were re-appointed as First and deputy First Minister on 12 May. A significantly changed Executive was formed on 25 May consisting of the DUP and Sinn Féin, with an independent Unionist Justice Minister. The UUP and SDLP declined their entitlement to an Executive Ministry and designated instead as official opposition in the Assembly, provision for which had been made under the Fresh Start Agreement. The Alliance party declined an offer to take up the Justice portfolio again and were also in opposition in the Assembly.
29. On 23 June, the United Kingdom held a referendum on membership of the European Union. The overall result provided a UK-wide majority of 51.9% in favour of leaving the EU. The Northern Ireland electorate voted to remain in the EU by a majority of 56%. Turnout in Northern Ireland was 62.69%. The potential impact of the referendum outcome for Northern Ireland was a major factor in political discourse for the remainder of 2016.

30. Review Meetings of the Fresh Start and Stormont House Agreements were held in June and December 2016, with the participation of the two Governments and the Executive. Items discussed included the result of the UK-EU exit referendum result, the Fresh Start commitments on ending paramilitarism and possible means of making progress with the establishment of the Stormont House Agreement legacy framework.
31. In the latter part of 2016, tensions began to build between the two Executive parties, particularly in relation to the unforeseen level of costs arising under the Renewable Heating Initiative. The Assembly was recalled on 19 December to discuss the increasing controversy surrounding the initiative.

Ministerial Assignments: Northern Ireland Executive (as of December 2016):

Note: The number of Executive Ministries was reduced from 12 to 9 following the Assembly election

Department	Minister	Party
OFMDFM – First Minister	Arlene Foster	DUP
OFMDFM – Deputy First Minister	Martin McGuinness	SF
Justice	Claire Sugden	Independent Unionist
Economy	Simon Hamilton	DUP
Finance	Máirtín Ó Muilleoir	SF
Education	Peter Weir	DUP
Infrastructure	Chris Hazzard	SF
Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs	Michelle McIlveen	DUP
Communities	Paul Givan	DUP
Health	Michelle O’Neill	SF
Junior Minister OFMDFM	Alistair Ross	DUP
Junior Minister OFMDFM	Megan Fearon	SF

Legacy and related issues

32. Following the failure to reach agreement on implementing the Stormont House Agreement legacy framework during the negotiations that led to Fresh Start Agreement of 2015, in early 2016 both Governments undertook respective consultation processes with victims and survivors groups on legacy issues, to take their views on how best to proceed with securing an agreed basis for the establishment of the new legacy institutions as provided for under the Stormont House Agreement. Political discussions took place in the second half of the year - within the framework of the Review Meetings for the Fresh Start and Stormont House Agreements - to seek a way forward to implement the Stormont House legacy bodies.
33. In February, the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland put forward a set of proposals aimed at resolving the backlog of coroner’s inquests into deaths related to the Troubles, in accordance with the UK Government’s sovereign obligations under Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The proposals to establish a legacy inquest unit to process the 56 outstanding legacy inquests were welcomed by victims and survivors’ groups and the Irish Government, but by the end of the year had not been approved by the Northern Ireland Executive.

34. In May, a third All-Party motion on the Dublin-Monaghan bombings, proposed by the Government, was adopted by Dáil Éireann following the 42nd anniversary of the bombings. The motion recalls the All-Party motions of 2008 and 2011 and calls on the British Government to allow access by an independent, international judicial figure to all documentation relating to the atrocities, in support of a full investigation.
35. There were developments with a number of other legacy cases in 2016. In June, the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland published a report into the 1994 Loughinisland Massacre, which found that collusion was a feature of the Loughinisland murders. The inquest into the Kingsmill massacre was, after a number of days' hearing, adjourned on 21 June until September, after the re-launch on of a PSNI investigation into the atrocity on 31 May following the emergence of new evidence. Also in June, 'Operation Kenova' was launched, led by Chief Constable Jon Butcher of Bedfordshire Police. Kenova focuses on the activities of the British agent within the IRA known as 'Stakeknife'. Appeals regarding the British Government's commitment to establish a public inquiry in the Pat Finucane case were heard at Belfast High Court in December. On 7 December, the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers reviewed progress with implementation by the UK of European Court of Human Rights judgments in the McKerr group of cases, including the Finucane case, and statements were made by the UK and Ireland.
36. A report by the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, Pablo de Grieff, on addressing the legacy of the Troubles was presented to the UN Human Rights Council in September and published on 17 November. The Special Rapporteur made a number of recommendations on the implementation of the Stormont House Agreement provisions on dealing with the past and on ways to address remaining challenges.

Security Situation

37. The continuing need for vigilance around security threats in Northern Ireland was underlined in March 2016 with the murder of prison officer Adrian Ismay. The threat from dissident elements remained real throughout the year with continuing low level violence and frequent punishment attacks in nationalist areas. Loyalist paramilitaries continue to terrorise their communities through intimidation and drug dealing.
38. Paragraph 4.1 Section A of the 2015 Fresh Start Agreement provided for the establishment of an expert panel to bring forward recommendations "for a strategy to disband paramilitary groups". Professor Monica McWilliams, Lord John Alderdice and solicitor John McBurney were the three members of the panel appointed by the NI Executive and their Report, containing 43 recommendations was published in June 2016.
39. On 19 July 2016, responding to this Report, the Northern Ireland Executive published its "Action Plan on Tackling Paramilitary Activity, Criminality and Organised Crime." The Action Plan built upon work already underway following on from the Fresh Start Agreement, and set out additional measures to be taken to tackle

paramilitary activity, criminality and organised crime, accepting in full and building upon the recommendations of the Panel report.

40. A key action in the Plan called for the two sovereign Governments to establish the Independent Reporting Commission agreed in Fresh Start to monitor progress towards ending continued paramilitary activity. The IRC consists of four persons, one each to be nominated by the British and Irish Governments and two nominated by the Executive.
41. An International Agreement to establish the IRC was signed in Dublin on 8 September 2016. In December 2016, the following nominations were made; Mitchell Reiss (British Government), Tim O'Connor (Irish Government) and Professor Monica McWilliams and John McBurney (NI Executive).

Work of the Assembly

42. In 2015 it was agreed by the Steering Committee that the Annual Report should no longer contain a précis of the speeches made and questions asked on the grounds that the verbatim record is now available on the website (www.britishirish.org). This, the 21st Report, therefore merely reports details of speakers and any specific or unusual arrangements.

52nd Plenary Conference (Malahide)

43. The 52nd Plenary conference of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly took place between Sunday 3 July and Tuesday 5 July 2016 at Malahide in Ireland. The conference was held much later in the year than usual because of the Irish General Election and the consequent difficulty of forming a Government and then appointing a new delegation to the Assembly. Consequently, a new Irish Co-Chair and a new delegation were not appointed till the week before the conference opened. Kathleen Funchion TD was appointed as the Irish Co-Chair in succession to Frank Feighan who had stood down as a Deputy at the General Election but remained a member of the Assembly following his appointment as a Senator. Laurence Robertson MP, British Co-Chair, was unable to attend the conference, so Andrew Rosindell MP, Vice-Chair, acted in his place on Monday and Lord Dubs did so on Tuesday.
44. At the beginning of business on Monday 4 July, the Assembly observed a minute's silence in memory of those killed at the Battle of the Somme, those killed during the Easter Rising and the late Jo Cox MP, assassinated two weeks earlier.
45. The plenary conference was held just over a week after the United Kingdom's referendum on whether or not the UK should remain a member of the European Union; the result of that referendum that the UK should leave the European Union was one which gave rise to widespread concerns among members of the Assembly about future relationships between not just the United Kingdom and Ireland but also between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Joe McHugh TD, Minister of State for the Diaspora and Overseas Development and a former Co-Chair of the Assembly, spoke about current developments in British-Irish relations before a debate on Brexit was initiated. The subject was debated at length on Monday 4 July and again in the morning of Tuesday 5 July. Many members saw an important role for the

Assembly in future discussions and urged that it should be consulted during negotiations between the British government and the European Union.

46. Dr Fionnuala Walsh, of the National Library of Ireland, and Ms Sinead McCoole, author and historian, spoke after lunch on Monday on the role women played in, respectively, the First World War and in the Easter Rising 1916 and War of Independence.
47. Dr Martin Mansergh, former TD and Senator, addressed the Assembly on British-Irish friendship based on almost a century of Irish independence and the peace settlement in Northern Ireland.
48. Patrick O'Donovan TD, Minister of State for Tourism and Sport at the Department for Transport, Tourism and Sport, addressed the Assembly on tourism and interconnectivity opportunities between the two islands. Mr O'Donovan's address was followed by a panel discussion on shared international tourism opportunities. The panellists were Mr John McGrane, Director-General of the British-Irish Chamber of Commerce, Mr Niall Gibbons, CEO Tourism Ireland, Mr Shaun Quinn, CEO Fáilte Ireland and Mr John McGrillen CEO Tourism Northern Ireland.
49. On Tuesday 5 July the debate on Brexit resumed for a short time and was followed by oral reports from the Chairs of the Assembly's Committees and the approval of the 2015 Annual Report.
50. The final business of the plenary was a joint address by Senator James Reilly, a former Minister of Health, and Senator Jerry Buttimer, former Chair of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Health, on significant legislative developments with a societal impact in fields such as health, focusing in particular on pre-legislative scrutiny.
51. An attractive and interesting social programme had been arranged. On Sunday 3 July, after the arrival of delegates, those attending the plenary conference were taken by coach to Howth Yacht Club for a reception and dinner. Because the conference was held much later than normal and not long after Midsummer Day, those attending were able to enjoy the view across the water late into the evening. On Monday evening a pre-dinner reception was held at Malahide Castle where tours of the historic interior were organised. The conference dinner was held at the Grand Hotel, Malahide, where Pat Breen TD, Minister of State for Employment and Small Business, spoke.

53rd Plenary Conference (Cardiff)

52. The 53rd Plenary Conference of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly was held in the Marriott Hotel, Cardiff, between Sunday 27 and Tuesday 29 November 2016.
53. Laurence Robertson MP, Co-Chair, was unable to attend the plenary owing to illness, so Andrew Rosindell MP, Vice-Chair, acted in his place. Additionally, Dave Anderson MP, Vice-Chair, was unable to continue as a member of the Assembly because of his appointment as Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Karin Smyth MP was appointed Vice-Chair in place of Mr Anderson.

54. The whole of the first day's business was devoted to a debate on the political and economic implications of the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union, particularly the consequences for British-Irish relations and also for Northern Ireland which shares a land border with the Republic and would do so in future with the European Union. At the outset, the Assembly was privileged to hear an address by the First Minister of Wales, the Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM. He spoke about the implications for Wales.
55. The debate, in which most members spoke, was held on a motion put forward by the Steering Committee in the following terms:-

“That the Assembly, in the context of the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union and Ireland's continuing commitment to remain in the European Union, and having respect to the diversity of views within these islands, across the UK and across the UK on Brexit, draws attention to the many positive achievements in British-Irish relations, including the common travel area, the absence of a hard border and the gains of the peace process, and expresses the desire that these achievements will be safeguarded for the United Kingdom, Ireland and the Crown dependencies, whatever the future relationship may be between the United Kingdom and the European Union”.

At the conclusion of the debate, the motion was agreed to.

56. During the course of the day, the Assembly heard addresses by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, Robin Walker MP (a former member of the Assembly), the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, James Brokenshire MP, HE Dan Mulhall, Ambassador of Ireland to the United Kingdom, and Lord Whitty, Chair of the House of Lords EU Internal Market Sub-Committee.
57. On Tuesday 29 November, the Assembly heard a presentation by some of the young people participating in the youth engagement project with the Welsh Assembly. Ann Jones AM, Deputy Presiding Officer of the National Assembly, and officials outlined the Assembly's approach to engaging children and young people in the Assembly's work, and the young people present participated in a short question and answer session.
58. This was followed by a joint address by Dr Brian Turner, University College Cork, and Tim Gardner, Senior Policy Fellow, The Health Foundation, on health service funding and governance in the different jurisdictions of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly. At the conclusion of their address, Dr Turner and Mr Gardner answered questions.
59. The session concluded after hearing brief reports on the work of the Assembly's Committees A, B, C and D. Government responses were also reported.
60. The Monday night conference dinner was held at Cardiff Castle in the presence of the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Councillor Monica Walsh. The castle provided a very atmospheric venue for the dinner and the catering and service were of a high order. On arrival, those attending were interested to be told something of the castle's origins and the later architectural and decorative alterations. At the end of dinner, the Deputy

Chief Minister of Gibraltar, Joe Garcia MP, spoke about the implications for Gibraltar of the vote to leave the European Union.

61. Before going to the dinner, delegates attended a reception at the Senedd, the home of the National Assembly of Wales. The reception was an opportunity for Members to meet participants in the National Assembly's on-going work with young people and its Youth Parliament.

The Steering Committee

62. The Steering Committee met four times during 2016: on 1 February 2016 in Leinster House, Dublin, and on the occasion of the two plenary sessions (on 3 July in Malahide, and 27 and 28 November in Cardiff). Amongst matters discussed at these meetings were the organisation and planning of forthcoming plenary sessions, the work of committees in general, Committee A's work on possible reforms to the practice of the Assembly in particular, media arrangements, and (at the three meetings held after the UK's 23 June referendum) the Assembly's contribution to debating the implications of Brexit for British-Irish relations.

Committees

63. The work of the Committees during the year is set out in Appendix 3.

Staffing of the Assembly

64. Details of the staffing of the Assembly can be found at Appendix 4.

Prospects for 2017

65. The unexpected UK general election on 8 June 2017 regrettably necessitated the postponement of the Irish Plenary at Kilkenny from its scheduled dates of 21-23 May to 16-18 July. The autumn British Plenary will be held in Liverpool, a city with strong historic Irish connections and a thriving Irish community, on 15-17 October. Both plenary sessions will feature debates and presentations on the developing implications for British-Irish relations of the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union. They will also feature youth participation events, building on the work done at the Cardiff Plenary which had showcased the work of the National Assembly for Wales in this area.

APPENDIX 1

Members of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly

The UK Parliament—January 2016

Mr. Laurence Robertson MP
Mr. Dave Anderson MP
Mr. Andrew Rosindell MP
Lord Bew
Baroness Blood MBE
Mr. Andrew Bridgen MP
Ms. Deidre Brock MP
Mr. Oliver Colvile MP
Miss Rosie Cooper MP
Rt. Hon Baroness Corston
Rt. Hon Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP
Lord Dubs
Mr. Mark Durkan MP
Mr. Nigel Evans MP
Mr. Paul Farrelly MP
Lord Glentoran CBE DL
Baroness Harris of Richmond
Ms. Helen Jones MP
Mr. Danny Kinahan MP
Mr. Jack Lopresti MP
Rt. Hon Lord Mawhinney
Mr. Conor McGinn MP
Mr. Nigel Mills MP
Lord Skelmersdale
Mr. Robin Walker MP

Ms. Caroline Ansell MP
Ms. Victoria Atkins MP
Mr. Tom Blenkinsop MP
Viscount Bridgeman
Lord Donoughue
Lord Empey
Mrs. Margaret Ferrier MP
Lord Gordon of Strathblane
Rt. Hon David Hanson MP
Mr. Stephen Hepburn MP
Lord Kilclooney
Ms. Siobhain McDonagh MP
Sir Alan Meale MP
Mr. Mark Pritchard MP
Mr. Bob Stewart MP
Lord Tugendhat

The UK Parliament—December 2016

Mr. Andrew Rosindell MP
Ms. Karin Smyth MP
Lord Bew
Baroness Blood MBE
Mr. Andrew Bridgen MP
Ms. Deidre Brock MP
Mr. Oliver Colvile MP
Miss Rosie Cooper MP
Rt. Hon Baroness Corston
Rt. Hon Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP
Lord Dubs
Mr. Mark Durkan MP
Mr. Nigel Evans MP
Mr. Paul Farrelly MP
Lord Glentoran CBE DL
Baroness Harris of Richmond
Ms. Helen Jones MP
Mr. Danny Kinahan MP
Mr. Jack Lopresti MP

Ms. Caroline Ansell MP
Ms. Victoria Atkins MP
Mr. Tom Blenkinsop MP
Viscount Bridgeman
Lord Donoughue
Lord Empey
Mrs. Margaret Ferrier MP
Lord Gordon of Strathblane
Rt. Hon David Hanson MP
Mr. Stephen Hepburn MP
Lord Kilclooney
Ms. Siobhain McDonagh MP
Sir Alan Meale MP
Mr. Mark Pritchard MP
Mr. Bob Stewart MP
Lord Tugendhat

Rt. Hon Lord Mawhinney
Mr. Conor McGinn MP
Mr. Nigel Mills MP
Lord Skelmersdale

Ireland—January 2016

Mr. Frank Feighan TD
Mr. Seamus Kirk TD
Mr. Aengus Ó Snodaigh
Senator Paul Coghlan
Mr. Seán Conlan TD
Mr. Noel Coonan TD
Mr. Seán Crowe TD
TD
Senator John Crown
Senator Maurice Cummins
Senator Imelda Henry
Mr. Martin Heydon TD
Senator Cáit Keane
Mr. John Lyons TD
Mr. Dinny McGinley TD
Mr. Mattie McGrath TD
Senator Paschal Mooney
Senator Mary Moran
Mr. Patrick O'Donovan TD
Mr. Joe O'Reilly TD
Mr. John Paul Phelan TD
Mr. Arthur Spring TD
Mr. Jack Wall TD
Senator Jim Walsh
Vacancy
Vacancy

Mr. James Bannon TD
Mr. Jerry Buttimer TD
Senator Paul Bradford
Senator Terry Brennan
Mr. Joe Carey TD
Senator Michael Comiskey
Ms. Marcella Corcoran Kennedy

Mr. Pat Deering TD
Ms. Anne Ferris TD
Mr. Dominic Hannigan TD
Senator James Heffernan
Mr. Charlie McConalogue TD
Ms. Sandra McLellan TD
Mr. Tony McLoughlin TD
Ms. Maureen O'Sullivan TD
Mr. Brian Stanley TD
Mr. Brendan Smith TD
Ms. Joanna Tuffy TD

Ireland—December 2016

Ms. Kathleen Funchion TD
Senator Frank Feighan
Mr. Declan Breathnach TD
Senator Victor Boyhan
Ms. Joan Burton TD
Mr. Joe Carey TD
Senator Paul Coghlan
Mr. Séan Crowe TD
Mr. Peter Fitzpatrick TD
Mr. Pat the Cope Gallagher TD
Mr. Tony McLoughlin TD
Mr. Mattie McGrath TD
Mr. Kevin Boxer Moran TD
Ms. Margaret Murphy O'Mahony TD
Senator Catherine Noone
Mr. Fergus Ó Donnghaile TD
Mr. Eamon Scanlon TD
Mr. Brendan Smith TD
Senator Denis Landy

Mr. Colm Brophy TD
Mr. Martin Ferris TD
Mr. Brendan Griffin TD
Mr. Danny Healy Rae TD
Senator Gerry Horkan
Ms. Josepha Madigan TD
Ms. Kate O'Connell TD
Mr. Aengus Ó Snodaigh
Mr. John Paul Phelan TD
Mr. Brendan Ryan TD

Senator Terry Leyden
Senator Diarmuid Wilson

The Scottish Parliament – January 2016

Mr. John Scott MSP
Mr. Willie Coffey MSP
Ms. Alison McInnes MSP
Mr. Michael McMahon MSP
Ms. Mary Scanlon MSP

Mr. James Dornan MSP
Mr. John Lamont MSP
Mr. Gordon MacDonald MSP
Ms. Siobhan McMahon MSP

The Scottish Parliament – December 2016

Mr. Willie Coffey MSP
Ms. Linda Fabiani MSP
Mr. Ross Greer MSP
Mr. Mark Griffin MSP
Mr. John Scott MSP

Mr. Alex Johnstone MSP
Mr. James Dornan MSP
Mr. Gordon MacDonald MSP

National Assembly for Wales – January 2016

Mr. David Melding AM
Mr. Darren Millar AM
Mr. William Powell AM
Mrs. Joyce Watson AM
Mr. Lindsay Whittle AM

Mr. John Griffiths AM
Ms. Elin Jones AM
Mr. Nick Ramsay AM

National Assembly for Wales – December 2016

Ms. Jayne Bryant AM
Ms. Ann Jones AM
Mr. Steffan Lewis AM
Mr. Darren Millar AM
Vacancy

Mr. Hefin David AM
Mr Neil Hamilton AM
Mr. Mark Isherwood AM
Mr. Dai Lloyd AM

Northern Ireland Assembly – January 2016

Mrs. Judith Cochrane MLA
Mrs. Brenda Hale MLA
Mr. Barry McElduff MLA
Mr. Sean Rogers MLA
Mr. Robin Swann MLA

Mrs. Jo-Anne Dobson MLA
Mr. Sammy Douglas MBE, MLA
Mrs. Dolores Kelly MLA

Northern Ireland Assembly – December 2016

Mr. David Ford MLFA
Mrs Brenda Hale MLA
Mr Barry McElduff MLA
Mr. Colin McGrath MLA
Mr Robin Swann MLA

Mr. Alan Chambers MLA
Mr. Sammy Douglas MBE, MLA
Mr. Richie Sammy MLA

States of Jersey – January 2016

Deputy John Le Fondré

Deputy Kevin Lewis

States of Jersey – December 2016

Deputy John Le Fondré

Deputy Kevin Lewis

States of Guernsey – January 2016

Deputy Roger Perrot

Deputy Al Brouard

States of Guernsey – December 2016

Deputy Al Brouard

Deputy Jane Stephens

Tynwald – January 2016

Hon Steve Rodan, SHK

Mr Alex Downie MLC

Tynwald – December 2016

Hon. Juan Watterson SHK

Mr. Tim Crookall MLC

APPENDIX 2

Reports and other Documents approved by the Assembly

Fifty-second plenary, Malahide, 3 to 5 July 2016

The Assembly agreed to the following Resolutions:

VISA SYSTEMS

That the Assembly takes note of the Report from Committee B (European Affairs) on Visa Systems (Document No. XXXXX) and the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, which should be forwarded to both governments and the devolved administrations for their observations.

TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

That the Assembly takes note of the Twentieth Annual Report (Document No. 273).

GOVERNMENT REPLIES TO REPORTS

That the Assembly takes note of the following government responses to reports and resolutions received since the previous plenary session:

- Letter to the Irish Clerk from Dr Kasey Treadwell Shine, Irish Department of Social Protection, responding to Committee C Report on Preventing Youth Unemployment through Education and Training.
- E-mail to the Irish Clerk from Ms. Thérèse Walsh, Private Secretary to the Irish Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation responding to Committee C Report on Preventing Youth Unemployment through Education and Training.
- Response from Ms. Jan O’Sullivan, TD, Irish Minister for Education and Skills to Committee C Report on Preventing Youth Unemployment through Education and Training.
- Letter to the Irish Clerk from Minister Mr. James Reilly, TD, Irish Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, responding to the BIPA Committee C report entitled ‘Preventing Youth Unemployment through Education and Training’.
- Letter from Baroness Williams of Trafford, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government, responding to follow up request to Committee D Report entitled ‘Travellers, Gypsies and Roma: access to public services and community relations’.
- Letter from Ms. Jane Williams MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health, Department of Health Department responding to follow up request to Committee D Report entitled ‘ Travellers, Gypsies and Roma: access to public services and community relations’.
- Letter to Lord Dubs from Mr. Nick Gibb, MP, Minister of State for Schools, responding to follow up request to Committee D Report entitled ‘ Travellers, Gypsies and Roma: access to public services and community relations’.
- Letter to Lord Dubs from the Right Honourable Mike Penning MP, Minister of State for Policing, Fire, Criminal Justice and Victims, responding to follow up request to

Committee D Report entitled ‘Travellers, Gypsies and Roma: access to public services and community relations’.

- Letter to the Irish Co Clerk from Mr. Alan Kelly TD, Minister for Environment and Local Government responding to Committee C Report on Preventing Youth Unemployment through Education and Training.
- Letter to Lord Dubs from Karen Bradley MP, Minister for Preventing Abuse, Exploitation and Crime, responding to follow up request to Committee D Report entitled ‘Travellers, Gypsies and Roma: access to public services and community relations’.
- Letter to the British Clerk from Jan Thompson, Chief Executive and Permanent Secretary, HM Revenue and Customs responding to the BIPA Committee A report entitled ‘Cross Border Police Cooperation and Illicit Trade’.
- Letter to the British Clerk from HRM Theresa Villiers MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, responding to an addendum to the BIPA Committee A report entitled ‘Cross Border Police Cooperation and Illicit Trade’.
- Letter to the British Clerk from Fiona Hyslop, MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe and External Affairs, responding to the BIPA Committee C report entitled Preventing Youth Unemployment through Education and Training’ and Committee D report entitled ‘Irish Communities in Scotland’.
- Letter to the British Clerk from Carwyn Jones, AM, First Minister for Wales, responding to the BIPA Committee C report entitled Preventing Youth Unemployment through Education and Training’ and Committee D report entitled ‘Irish Communities in Scotland’.
- Letter to the British Clerk from David Ford, Minister for Justice, Northern Ireland, responding to an addendum to the BIPA Committee A report entitled ‘Cross Border Police Cooperation and Illicit Trade’.
- Letter to the British Clerk from Rt Hon David Mundell MP, Secretary of State for Scotland responding to an addendum to the BIPA Committee A report entitled ‘Cross Border Police Cooperation and Illicit Trade’.

Fifty-third plenary, Cardiff, 27 to 29 November 2016

The Assembly agreed to the following Resolution:

IMPLICATIONS OF BREXIT FOR BRITISH-IRISH RELATIONS

That the Assembly, in the context of the UK’s decision to leave the EU and Ireland’s continuing commitment to remain in the EU, and having respect to the diversity of views within these islands and across the UK on Brexit, draws attention to the many positive achievements in British-Irish relations, including the Common Travel Area, the absence of a ‘hard border’ and the gains of the peace process, and expresses the desire that these achievements will be safeguarded, for the UK, Ireland and the Crown Dependencies, whatever the future relationship may be between the UK and the EU.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSES

That the Assembly take note of the following government responses to Committee B’s report on Visa Systems and the Common Travel Area:

- Letter to the former Irish Co-Clerk from Mr Niall Colgan, Private Secretary to the Tanaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality, Ms Frances Fitzgerald TD.
- Letter to the British Co-Clerk from Robert Goodwill MP, Minister of State for Immigration.
- Further letter to the British Co-Clerk from Robert Goodwill MP, Minister of State for Immigration.

APPENDIX 3

Work of Committees

Annual Report of Committee A (Sovereign Matters)

1. The Committee met formally on four occasions during 2016: in Belfast in February, in Liverpool in September, in London in December and during the plenary meeting in Malahide in July. The Committee also met informally at the plenary meeting in Cardiff in November.
2. The Committee's work in 2016 was largely concerned with a new inquiry into trade and the border, which was launched following the EU referendum. In September the Committee held its first set of meetings for this inquiry with Professor Michael Dougan and others from University of Liverpool's EU Law Unit, Councillor James Noakes from Liverpool City Council, and representatives of Liverpool and Sefton Chambers of Commerce. In December the Committee held further meetings in relation to this inquiry with Kris Hopkins MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP, and Ambassador of Ireland to the United Kingdom Dan Mulhall.
3. In 2016 the Committee also looked at how BIPA could be reformed to be more effective, having been invited to consider this matter by the Steering Committee. Following a consultation of BIPA members, the Committee presented its findings and recommendations to the Steering Committee at the Malahide plenary.
4. Finally, the Committee saw several changes to its membership following Ireland's general election. New Chair Joe Carey TD praised the hard work of outgoing Chair Senator Paul Coghlan, and those members who were no longer on the Committee, and welcomed new and returning members.

Attendance at meetings of Committee A in 2016:

Belfast 2 February 2016: Senator Paul Coghlan (Chair), Lord Bew, Baroness Blood, Viscount Bridgeman [Associate], Margaret Ferrier MP [Associate], Danny Kinahan MP, Lord Mawhinney, Senator Jim Walsh

Malahide 3 July 2016: Joe Carey TD (Chair), Lord Bew, Baroness Blood, Declan Breathnach TD, Senator Paul Coghlan, Senator Frank Feighan, Danny Kinahan MP, Lord Mawhinney

Liverpool 14 September 2016: Joe Carey TD (Chair), Lord Bew, Baroness Blood, Declan Breathnach TD, Viscount Bridgeman [Associate], Senator Paul Coghlan, Senator Frank Feighan, Danny Kinahan MP, Lord Mawhinney, Brendan Smith TD

[Informal] Cardiff 27 November 2016: Joe Carey TD (Chair), Lord Bew, Declan Breathnach TD, Senator Paul Coghlan, Seán Crowe TD, Senator Frank Feighan, Brendan Smith TD

London 5 December 2016: Joe Carey TD (Chair), Lord Bew, Baroness Blood, Declan Breathnach TD, Viscount Bridgeman [Associate], Senator Paul Coghlan, Margaret Ferrier MP [Associate], Senator Frank Feighan, Seán Crowe TD

Annual Report of Committee B (European Affairs)

1. During 2016, Committee B met formally at the plenary meetings in Malahide and Cardiff. In addition the British and Irish co-rapporteurs for the visa systems inquiry, Baroness Harris and Deputy Ó Snodaigh, held meetings with the British and Irish governments in February and June respectively to follow up and conclude on the evidence taking for that inquiry. In addition they conducted a short visit to the ports of Rosslare and Fishguard to see the mechanisms in place for visa checking and border security immediately prior to the Malahide plenary in July 2016.
2. At the Malahide plenary in July 2016, the Committee agreed its Report on *Visa Systems*. The Report was presented to the plenary for adoption following a debate on the Report that engaged a wide range of members. The Committee also discussed its future work programme and agreed to conduct an inquiry on the *Effect on British-Irish relations of the UK leaving the EU*. The Committee's invited written evidence on the following issues in particular: implications for the Common Travel Area, Schengen and visa policy (following up on the Committee's previous report on visa systems); the effect on Irish influence in the EU and decision making within the EU institutions; Article 50 negotiations and the role of Ireland; and the effect on the Crown Dependencies and Gibraltar. The Committee received written evidence from the British and Irish governments, the European Economic and Social Committee, MEPs, and the governments of Jersey, Guernsey and Gibraltar respectively.
3. At the Cardiff plenary in November 2016 the Committee considered the written evidence received pursuant to its Brexit inquiry and agreed a work plan for completion of that inquiry. This included plans for visits to London, Dublin and Brussels in 2017, with the final report being presented to the autumn 2017 BIPA plenary.

Attendance at meetings of Committee B in 2016

Malahide, 3 July 2016: Andrew Rosindell MP, (Chairman), Baroness Harris of Richmond; Aengus Ó Snodaigh TD; Robin Swann MLA.

Cardiff, 27 November 2016: Andrew Rosindell MP, (Chairman), Mark Durkan MP; Paul Farrelly MP; Pat the Cope Gallagher TD; Peter Fitzpatrick TD; Senator Terry Leydon; Fergus O'Dowd TD; Eamon Scanlon TD; Ross Greer MSP; John Scott MSP; Robin Swann MLA.

Annual Report of Committee C (Economic Affairs)

1. In July 2016, in the aftermath of the UK referendum on leaving the EU, Committee C decided not to begin its inquiry into ‘*online sales*’ and to undertake an inquiry into ‘*The impact of Brexit on the agri-food sector*’ instead. The Committee planned to visit Ireland, each devolved nation of the UK and Brussels.
2. In November 2016 the Committee visited Belfast, Dublin and Cardiff as part of this inquiry. The Committee hopes to visit London, Edinburgh and Brussels at a later date.
3. In Belfast the Committee heard evidence from representatives of the Northern Ireland Meat Exporters Association (NIMEA), the Ulster Farmers Union, and the Northern Ireland Environmental Link on the specific impact on Northern Ireland’s agri-food sector of the UK leaving the European Union and its trading relationship with Ireland.
4. When the Committee met in Dublin it heard evidence from representatives of the Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the Irish State Agencies, including Enterprise Ireland, Bord Bia and Teagasc, and sectoral organisations such as the Irish Exporters Association, the Irish Farmers Association, Irish Creamery Milk Supplier Association, and Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers Association. These sessions focused on the impact of Brexit on the agri-food sector in Ireland, including the impact on trade, and the border between Ireland and Northern Ireland.
5. The Committee also visited Cardiff, where it met with representatives of the Government of Wales, farming organisations, including the National Farmers’ Union, the Farmers’ Union of Wales (FUW) and the Wales Young Farmers Committee, and Welsh academics working in relevant fields. The Committee heard from stakeholders about their perceived impact of Brexit on the agri-food sector within the UK, particularly Wales.

Attendance at meetings of Committee C in 2016

Malahide, 3 July 2016: Senator Denis Landy (Chair); Helen Jones MP (Vice Chair); Joan Burton TD; Rosie Cooper MP; Lord Empey; Deputy John Le Fondre; Lord Glentoran

Belfast, 13 October 2016: Senator Denis Landy (Chair); Joan Burton TD; Lord Empey; David Ford MLA; Helen Jones MP (Vice Chair); Deputy John Le Fondré; and Colin McGrath MLA.

Dublin, 14 October 2016: Senator Denis Landy (Chair); Joan Burton TD; Lord Empey; David Ford MLA; Helen Jones MP; Deputy John Le Fondré; and Colin McGrath MLA

Cardiff, 29 November 2016: David Ford MLA (in the Chair); Joan Burton TD; Rosie Cooper MP; and Lord Empey.

Annual Report of Committee D (Environmental and Social Issues)

1. In light of the pause in its work arising from the 2016 Irish General Election, Committee D met three times during 2016: two meetings during plenary sessions; and a further meeting taking evidence. There was a large turnover of membership of the Committee following the Irish General Election, and the elections to the devolved legislatures, and the Chairman would like to thank all the members of Committee D for their work during the year.
2. At the Malahide plenary in July 2016, the Committee launched a new inquiry into Childhood Obesity. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), childhood obesity is one of the most serious public health challenges of the 21st century. The rates of childhood obesity have increased across the developed world, not least in the BIPA jurisdictions, where the statistics on the prevalence of childhood obesity are among the worst in Europe. Among the 35 OECD countries, the UK has the ninth worst figures, and Ireland has the 12th worst figures. The Committee launched the inquiry with the intention of shedding light on the causes and consequences of childhood obesity, and in order to share examples of best practice across the BIPA jurisdictions, so that we can learn from one another about what works (and what doesn't).
3. The Committee held its first meetings on the topic in London in October 2016, when it heard evidence from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health; the British Medical Association; the Local Government Association and other local authority representatives; the Food and Drink Federation; the Department of Health; expert academics and practitioners; and Dr Sarah Wollaston MP, Chair of the House of Commons Health Committee. The Committee heard further evidence in November in Cardiff, from Public Health Wales. The inquiry was concluded in 2017.
4. In addition, the Committee followed up its previous reports. Responses to the report on *The Irish Communities in Scotland*, published in November 2015, were received from the Scottish Government and the Scotland Office. The Scottish Government welcomed the Committee's focus on the importance of economic, political and cultural ties between Scotland and Ireland, and the importance of tackling sectarianism. Both the Scottish Government and the Scotland Office hailed the opening of the Scottish Government's Innovation and Investment Hub at the British Embassy in Dublin. An update was also received from the Irish Consulate in Edinburgh on the 1916 centenary commemorations that had taken place in Scotland.
5. The Committee also received responses from a number of British Government departments to its follow-up letters on the Committee's 2014 report on *Travellers, Gypsies and Roma: Access to public services and community relations*, which reflected on progress in the areas raised in the Committee's original report.

Attendance at meetings of Committee D in 2016

Malahide, 3 July 2016

Lord Dubs (Chairman), Senator Victor Boyhan, Barry McElduff MLA, Senator Catherine Noone

London, 31 October 2016

Lord Dubs (Chairman), Deidre Brock MP, Senator Victor Boyhan, Vikki Howells AM

Cardiff, 27 November 2016

Lord Dubs (Chairman), Deidre Brock MP, Baroness Corston, Barry McElduff MLA, Brenda Hale MLA, Senator Catherine Noone, Lord Skelmersdale, Karin Smyth MP

APPENDIX 4

Staff of the Assembly in 2016

Ireland:

Clerk: Ms. Tara Kelly
Ms. Laoise Moore-Durajczyk

Policy Adviser:

Ms. Laoise Moore-Durajczyk
Ms. Emer Roche

Clerk, Committee A:

Mr. Ian Devine and
Ms. Marie-Claire Hughes

Shadow Clerk, Committee B:

Mr. Ian Devine and
Ms. Marie-Claire Hughes

Clerk, Committee C:

Ms. Kate Oliver

Shadow Clerk, Committee D:

Ms. Kate Oliver

Irish Secretariat:

Ms. Betty Kehoe and
Ms. Veronica Carr

United Kingdom:

Clerk: Dr. Robin James

British Consultant:

Sir Michael Davies KCB

Shadow Clerk, Committee A:

Mr. Edward Faulkner

Clerk, Committee B:

Mr. Ed Beale

Shadow Clerk, Committee C:

Dr. Anna Dickson

Clerk, Committee D:

Mr. Stuart Stoner

UK Secretariat:

Mrs. Amanda Healy

Media Consultant:

Ms. Nuala Walsh, Press Liaison Officer, Houses of the Oireachtas
Mr. George Perry Committee Press Consultant, House of Commons