



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

TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT
THE ASSEMBLY'S ACTIVITIES IN 2018

May 2019

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TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

THE WORK OF THE BRITISH-IRISH PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY IN 2019

Introduction

1. This is the twenty-third 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 2018.

Membership of the Assembly

2. Membership of the Assembly was relatively stable in 2018 compared with significant changes in 2016 and 2017 due to elections in Ireland and the UK respectively. A list of Members and Associate Members at the start and close of 2018 is set out at Appendix 1.

Political developments

General Overview of British-Irish political developments

3. 2018 saw a continued strengthening of relations between Ireland and the UK, with several visits and events showcasing the ongoing close relations between the two countries.
4. In May, the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall visited Ireland. This visit was the fourth year in a row that the royal couple visited Ireland, continuing to build on the success of the Queen's visit to Ireland in 2011 and President Higgins's State Visit to the UK in 2014. The royal visit took in Cork and Kerry. In addition, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex visited Dublin in July, in what was their first trip abroad following their recent wedding.
5. UK and Irish Ministers met frequently throughout 2018, with a series of high-level visits taking place. The Taoiseach Leo Varadkar met with Prime Minister Theresa May in Brussels and Belfast. The Tánaiste Simon Coveney spoke at the British Irish Association, and visited London on several occasions. He also met with Foreign Secretary Hunt at the Foreign Affairs Council in Luxembourg in October. Minister of State Helen McEntee also visited London to meet with counterparts. From the UK, Cabinet Secretary David Lidington MP visited Ireland and met with counterparts and London Mayor Sadiq Khan visited Dublin in December.
6. Ireland also had close political ties with the devolved administrations. Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD met with the Scottish and Welsh First Ministers at the British Irish Council. In addition, Welsh First Minister Carwyn Jones visited Ireland in February.
7. 2018 was also a busy year for the British-Irish Council (BIC). The BIC met at Summit level twice in 2018: in June the Heads of Administrations met in Guernsey, where the Summit theme was the marine environment, with a collective focus on ways to work together to improve the health of our shared seas. In November, the second Summit of

2018 was held on the Isle of Man, with a thematic focus on improving levels of digital inclusion on these islands. Additionally, BIC Ministers met four times in this period, to discuss a range of common issues, including our shared environment; energy cooperation and on the issue of social inclusion considering how to support unpaid carers in our communities. Further to this, the Secretariat also supported forty-five official level meetings hosted at locations across the eight BIC administrations which took place between the eleven work sectors of the Council.

8. Ireland held two referendums in 2018. The first, held in May, passed an amendment to the constitution of Ireland which permits the Oireachtas to legislate for abortion. The second, held in October, removed the offence of blasphemy from the constitution.
9. Ireland held a Presidential Election in October 2018. The incumbent, President Michael D Higgins, won on the first count with 56% of the vote. President Higgins will serve a second seven-year term.

Commemorations

10. 2018 marked one hundred years since the final year of the First World War. Ceremonies remembering the seminal events of one hundred years ago and the lives that were affected or lost during that period continued to take place and recalled the interlinked and often shared histories of the peoples of Britain and Ireland. Minister Heather Humphreys attended the commemoration of the 102nd anniversary of the Battle of the Somme at Belfast City Hall in July, whilst in September, Tánaiste Simon Coveney attended a ceremony in the Presbyterian Assembly Buildings to commemorate all Irish recipients of the Victoria Cross in the First World War.
11. The centenary of the sinking of the RMS Leinster by a German submarine in 1918 was marked with a programme of events in October, with Minister Josepha Madigan attending the main commemoration ceremony on 10th October in Dún Laoghaire. 564 lives were lost in this disaster, which remains the single biggest loss of life in the Irish Sea.
12. On Remembrance Sunday in November, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD represented the State at France's Armistice Day Centenary ceremony in Paris, which formed a focal point for global centenary commemorations. Tánaiste Simon Coveney TD participated in the Armistice ceremony at the Belfast Cenotaph, while Minister Heather Humphreys TD took part in the Enniskillen Armistice ceremony. Minister of State Damien English TD participated in a ceremony in Belfast's St. Anne's Cathedral. A State Armistice Day Centenary Commemoration was held at Glasnevin Cemetery and attended by President Michael D. Higgins and Minister Josepha Madigan.
13. 2018 also marked the 20th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement and a number of events were organised across Ireland and the UK to commemorate this significant anniversary. The Irish Government organised "A Further Shore", a cultural event in which some of Ireland's finest poets, musicians, actors and artists told the continuing story of Northern Ireland's journey to Peace and Reconciliation. "A Further Shore" was performed at the London Barbican Centre on 5th April and the Lyric Theatre in Belfast on 9th April. The Irish Government organised the "Reflections on the Thirty-Year Road to the Good Friday Agreement" conference at the Royal Irish Academy in March. A series of events was also held in Iveagh House in Dublin on 22nd May to

mark the anniversary of the passing in 1998 of the referendums on the Good Friday Agreement, with Tánaiste Simon Coveney delivering the keynote address.

14. The 50th anniversary of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights movement was commemorated through a series of events, including a conference at Derry's Guildhall to mark the 50th anniversary of the 5 October 1968 Civil Rights march in the city. President Michael D. Higgins delivered the keynote address.

North South Co-operation

15. While the North South Ministerial Council (NSMC) was unable to meet during 2018 in the absence of a Northern Ireland Executive, the North South Implementation Bodies continued to carry out their mandated functions for the mutual benefit of citizens in both jurisdictions. In the areas of cooperation, officials from Departments in both jurisdictions continued to work together in line with the previously agreed work programme of cooperation.
16. The implementation of the EU PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Programmes progressed well during 2018 and both were almost 100% committed by the end of the year. In May 2018 the EU Commission published its proposals for the next round of Cohesion policy which include a proposal for a special new PEACE PLUS programme to build on and continue the work of both PEACE and INTERREG.
17. The Senior Officials Group which was established to oversee and report to the NSMC on the North South Infrastructure commitments in the Fresh Start Agreement continued to meet during 2018.

Political Developments in Northern Ireland

18. In January and February, the UK and Irish Governments, as co-guarantors of the Good Friday Agreement, continued to support and facilitate talks on the formation of a new Executive. Unfortunately, despite intensive engagement, an agreement was not reached, which is of serious concern. The absence of the Executive also means that the North South Ministerial Council cannot meet. The two Governments worked together and consulted with the political parties in Northern Ireland throughout the rest of the year to seek to identify a basis for a new political process which could secure an agreement to get all of the institutions of the Agreement operating again.
19. 10 April 2018 marked the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday Agreement and a number of political, civic and academic events were held in April and May to mark this most important event in the Peace Process. On 10 April in Belfast Queen's University Belfast hosted the centrepiece event with the participation of many of those who participated in the negotiations, including the then Prime Minister and Taoiseach and former US President Clinton as well as Senator George Mitchell, as well as the leaders of the Northern Ireland political parties at the time. The occasion was addressed by the Tánaiste and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on behalf of the Irish and UK Governments, respectively.
20. With the continuing absence of the devolved power-sharing institutions and the North South Ministerial Council, the Governments convened the British Irish Intergovernmental Conference again, with meetings held in July and again in

November. The Conference was set up under the Good Friday Agreement “to promote bilateral co-operation at all levels on all matters of mutual interest within the competence of both Governments”.

21. In October, the UK Government introduced the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation and Exercise of Functions) Bill which was passed and received the Royal Assent on 1 November. The legislation served to extend the timeframe for the calling of an Assembly election in the absence of the Executive, and confirmed the position on the exercise of functions by the Northern Ireland Civil Service in the absence of Executive Ministers. The legislation underlined the urgent requirement of moving beyond the current political impasse in Northern Ireland to get the devolved power-sharing institutions operating again to address issue of concerns for all sections of the community.
22. At the British Irish Intergovernmental Conference on 2 November, the Irish and UK Governments re-affirmed their shared commitment to all of the political institutions established by the Agreement and to securing the effective operation of power-sharing, devolved government in Northern Ireland and the consequent resumption of the North/South Ministerial Council and Northern Ireland participation in the British Irish Council at the earliest opportunity.

Legacy issues

23. The UK and Irish Governments engaged through 2018 to seek to progress the implementation of the comprehensive framework provided for under the Stormont House Agreement to deal with the legacy of the past.
24. The UK Government conducted a public consultation between May and October on the draft legislation to establish the Stormont House legacy bodies in Northern Ireland. Over 17,000 responses were received, with contributions from victims’ families and survivors in Northern Ireland, and also in Ireland, as well as Britain. The Irish Government also continued to advance the legislative measures it is bringing forward to implement and support the Stormont House Agreement legacy framework.
25. At the British Irish Intergovernmental Conference on 2 November, the Irish and UK Governments reaffirmed their commitment to implementing the framework set out in the 2014 Stormont House Agreement to comprehensively address the legacy of Northern Ireland’s past, taking account of the outcome of the UK Government’s public consultation on establishing the legacy institutions.

Security Situation

26. During 2018 there were a number of security incidents which highlighted the need for continued vigilance around the security situation in Northern Ireland. These included several incidents of public disorder in the Bogside area of Derry in July, as well as security alerts in Belfast in relation to the annual Twelfth celebrations in July. These incidents were strongly condemned by civic and political leaders from all sides of the community.
27. The Independent Reporting Commission (IRC) published its first report in October 2018 which contained a number of recommendations for action by the relevant authorities. The IRC was established in 2017 as part of the Fresh Start Agreement to

monitor progress towards ending continued paramilitary activity and consists of Mitchell Reiss (British Government nominee), Tim O'Connor (Irish Government nominee) and Professor Monica McWilliams and John McBurney (NI Executive nominees).

28. Paramilitary activity continues to pose a serious threat to many marginalised communities in Northern Ireland, with regular reports of so-called punishment style attacks perpetrated by these groups, as well as other intimidation and drug dealing. 2018 saw further engagement from Northern Irish civil society groups to seek solutions to this issue and deter young people from joining.

Work of the Assembly

29. 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 23rd Report, therefore merely reports details of speakers and any specific or unusual arrangements.

56th Plenary Conference (Sligo)

30. The 56th Plenary Conference of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly took place between Sunday 10th June and Tuesday 12th June 2018 at the Sligo Park Hotel in Sligo. The conference was held much later than originally planned; the heavy snow of late March had required the postponement of the conference at the very last moment.
31. Sean Crowe TD was appointed Irish Co-Chair of the Assembly in succession to Kathleen Funchion TD shortly before the plenary opened.
32. At the beginning of business, the Co-Chairs paid tribute to Lord (Peter) Temple-Morris who had recently died and whose idea it had been to found the British-Irish Inter-Parliamentary Body (now the Assembly) in 1990 in cooperation with the late Jim Tunney TD.
33. The Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council, Councillor Seamus Kilgallon, welcomed the Assembly' presence in Sligo after which Joe McHugh TD, Minister of State at the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and Government Chief Whip, spoke about the implication of Brexit for Ireland, the Good Friday Agreement for which the European Community was a guarantor and the border with the North. At the end of his address, he answered questions from Members.
34. He was followed by a panel discussion marking the 20th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement led by Ms. Bronagh Hinds, Commissioner for Public Appointments in Northern Ireland and founder member of the Women in Peace movement and Baroness Blood who then answered questions from Members of the Assembly.
35. Gina McIntyre, Chief Executive Officer, Special European Union Programmes Body, and her colleague, John McCandless, spoke about the work of the Body and explained the purpose of two programmes, PEACE and INTERREG which were together

investing millions of euros in supporting the peace process; they illustrated their talk with a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the floor of the Assembly.

36. Dr Niall Muldoon, Ombudsman for Children, and Ms. Koulla Yiasouma, Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People, jointly addressed the Assembly about the impact of Brexit on children. Children in Northern Ireland had grown up with no experience of a border between the North and the Republic and they never wanted to see one introduced. Not only did they see themselves as both Irish and British but also as Europeans and wanted the chance to travel. Funding for education was a priority. Dr Muldoon and Ms Yiasouma used PowerPoint to illustrate their points and then answered questions from a number of Members.
37. His Excellency Robin Barnett, British Ambassador to Ireland, addressed the Assembly. He was honoured to have been invited to speak again to the Assembly. Last year he had spoken about the implications of the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union. This year he spoke about the strong relationship between Ireland and the United Kingdom over the last 100 years in every sphere of activity, a relationship which would survive Brexit. He replied to many questions from the floor.
38. Professor Edgar Morgenroth, Professor of Economics at Dublin City University, Denis Kelly, Assistant Director, North West Regional Assembly and Ciaran Hayes, Chief Executive of Sligo County Council held a panel discussion on the challenges facing Regions and local authorities. They then responded to questions from the floor.
39. Following the panel discussion, Lord Dubs presented a follow-up report from Committee D on Childhood Obesity. Lord Dubs explained the recommendations made in the report to reduce obesity in children, saying that obesity was the greatest future challenge to health systems in all the jurisdictions represented in the Assembly. The Report was agreed to and sent to the British and Irish Governments. Lord Dubs then informed the Assembly that Committee D's next enquiry would be on Abortion.
40. A panel discussion on Women in Parliament Today was the next item on the agenda. Senator Catherine Noone, Karin Smyth MP, Christina McKelvie MSP, Ann Jones AM and Rosemary Barton MLA made up the panel. All five women spoke about how they got involved in politics and the challenges that female politicians continue to face in a largely male dominated profession. They all supported a quota system and were delighted with those jurisdictions where Cabinets are formed on a 50/50 basis. Women had already changed the way in which politics was conducted and the contribution women could make in public life would be even more significant in future. The panellists then replied to questions from fellow Assembly members.
41. Tuesday's business began with a PowerPoint presentation by Professor Sonja Tiernan, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of History & Politics at Liverpool Hope University entitled the Votes for Women Campaign: From Lissadell House to the House of Commons. Professor Tiernan's address focussed on two Irish sisters from Sligo, Eva Gore-Booth and Countess de Markiewicz, the first woman elected to the House of Commons although she never took her seat. Professor Tiernan said that it was appropriate to mark the centenary of the 1918 Act which enacted women's suffrage

(albeit to a limited extent) by paying tribute to the two young women from Sligo who had been at the forefront of the movement.

42. The Annual Report for 2017 was approved. Progress reports on the work of Committees A, B & C were given.
43. After which Joan Burton TD, chair, presented Committee C's report on "The implications of Brexit for the Agri-Food Sector" and Peter Fitzpatrick TD, chair, presented Committee A's report on "The British-Irish Trade Relationship and the Border when the UK leaves the European Union" for joint consideration and debate.
44. On the Monday night of the conference, Members of the Assembly and staff were taken by coach to Markree Castle for a reception and dinner. There was an opportunity to enjoy a guided tour of the castle
45. After dinner, Ms Susan O'Keefe, Director of the Yeats Society, gave a talk on the poetry of William Butler Yeats, a Sligo man, who is buried at Drumcliff.

57th Plenary Conference (Essex and London)

46. The 57th Plenary Conference of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly took place between Sunday 21st October and Tuesday 23rd October at the Canary Riverside Plaza Hotel in the London Docklands and at Portcullis House, Westminster.
47. The Assembly opened by recording with sadness the recent death of Seymour Crawford, a former Co-Chair of the Assembly.
48. The Speaker of Tower Hamlets Council, Councillor Ayas Miah, welcomed the presence of the Assembly in London Docklands. Following this welcome, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Karen Bradley MP, addressed the Assembly and then answered a range of questions from Members. She was followed by the Irish Ambassador to the United Kingdom, HE Adrian O'Neill, who gave a wide-ranging address on British-Irish relations and then answered questions from the floor. Both these speakers had to deal extensively with questions and concerns about the Irish border in the context of the UK's decision to leave the European Union.
49. Following the Panel Discussion at the Sligo plenary conference on Women in Parliament Today, the Assembly was delighted to hear an address by Maria Miller MP, Chair of the House of Commons Women and Equalities Committee, on the work of that committee. Ms Miller then answered questions from the floor. The afternoon session opened with an address by Dr Mari Takayanagi, Senior Archivist at the Houses of Parliament, on the impact of the Representation of the People Act 1918 on the Westminster Parliament. She illustrated her address with a PowerPoint presentation of statistics.
50. The next business was a debate on a motion proposed by Declan Breathnach TD on behalf of the Steering Committee as follows:

That this Assembly takes note of the outcome of the European Council of 17-18 October [2018] and discussions on the Brexit negotiations; and reaffirms its resolution of 16 October 2017 which stated that the absence of a hard border in

Ireland is necessary, recognises that there are different opinions on how to safeguard this achievement, and calls for every effort to be made in the Brexit negotiations to achieve a positive, solution-focussed outcome on this issue.

51. Twenty-three members of the Assembly, from all the jurisdictions represented, spoke in the debate, after which the motion was agreed to.
52. The session concluded with an address by Tony Lloyd MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, who addressed two issues in his speech. The first was the absolute necessity to avoid a “hard border” between north and south. The Chief Constable of Northern Ireland had warned that re-introduction of border controls would result in increased criminal activity and violence. The second point was the scandal of having had no functioning Executive in Northern Ireland for over a year. It was vital that an Executive should be formed as a matter of urgency. Mr Lloyd then answered questions from members.
53. Progress reports were made by the Chairs of Committees A, B, C and D after which Darren Millar AM, Chair of Committee B, proposed the adoption of the Committee’s report on European Security Cooperation after Brexit. Mr Millar set out the main recommendations of the report which was agreed to without debate and was sent to the British and Irish Governments.
54. On the Tuesday of the conference, the Assembly moved from the Canary Riverside Plaza Hotel to Portcullis House, Westminster, where the Attlee Suite had been arranged with the traditional seating plan. The Speaker of the House of Commons, John Bercow MP, welcomed the conference to Westminster and said how pleased he was that the Assembly was meeting for the first time on the parliamentary estate.
55. The Assembly then heard an address by Tom Tugendhat MP, Chairman of the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee. Following his address, he answered questions. The Assembly had been expecting to hear an address by Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Food, Fisheries and Rural Affairs, but sadly Mr Gove was detained in Cabinet discussions.
56. During the session in Portcullis House, the Assembly adjourned for thirty minutes to enable it to pay tribute to all those who had died in the First World War. In 2014, the Assembly had visited Flanders to mark the centenary of the outbreak of war and it was thought fitting that the centenary of the Armistice should also be marked by the Assembly. The two Co-Chairs, Andrew Rosindell MP and Sean Crowe TD, laid wreaths beneath the South Window war memorial in Westminster Hall. The Speaker’s Chaplain, Rev Rose Hudson-Wilkin, and Father Mehall Lowry led the prayers.
57. On Sunday night after arrival in Docklands, Members of the Assembly were taken by coach to Havering Town Hall for a reception hosted by the Mayor of Havering, Cllr Dilip Patel, who welcomed Members in the Council Chamber. Members had been greeted as they arrived at the Town Hall by the Town Crier of Romford, dressed in traditional uniform. Following this, a dinner was held at Romford Golf Club at Gidea Park. Guests included local dignitaries from the London Borough of Havering.

58. The Monday night conference dinner was held at The Mansion House in the City of London by kind permission of the Lord Mayor, Alderman Charles Bowman. The Lord Mayor spoke of the links which the City of London has with Dublin and the importance of preserving Anglo-Irish friendship after the UK leaves the European Union.
59. A lunchtime reception at the conclusion of the plenary held at 10 Downing Street and hosted (on behalf of the Prime Minister) by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the Foreign Secretary, Jeremy Hunt MP, was for many members of the Assembly the highlight of the conference.
60. There were developments with a number of individual legacy cases. In February the family of Anthony Hughes, a civilian killed at Loughgall in 1987, were granted leave to seek a judicial review against the Northern Ireland Executive and the British Government for failure to release funding for legacy inquests and the inquest hearings continued during 2017. A fresh inquest into the deaths of 10 civilians in Ballymurphy in 1971 was confirmed on 13 May and is due to commence in September 2018. The inquest into the 10 men killed in the Kingsmill attack in 1976 resumed on 15 May 2017, having been on hold since June 2016 while criminal investigations into new evidence were conducted. The hearings in the Kingsmill inquest continued through 2017. A High Court judgment on 28 July in a case brought by the family of one of the victims of the Hillcrest bombing in 1976, found that the Historical Enquiry Team's failure to produce a report examining the murderous activities of the Glenanne Gang, a breach of Article 2 rights had occurred.

The Steering Committee

61. The Steering Committee met four times during 2018: on the occasion of the two plenary sessions (on 10 June in Sligo, and 21 October in London); in the Northern Ireland Assembly on 29 January and in the Scottish Parliament on 28 September. In Belfast, the Committee continued its discussions on the future strategy of the Assembly, as well as receiving briefings from the At the latter two meetings the Committee discussed the future strategy of the Assembly (including the timing, content and location of future plenary sessions, the role of the Assembly's four subject committees, outreach, public engagement and media coverage, follow-up to plenaries and committee inquiries, and relations with the British-Irish Council and other external bodies), as well as receiving briefing on the political situation in Northern Ireland. In Edinburgh, the Committee's discussions focused on its media and youth engagement strategy, alongside briefing from Scottish Government and Parliament representatives on Brexit issues.

Committees

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

Staffing of the Assembly

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

Prospects for 2019

64. The Irish and British plenary sessions will be held in County Wicklow and the Forest of Arden respectively (in May and October); it seems likely that political developments related to Brexit will continue to feature on the Assembly's agenda, following the extension of Article 50 until up to the end of October 2019. The Assembly's agenda in County Wicklow will also feature a strong emphasis on the issue of climate change. The Assembly's Committees have a wide range of inquiries currently ongoing, ranging from the future of the high street to European security cooperation, while the Steering Committee is likely to continue its work on its future strategy.

APPENDIX 1

Members of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly

The UK Parliament—January 2018

Mr. Andrew Rosindell MP	Sir Peter Bottomley MP
Ms. Karin Smyth MP	Mr. Jack Brereton MP
Mr. Nigel Evans MP	Viscount Bridgeman
Lord Bew	Mr. Vernon Coaker MP
Baroness Blood MBE	Lord Donoughue
Mr. Andrew Bridgen MP	Mr. Stephen Doughty MP
Ms. Deidre Brock MP	Lord Gordon of Strathblane
Miss Rosie Cooper MP	Mr. John Grogan MP
Rt. Hon Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP	Mr. Graham Jones MP
Lord Dubs	Rt. Hon Lord Kilclooney
Lord Empey OBE	Mr. Andrew Lewer MBE MP
Mr. Paul Farrelly MP	Ms. Siobhain McDonagh MP
Mr. Stephen Hepburn MP	Mr. Huw Merriman MP
Ms. Helen Jones MP	Ms. Carol Monaghan MP
Lord Lexden OBE	Mr. Paul Scully MP
Mr. Jack Lopresti MP	Lord Skelmersdale
Mr. Conor McGinn MP	Mr. Bob Stewart MP
Mr. Nigel Mills MP	
Mr. David Morris MP	
Rt. Hon Lord Murphy of Torfaen	
Baroness O’Cathain OBE	
Mr. Mark Pritchard MP	
Mr. Chris Ruane MP	
Baroness Suttie	
Mr. Martin Vickers MP	

The UK Parliament—December 2018

Mr. Andrew Rosindell MP	Sir Peter Bottomley MP
Ms. Karin Smyth MP	Mr. Jack Brereton MP
Mr. Nigel Evans MP	Viscount Bridgeman
Lord Bew	Mr. Vernon Coaker MP
Mr. Andrew Bridgen MP	Lord Donoughue
Rt. Hon Lord Bruce of Bannachie	Mr. Stephen Doughty MP
Miss Rosie Cooper MP	Lord Gordon of Strathblane
Rt. Hon Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP	Mr. John Grogan MP
Lord Dubs	Mr. Graham Jones MP
Lord Empey OBE	Rt. Hon Lord Kilclooney
Mr. Paul Farrelly MP	Mr. Andrew Lewer MBE MP
Mr. Stephen Hepburn MP	Ms. Siobhain McDonagh MP
Ms. Helen Jones MP	Mr. Huw Merriman MP
Lord Lexden OBE	Ms. Carol Monaghan MP
Mr. Jack Lopresti MP	Mr. Paul Scully MP
Mr. Conor McGinn MP	Lord Skelmersdale
Mr. Nigel Mills MP	Mr. Bob Stewart MP
Mr. David Morris MP	
Rt. Hon Lord Murphy of Torfaen	

Mr. Gavin Newlans MP
Baroness O’Cathain OBE
Mr. Chris Ruane MP
Mr. Martin Vickers MP

Ireland —January 2018

Mr. Seán Crowe TD
Senator Frank Feighan
Mr. Declan Breathnach TD
Senator Victor Boyhan
Ms. Joan Burton TD
Mr. Séan Canney TD
Mr. Joe Carey TD
Senator Paul Coghlan
Mr. Peter Fitzpatrick TD
Ms. Kathleen Funchion TD
Mr. Pat the Cope Gallagher TD
Mr. Tony McLoughlin TD
Mr. Mattie McGrath TD
Ms. Margaret Murphy O’Mahony TD
Senator Catherine Noone
Mr. Fergus O’Dowd TD
Senator Niall Ó Donnghaile TD
Mr. Eamon Scanlon TD
Mr. Brendan Smith TD
Senator Denis Landy
Senator Terry Leyden
Senator Diarmuid Wilson

Senator Jerry Buttimer
Mr. Colm Brophy TD
Mr. Martin Ferris TD
Mr. Danny Healy Rae TD
Senator Gerry Horkan
Ms. Kate O’Connell TD
Mr. Aengus Ó Snodaigh
Mr. Brendan Ryan TD
Mr. Eamon Ryan TD

Ireland —December 2018

Mr. Séan Crowe TD
Senator Frank Feighan
Mr. Declan Breathnach TD
Senator Victor Boyhan
Ms. Joan Burton TD
Mr. Séan Canney TD
Mr. Joe Carey TD
Senator Paul Coghlan
Mr. Peter Fitzpatrick TD
Ms. Kathleen Funchion TD
Mr. Pat the Cope Gallagher TD
Mr. Tony McLoughlin TD
Mr. Mattie McGrath TD
Ms. Margaret Murphy O’Mahony TD
Senator Catherine Noone
Mr. Fergus O’Dowd TD
Senator Niall Ó Donnghaile TD
Mr. Eamon Scanlon TD
Mr. Brendan Smith TD
Senator Terry Leyden
Senator Diarmuid Wilson

Senator Jerry Buttimer
Mr. Colm Brophy TD
Mr. Martin Ferris TD
Mr. Danny Healy Rae TD
Senator Gerry Horkan
Ms. Kate O’Connell TD
Mr. Aengus Ó Snodaigh
Mr. Brendan Ryan TD
Mr. Eamon Ryan TD

The Scottish Parliament – January 2018

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

Mr. James Dornan MSP
Mr. Maurice Golden MSP
Mr. Gordon MacDonald MSP
Ms. Pauline McNeill MSP

The Scottish Parliament – December 2018

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

Mr. James Dornan MSP
Mr. Maurice Golden MSP
Mr. Gordon MacDonald MSP
Ms. Pauline McNeill MSP

National Assembly for Wales – January 2018

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

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

National Assembly for Wales – December 2018

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

Mr. Hefin David AM
Mr. Neil Hamilton AM
Mr. Mark Isherwood AM
Rhun ap Iorwerth AM

Northern Ireland Assembly – January 2018

Mr. Steve Aiken MLA
Mr. David Ford MLA
Mr. Paul Givan MLA
Mr. Ian Milne MLA
Mr. Colin McGrath MLA

Mr. Cathal Boylan MLA
Mr. Alan Chambers MLA
Ms. Claire Hanna MLA
Mr. Jim Wells MLA

Northern Ireland Assembly – December 2018

Mr. Steve Aiken MLA
Mr. John Blair MLA
Mr. Paul Givan MLA
Mr. Ian Milne MLA
Mr. Colin McGrath MLA

Mr. Cathal Boylan MLA
Mr. Alan Chambers MLA
Ms. Claire Hanna MLA
Mr. Jim Wells MLA

States of Jersey – January 2018

Deputy John Le Fondré

Deputy Kevin Lewis

States of Jersey – December 2018

Deputy David Johnson

Connéable Simon Crowcroft

States of Guernsey – January 2018

Deputy Al Brouard

Deputy Jane Stephens

States of Guernsey – December 2018

Deputy Al Brouard

Deputy Jane Stephens

Tynwald – January 2018

Hon. Juan Watterson SHK

Mr. Tim Crookall MLC

Tynwald – December 2018

Hon. Juan Watterson SHK

Mr. Tim Crookall MLC

APPENDIX 2

Reports and other Documents approved by the Assembly

Fifty-sixth plenary, Sligo, 10 to 12 June 2018

The Assembly agreed to the following Resolutions:

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

That the Assembly takes note of the Twenty-second Annual Report of the Assembly.

THE BRITISH-IRISH TRADE RELATIONSHIP AND THE BORDER WHEN THE UK LEAVES THE EU

That the Assembly takes note of the Report from Committee A (Sovereign Matters) on the British-Irish Trade Relationship and the Border when the UK Leaves the EU, and the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, which should be forwarded to both governments and the devolved administrations for their observations.

THE IMPLICATIONS OF BREXIT FOR THE AGRI-FOOD SECTOR

That the Assembly takes note of the Report from Committee C (Economic Affairs) on the implications of Brexit for the agri-food sector, and the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, which should be forwarded to both governments and the devolved administrations for their observations.

CHILDHOOD OBESITY

That the Assembly takes note of the Report from Committee D (Environmental and Social Affairs) on Childhood Obesity, and the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, which should be forwarded to both governments and the devolved administrations for their observations.

Fifty-seventh plenary, Essex and London, 20 to 22 October 2018

The Assembly agreed to the following Resolutions:

BREXIT NEGOTIATIONS

That this Assembly takes note of the outcome of the European Council of 17-18 October [2018] and discussions on the Brexit negotiations; and reaffirms its resolution of 16 October 2017 which stated that the absence of a hard border in Ireland is necessary, recognises that there are different opinions on how to safeguard this achievement, and calls for every effort to be made in the Brexit negotiations to achieve a positive, solution-focussed outcome on this issue.

EUROPEAN SECURITY COOPERATION AFTER BREXIT: INTERIM REPORT

That the Assembly takes note of the Report from Committee B (European Affairs) on European Security Cooperation after Brexit: Interim Report.

APPENDIX 3

Work of Committees

Annual Report of Committee A (Sovereign Matters)

1. The Committee met formally on four occasions during 2018: in Belfast in January, during the plenary meeting in Sligo in June, and twice during the plenary meeting in London in October.
2. During the first half of 2018, the Committee met on two occasions to discuss the report for its inquiry into the implications of Brexit on the British-Irish trade relationship and the border between Ireland and Northern Ireland. The Committee's final report, published at the Sligo plenary in June, came to the following conclusions:
 - The free movement of people between Ireland and Northern Ireland must not be compromised by the UK's decision to leave the EU;
 - The establishment of physical infrastructure at the border, and/or the imposition of border checks, would have serious adverse consequences for both Ireland and Northern Ireland;
 - The UK and Irish Governments should continue to support efforts to re-establish the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive;
 - In the event that a Withdrawal Agreement is not reached, the UK Government must fulfil its guarantee of avoiding a hard border on the island of Ireland;
 - In the absence of membership of the EU Single Market and Customs Union, it would be desirable for the UK and EU to agree a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement, but this in itself will not be sufficient to prevent the creation of new barriers to the movements of goods.
3. At the October plenary, the Committee discussed its future programme, including a new inquiry into *Illicit trade on the UK-Irish border*, which the Committee expects to launch after the May 2019 plenary. The Committee also discussed the importance of inter-parliamentary dialogue and their desire to see BIPA strengthen relationships between British and Irish politicians after the UK leaves the European Union.

Attendance at meetings of Committee A in 2018:

Belfast 22 January 2018: Peter Fitzpatrick TD (Chair), Lord Bew, Declan Breathnach TD, Viscount Bridgeman [Associate], Senator Paul Coghlan, Senator Frank Feighan, Brendan Smith TD.

Sligo 10 June 2018: Peter Fitzpatrick TD (Chair), Lord Bew, Baroness Blood, Viscount Bridgeman [Associate], Declan Breathnach TD, Senator Paul Coghlan, Senator Frank Feighan, Brendan Smith TD.

London 21 October 2018: Peter Fitzpatrick TD (Chair), Lord Bew, Viscount Bridgeman [Associate], Declan Breathnach TD, Senator Paul Coghlan, Aengus Ó Snodaigh TD.

London 22 October 2018: Peter Fitzpatrick TD (Chair), Lord Bew, Viscount Bridgeman [Associate], Declan Breathnach TD, Senator Paul Coghlan, Senator Frank Feighan, Nigel Mills MP, Aengus Ó Snodaigh TD, Brendan Smith TD.

Annual Report of Committee B (European Affairs)

1. During 2018-19, Committee B met formally at the plenary meetings in Sligo and London. The Committee also conducted two visits to collect evidence for its inquiry into European Security Cooperation, and agreed a short interim report on the subject, which was adopted by the London plenary in October 2018.
2. At its meeting at the Sligo plenary meeting on 10 June, the chair-ship of the Committee was formally handed from Andrew Rosindell MP to Darren Millar AM, although the meeting was chaired by Fergus O'Dowd TD in Mr Millar's absence. The Committee agreed terms of reference for two new inquiries, into European Security Cooperation and External EU Borders, and agreed to run the inquiries sequentially, commencing with the European Security Cooperation inquiry.
3. From 3-5 October, the Committee undertook a visit to Dublin and Belfast to take evidence on European Security Cooperation. Witnesses included:
 - a. H.E. Marie Cross, Chair of the Future of Europe Group and Co-Chair of the Security Group, the Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA); former Irish Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Ukraine, and to the Political and Security Committee of the EU;
 - b. Assistant Commissioner John O'Driscoll, Serious Crime Operations, An Garda Síochána;
 - c. Deputy Chief Constable Stephen Martin and Temporary Assistant Chief Constable Tim Mairs, the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI); and
 - d. Eilís McGrath, Assistant Director – High Court and International Section, Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland.
4. At its meeting at the London plenary on 21 October, the Committee agreed a short interim report on European Security Cooperation, which was presented to the plenary for adoption. The Committee also appointed Fergus O'Dowd TD as Vice Chair.
5. On 28-29 March 2019, the Committee undertook a visit to Dublin and Holyhead to take evidence on port security and infrastructure in the context of Brexit, as part of its inquiry into European Security Cooperation. The Committee was joined by a new member, Lord (Malcolm) Bruce. The visit was also attended by Darren Millar AM, Fergus O'Dowd TD and Steve Aiken MLA.
6. Members visited and toured Dublin port, met officials from Dublin Port Authority and Irish Ferries, and took the Dublin Swift crossing to Holyhead, visiting the Captain's Bridge while on deck. The Committee then toured Holyhead port and met Alan Williams, the Port Services Manager. The Committee agreed to produce a second short report to consider at the Dublin plenary in May.

Attendance at formal meetings of Committee B in 2018

Sligo, 10 June 2018: Andrew Rosindell MP, Ross Greer MSP, Lord (John) Kilclooney, Senator (Terry) Leyden, Lord (Paul) Murphy, Margaret Murphy O'Mahony TD, Eamon Scanlon TD, John Scott MSP

London, 21 October 2018: Darren Millar AM (Chair), Fergus O'Dowd TD (Vice-Chair), Steve Aiken MLA, Nigel Evans MP, Senator (Terry) Leyden, Lord (Paul) Murphy, Margaret Murphy O'Mahony TD, Andrew Rosindell MP, Eamon Scanlon TD, John Scott MSP, Baroness (Alison) Suttie

Annual Report of Committee C (Economic Affairs)

1. The Committee met four times during 2018. Twice at the Plenaries in Sligo and London and a further two times during evidence gathering visits to London and Edinburgh on 17-18 January 2018 and Stockton-on-Tees and Newcastle Upon Tyne on 17-18 November 2018. A new Chair, Deputy Joan Burton TD, was appointed. Membership of the Committee also changed during the year.
2. At the Plenary Session held in Sligo on 10 June 2018, BIPA Committee C welcomed its new Chair Joan Burton TD and new member Senator Niall Ó Donnghaile. The Committee then considered, and agreed, its draft report on the ‘*Implications of Brexit for the agri-food sector*’. The report contains recommendations on facilitating trade between Member jurisdictions, the border between Ireland and Northern Ireland, the labour market, currency volatility and EU funding and the Common Agricultural Policy. An interim Report on the *Implications of Brexit for the agri-food sector* was previously published in July 2017. The Committee then discussed the scope and forward programme for its new inquiry into ‘*The impact of online sales on high street retailers*’, agreed at the October 2017 Plenary. The Committee decided to broaden the focus of this inquiry to investigate ‘*The revitalisation of the high street and local business*’ and agreed to undertake evidence gathering visits to Newcastle Upon Tyne, Dublin, Newcastle County Down and Belfast as part of the inquiry.
3. At the London Plenary in October 2018, the Chair thanked Deputy John Le Fondré and David Ford MLA for their work on the Committee and welcomed two new Members, Deputy David Johnson and John Blair MLA. The Committee finalised plans for evidence gathering visits to Stockton-on-Tees and Newcastle Upon Tyne on 17-18 November 2019 and Dublin, Newcastle County Down and Belfast on 31 January - 1 February 2019. The Committee aims to publish its report in 2019.

Attendance at meetings/Fact Finding Mission of Committee C in 2018

London and Edinburgh 17-18 January 2018: Helen Jones MP (in the Chair in the absence of the Chair), Lord Empey, Senator Frank Feighan, David Ford MLA, Deputy John Le Fondré, Colin McGrath MLA, Baroness O’Cathain OBE, Martin Vickers MP.

Sligo Plenary, 10–12 June 2018: Joan Burton TD (in the Chair), Lord Empey OBE, Senator Niall O’Donnighaile, David Ford MLA, Deputy John Le Fondré, Dai Lloyd AM (in place of Steffan Lewis AM), Colin McGrath MLA.

London Plenary, 23–25 October 2018: Joan Burton TD (in the Chair); Helen Jones MP, Lord Empey OBE, Deputy David Johnson, Dai Lloyd AM (in place of Steffan Lewis AM), Colin McGrath MLA, Mattie McGrath TD, Senator Niall O’Donnighaile, Martin Vickers MP.

Stockton-on-Tees and Newcastle Upon Tyne 17-18 November 2018: Senator Niall Ó Donnghaile (acting Chair), Rhun ap Iorwerth AM, John Blair MLA, Willie Coffey MSP, Deputy David Johnson, Martin Vickers MP.

Annual Report of Committee D (Environmental and Social Issues)

1. Committee D met five times during 2018: two meetings during plenary sessions, and a further three meetings taking evidence.
2. During the first part of 2018, the Committee began its follow-up inquiry into childhood obesity, with meetings in London and Dublin in February and April 2017. The Committee's final report on childhood obesity was published at the Sligo plenary in June 2018. The report concluded that childhood obesity was a multifactorial problem, with no single cause or solution. Its key recommendation was for greater cooperation across the BIPA jurisdictions, for instance in relation to approaches to taxation, regulation, advertising and product reformulation
3. At the Kilkenny plenary in 2017, the Committee had decided to launch an inquiry into the cross-jurisdictional implications of abortion policy across the BIPA jurisdictions. After taking evidence that year, the Committee agreed to suspend the inquiry during the referendum campaign on abortion in Ireland. The referendum took place on 25 May 2018.
4. The inquiry began again in October in Belfast on 11-12 October. At that session, the Committee heard from a range of witnesses, from all sides of the abortion debate. Panels featured the Northern Ireland Attorney General and the Chief Medical Officer for Northern Ireland. The evidence focused in particular on the ramifications for Northern Ireland of the referendum result in Ireland, and on the consequences of the current suspension on the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Attendance at meetings of Committee D in 2018

London, 25-26 February 2018

Lord Dubs (Chairman), Senator Victor Boyhan, Deidre Brock MP, Senator Catherine Noone, Chris Ruane MP, Karin Smyth MP, Jim Wells MLA

Dublin, 26-27 April 2018

Lord Dubs (Chairman), Senator Victor Boyhan, Deidre Brock MP, Paul Givan MLA, Senator Catherine Noone, Chris Ruane MP

Sligo, 10 June 2018

Lord Dubs (Chairman), Senator Victor Boyhan, Deidre Brock MP, Paul Givan MLA, Ian Milne MLA, Chris Ruane MP

Belfast, 11-12 October 2018

Lord Dubs (Chairman), Senator Frank Feighan, Paul Givan MLA, Pauline McNeill MSP, Karin Smyth MP

London, 21 October 2018

Lord Dubs (Chairman), Jane Bryant AM, Paul Givan MLA, Tony McLoughlin TD, Pauline McNeill MSP, Ian Milne MLA, Chris Ruane MP, Karin Smyth MP

APPENDIX 4

Staff of the Assembly in 2018

Ireland:

Clerk: Ms. Dervila Flynn

Policy Adviser:

Ms. Marylee Wall

Clerk, Committee A:

Mr. Paul Shannon and
and Mr. Raymond Mullen

Shadow Clerk, Committee B:

Ms. Marie-Claire Hughes
and Mr. Eoin Egan

Clerk, Committee C:

Ms. Sarah O'Farrell

Shadow Clerk, Committee D:

Ms. Alison Meagher

Irish Secretariat:

Mrs. Veronica Carr

United Kingdom:

Clerk: Dr. Robin James
and Mr. Ed Beale

British Consultant:

Sir Michael Davies KCB

Shadow Clerk, Committee A:

Mr. Edward Faulkner
and Mr. Nick Taylor

Clerk, Committee B:

Ms. Harriet Deane

Shadow Clerk, Committee C:

Ms. Danielle Nash
and Ms. Elektra Garvie-Adams

Clerk, Committee D:

Mr. Stuart Stoner and
Mr. Tristan Stubbs

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