



**TITHE AN OIREACHTAIS**

**AN COMHCHOISTE UM FHORFHEIDHMIÚ CHOMHAONTÚ AOINE AN  
CHÉASTA**

**TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL 2017**

---

**HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS**

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2017**

**32/JCIGFA/04**

## Table of Contents

1. Content and Format of Report
2. Establishment of the Joint Committee
3. Meetings, Attendance and Recording
4. Number and Duration of Meetings
5. Witnesses attending before the Committee
6. Committee Reports Published
7. Travel
8. Report on Functions and Powers

APPENDIX 1 Orders of Reference

APPENDIX 2: List of Members

APPENDIX 3: Meetings of the Joint Committee

APPENDIX 4: Minutes of Proceedings of the Joint Committee

## **1. Content and Format of Report**

This report has been prepared pursuant to Standing Order 86 (3), (4), (5) and (6) (Dáil Éireann) and Standing Order 75 (3), (4), (5) and (6) (Seanad Éireann) which provide for the Joint Committee to-

- undertake a review of its procedure and its role generally;
- prepare an annual work programme;
- lay minutes of its proceedings before both Houses;
- make an annual report to both Houses.

At its meeting on the 20 October 2016, the Joint Committee agreed that all these items should be included in this report covering the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017.

## **2. Establishment of Joint Committee**

The Dáil Select Committee, established by Order of Dáil Éireann on the 8 June 2011 was enjoined with a Select Committee of Seanad Éireann, established by Order of Seanad Éireann on the 16 June 2011, to form the Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement.

The Orders of Reference of the Dáil Select Committee and the Joint Committee are set out at *Appendix 1*.

Deputy Seán Crowe was elected as Chair of the Joint Committee on the 07 November 2017, replacing Deputy Kathleen Funchion.

Deputy Declan Breathnach was elected as Vice-Chairman of the Joint Committee on 26 July 2016.

Membership of the Committees, including all internal changes within the reported period, is listed at *Appendix 2*.

### **3. Meetings, Attendance and Recording**

Meetings of the Joint Committee took place in the Committee rooms in Leinster House 2000. Meetings were in public unless otherwise ordered by the Committee.

Televised coverage of public meetings of the Committee was broadcast live within the Leinster House complex and was available for subsequent public broadcasting by RTE and TV3. It was also webcast making it available worldwide on the internet. Since the pilot launch of the Oireachtas TV channel in November 2011, the proceedings of committees in public session, typically recorded but occasionally live, are now broadcast on Saorview Channel 22, Virgin Media Channel 207, Sky Channel 574, eir Vision Channel 504, and Vodafone Channels: Oireachtas TV - 201, Dáil - 207 and Seanad – 208.

An Official Report (Parliamentary Debates) of the public meetings of the Committee may be viewed on the Houses of the Oireachtas website at [www.oireachtas.ie](http://www.oireachtas.ie).

Copies of other reports published by the Joint Committee are also available on the Oireachtas Committee website pages at [www.oireachtas.ie](http://www.oireachtas.ie). A list of these reports is set out at paragraph 7.

### **4. Number and Duration of Meetings**

The Joint Committee met on 17 occasions during the period under report. The number of hours of discussion involved in these meetings was in excess of 28 hours.

The subject matter of each meeting of the Joint Committee, including the groups, organisations or individuals who attended the meetings, is detailed in *Appendix 3*. The Minutes of Proceedings of the Joint Committee in public session are attached at *Appendix 4*.

## **5. Witnesses attending before the Committee(s)**

During the period, the number of speaking witnesses for the Committee was as follows:

<b>COMMITTEE NAME</b>	<b>NUMBER OF WITNESSES</b>
Joint Committee	36

## **6. Committee Reports Published**

During the period under report, the Joint Committee published the following reports:

- The Implications of Brexit for the Good Friday Agreement: Key Findings – June 2017
- Brexit and the Future of Ireland: Uniting Ireland & Its People in Peace & Prosperity – August 2017

## **7. Travel.**

The Joint Committee undertook the following travel in accordance with its Orders of Reference in connection with its Work Programme

1. Purpose of travel: Launch of the Joint Committee's report on The Implications of Brexit for the Good Friday Agreement: Key Findings, visit to Cushendall Community Development Group, visit to Rathlin Development & Community Association, meeting with representatives from Bridge of Hope.

Date and Destination: 12 – 13 September 2017, Antrim, Northern Ireland.

Members travelling: Deputies: Kathleen Funchion (Chair), and Declan Breathnach TD. Senators: Frances Black, Frank Feighan, Gerard Craughwell, Niall Ó Donnghaile and Mark Daly.

## **8. Report on Functions and Powers**

The Joint Committee is currently satisfied with its present procedures and role.



---

Seán Crowe T.D.

Chairman

19 April 2018

## APPENDIX 1: Orders of Reference

### Dáil Motion: 8 June 2011

- 
- (1) Go gceapfar Roghchoiste, ar a mbeidh cúig chomhalta dhéag de Dháil Éireann, a bheidh le comhcheangal le Roghchoiste atá le ceapadh ag Seanad Éireann, chun bheith ina Chomhchoiste um Fhorfheidhmiú Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta chun breithniú a dhéanamh ar an méid seo a leanas—
- (a) saincheisteanna a éiríonn as ról na hÉireann mar shínitheoir le Comhaontú Aoine an Chéasta,
- (b) forbairtí leanúnacha i dtaca le forfheidhmiú Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta, agus
- (c) aon tograí a bhaineann le forfheidhmiú Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta agus nithe gaolmhara a tharchuirfidh an Dáil agus/nó an Seanad chuige ó am go ham,
- agus chun tuarascáil a thabhairt do dhá Theach an Oireachtais uair sa bhliain ar a laghad.
- (2) Beidh ag an gComhchoiste na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i mBuan-Ordú 83, seachas mír (2A), (4A), (4B) agus (6A) den chéanna.
- (3) Beidh an tAire Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála (nó comhalta den Rialtas nó Aire Stáit a bheidh ainmnithe ina áit nó ina háit) ina chomhalta nó ina comhalta *ex-officio* den Choiste agus beidh sé nó sí i dteideal vótáil in imeachtaí.
- (4) Féadfaidh Feisirí de chuid Pharlaimint Westminster arna dtoghadh ó thoghcheantair i dTuaisceart Éireann freastal ar
- (1) That a Select Committee consisting of fifteen members of Dáil Éireann be appointed to be joined with a Select Committee to be appointed by Seanad Éireann to form the Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement to consider—
- (a) issues arising from Ireland's role as a signatory to the Good Friday Agreement,
- (b) ongoing developments in the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, and
- (c) any proposals relating to the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement and such related matters as shall be referred to it by the Dáil and/or the Seanad from time to time,
- and to report back to both Houses of the Oireachtas at least once a year.
- (2) The Joint Committee shall have the powers defined in Standing Order 83, other than paragraph (2A), (4A), (4B) and (6A) thereof.
- (3) The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (or a member of the Government or Minister of State nominated in his or her stead) shall be an *ex officio* member of the Committee and shall be entitled to vote in proceedings.
- (4) Members of the Westminster Parliament elected from constituencies in Northern Ireland may attend meetings of

chruinnithe den Chomhchoiste agus dá fho-Choistí agus féadfaidh siad páirt a ghlacadh in imeachtaí gan ceart vótála a bheith acu ná ceart tairiscintí a dhéanamh ná leasuithe a thairiscint.

(5) Beidh Cathaoirleach an Chomhchoiste ina chomhalta nó ina comhalta de Dháil Éireann.

the Joint Committee and of its sub-Committees and may take part in proceedings without having a right to vote or to move motions and amendments.

(5) The Chairman of the Joint Committee shall be a member of Dáil Éireann."

### **Seanad Motion 16 June, 2011**

"(1) Go gceapfar Roghchoiste, ar a mbeidh 5 chomhalta de Sheanad Éireann, a bheidh le comhcheangal le Roghchoiste atá le ceapadh ag Dáil Éireann, chun bheith ina Chomhchoiste um Fhorfheidhmiú Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta chun breithniú a dhéanamh ar an méid seo a leanas—

- (a) saincheisteanna a éiríonn as ról na hÉireann mar shínitheoir le Comhaontú Aoine an Chéasta,
- (b) forbairtí leanúnacha i dtaca le forfheidhmiú Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta, agus
- (c) aon tograí a bhaineann le forfheidhmiú Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta agus nithe gaolmhara a tharchuirfidh an Dáil agus/nó an Seanad chuige ó am go ham,

agus chun tuarascáil a thabhairt do dhá Theach an Oireachtais uair sa bhliain ar a laghad.

(2) Beidh ag an gComhchoiste na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i mBuan-Ordú 71, seachas mír (2A), (4A), (4B) agus (6A) den chéanna.

(1) That a Select Committee consisting of 5 members of Seanad Éireann be appointed to be joined with a Select Committee to be appointed by Dáil Éireann to form the Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement to consider—

- (a) issues arising from Ireland's role as a signatory to the Good Friday Agreement,
- (b) ongoing developments in the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, and
- (c) any proposals relating to the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement and such related matters as shall be referred to it by the Dáil and/or the Seanad from time to time,

and to report back to both Houses of the Oireachtas at least once a year.

(2) The Joint Committee shall have the powers defined in Standing Order 71, other than paragraph (2A), (4A), (4B) and (6A) thereof.



- (3) Beidh an tAire Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála (nó comhalta den Rialtas nó Aire Stáit a bheidh ainmnithe ina áit nó ina háit) ina chomhalta nó ina comhalta ex-officio den Choiste agus beidh sé nó sí i dteideal vótáil in imeachtaí.
- (4) Féadfaidh Feisirí de chuid Pharlaimint Westminster arna dtoghadh ó thoghlaigh i dTuaisceart Éireann freastal ar chruinnithe den Chomhchoiste agus dá Fhochoistí agus féadfaidh siad páirt a ghlacadh in imeachtaí gan ceart vótála a bheith acu ná ceart tairiscintí a dhéanamh ná leasuithe a thairiscint.
- (5) Beidh Cathaoirleach an Chomhchoiste ina chomhalta nó ina comhalta de Dháil Éireann.
- (3) The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (or a member of the Government or Minister of State nominated in his or her stead) shall be an ex officio member of the Committee and shall be entitled to vote in proceedings.
- (4) Members of the Westminster Parliament elected from constituencies in Northern Ireland may attend meetings of the Joint Committee and of its sub-Committees and may take part in proceedings without having a right to vote or to move motions and amendments.
- (5) The Chairman of the Joint Committee shall be a member of Dáil Éireann."

## **APPENDIX 2: Membership**

### *List of Members (Joint Committee)*

Deputies:           Declan Breathnach (FF)  
                          Fergus O'Dowd (FG)  
                          Seán Crowe (SF) [Chair]  
                          Tony McLoughlin (FG)  
                          Maureen O'Sullivan (IND) – Independent 4 Change  
                          Sean Sherlock (LAB)  
                          Brendan Smith (FF)

Senators:           Frances Black (IND)  
                          Frank Feighan (FG)  
                          Mark Daly (FF)  
                          Gerard Craughwell (IND)  
                          Niall Ó Donnghaile (SF)

#### Notes:

1. Deputies nominated by the Dáil Committee of Selection and appointed by Order of the Dáil of 29 June 2016.
2. Senators nominated by the Seanad Committee of Selection and appointed by Order of the Seanad of 21 July 2016.
3. Senator Frank Feighan replaced Senator Jerry Buttimer and Senator Gerard Craughwell replaced Senator Marie-Louise O'Donnell by Order of the Seanad on 27 October 2016.
4. Deputy Fergus O'Dowd replaced Deputy Joe Carey Order of the Dáil on November 15 2016.
5. Deputy Seán Crowe nominated as Chair by the Dáil Committee of Selection and appointed by Order of the Dáil on 7 November 2017 and replaced Deputy Kathleen Funchion
6. Senator Denis Landy resigned his membership of Seanad Éireann on 28 November 2017

### APPENDIX 3: Meetings of the Joint Committee

The following are the details, in date order, of the scheduled meetings of the Joint Committee which took place during the period under report.

<b>Meeting No. and Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Organisations, Groups and Individuals who attended</b>
J08 12/1/2017	The Implications of Brexit for the Good Friday Agreement and its Institutions (resumed)	<p><i>Border Communities Against Brexit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Declan Fearon</li> <li>• Mr. John Sheridan</li> <li>• Mr. Bernard Boyle</li> </ul> <p><i>Children's Rights Alliance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Tanya Ward, Chief Executive Officer</li> <li>• Ms. Saoirse Brady, Legal and Policy Director</li> </ul>
J09 26/1/2017	The Implications of Brexit for the Good Friday Agreement and its Institutions (resumed)	<p><i>Institute for International and European Affairs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Tom Arnold, Director General</li> <li>• Mr. Daithí O'Ceallaigh, Chair of the UK project group</li> </ul>
J10 9/2/2017	The Implications of Brexit for the Good Friday Agreement and its Institutions (resumed)	<p><i>Department of Public Expenditure and Reform</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Paschal Donohoe T.D., Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform</li> <li>• Mr Gearoid O'Keefe</li> <li>• Ms Cathy Geagan</li> </ul>
J11 9/3/2017	The Implications of Brexit for the Good Friday Agreement and its Institutions (resumed)	<p><i>Ulster University</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Duncan Morrow, Director of Community Engagement</li> </ul>
J12 23/3/2017	Private Meeting (postponed)	
J13 6/4/2017	Retail Excellence Ireland and Retail NI	<p><i>Retail NI</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Glyn Roberts, Chief Executive</li> </ul> <p><i>Retail Excellence Ireland</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Lorraine Higgins, Head of Public Affairs</li> </ul>
J14 4/5/2017	Acht na Gaeilge	<i>Conradh na Gaeilge</i>

Meeting No. and Date	Topic	Organisations, Groups and Individuals who attended
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Ciarán Mac Giolla Bhéin, Bainisteoir Abhcóideachta</li> <li>• Mr. Julian de Spáinn, Ard-Rúnaí</li> <li>• Mr. Pádraig Ó Tiarnaigh, Feidhmeannach Cumarsáide, Chosaint Teanga &amp; Ionadaíochta</li> </ul>
J15 18/5/2017	Voting Rights in Northern Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Mark Bassett, Barrister-at-Law</li> </ul> <p><i>Queen's University Belfast</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professor Colin Harvey</li> </ul>
J16 1/6/2017	Implications of Brexit for Northern Ireland's Environment - Shared Cross Border Issues	<p><i>Northern Ireland Environment Link</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patrick Casement, Chair</li> <li>• Michael Ewing, Coordinator, Environmental Pillar</li> </ul> <p><i>National Trust</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diane Ruddock, External Affairs Manager</li> </ul> <p><i>Ulster Wildlife</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rebecca Hunter, Living Seas Manager</li> </ul> <p><i>The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Northern Ireland</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Martin, Conservation Team Leader, Land Use &amp; Marine Policy</li> </ul>
J17 15/6/2017	Private Meeting	
J18 20/6/2017	Private Meeting	
J19 6/7/2017	Private Meeting	
J20 13/7/2017	Private Meeting	
J21 12/10/2017	Discussion with Groups working with those affected by violence	<p><i>Pat Finucane Centre</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Anne Cadwallader</li> </ul> <p><i>Justice for the Forgotten</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Margaret Urwin</li> </ul> <p><i>Relatives for Justice</i></p>

Meeting No. and Date	Topic	Organisations, Groups and Individuals who attended
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Mike Ritchie</li> <li>• Mr. Paul Butler</li> </ul>
J22 26/10/17	Discussions on Legacy Issues	<p><i>Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Brian Gormally, Director</li> </ul> <p><i>WAVE Trauma Centre</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Sandra Peake, CEO</li> <li>• Mr. Dennis Godfrey</li> </ul>
J23 9/11/17	Legacy Issues (Resumed)	<p><i>Innocent Victims United</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Kenny Donaldson</li> <li>• Mr. Ken Funston</li> <li>• Ms. Karen McAnerney</li> </ul> <p><i>Independent Victims and Survivors Coalition</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Austin Stack</li> <li>• Mr. David Kelly</li> </ul> <p><i>Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Barbara Walshe, Chair of the Board</li> <li>• Mr. Pat Hynes</li> </ul>
J24 23/11/2017	Matters relating to Northern Ireland and the implications for the Good Friday Agreement	<p><i>Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Simon Coveney T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade</li> <li>• Mr. Fergal Mythen, Director General, Irish, UK and Americas Division</li> <li>• Ms. Sarah McGrath, Director, Irish, UK and Americas Division</li> <li>• Mr. Eoghan Duffy, Deputy Director, Irish, UK and Americas Division</li> </ul>
J25 7/12/2017	Meeting postponed	
J26 14/12/2017	Private Meeting	

## **APPENDIX 4: Minutes of Proceedings of the Joint Committee**

### **Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement**

#### **Minutes of Meeting of Thursday, 12 January 2017**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 12.07pm in Committee Room 1, LH2000, a quorum being present.

#### **1. Members Present**

The following members were present:-

Deputies Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), Declan Breathnach, Fergus O'Dowd, Maureen O'Sullivan, Brendan Smith.

Senators Mark Daly, Denis Landy, Gerard Craughwell.

Also present were Mark Durkan MP, Mickey Brady MP, Alasdair McDonnell MP and Francie Molloy MP.

Apologies were received from Deputy Tony McLoughlin, Deputy Sean Sherlock, Senator Frances Black, Senator Frank Feighan, Margaret Ritchie MP.

At 12.08pm the Committee went into private session.

#### **2. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 1 December were agreed.

#### **3. Correspondence**

The Committee noted the following correspondence items:

Item 35, a letter from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, acknowledging receipt of a letter from the Clerk requesting that the Committee be kept updated on progress to secure special pensions for those injured in the Troubles.

Item 36, the November/ December edition of the Just News newsletter from the Committee on the Administration of Justice.

Item 37, an email from Deputy Breathnach to the Clerk suggesting a future Committee meeting on border sharing of mobile phone and broadband signals. It was agreed that the secretariat would first enquire whether the Joint Committee on Communications, Climate Action and Environment had examined or was planning to examine it.

#### **4. Any other business**

The Committee agreed to write to the Commission to request that, on an exceptional basis, the expenses of Northern Ireland MPs wishing to travel on the planned Committee trip to Brussels in February 2017 be covered.

The Committee agreed to a request from Senator Mark Daly that briefing be sought from the Department of the Taoiseach on the Taoiseach's recent trip to Spain and meeting with the Spanish Prime Minister. The Senator requested that the briefing should outline whether the Taoiseach raised the issue of inclusion in any final EU-UK agreement provisions for

automatic EU membership for Northern Ireland without any additional accession process, in the event of the triggering of Annex A of the Good Friday Agreement.

The Committee agreed that its next meetings on 26 January, 9 February and 23 February would focus on Brexit, with witnesses being invited based on the document agreed by the Committee at its meeting of 15 December.

The Committee noted that the UK House of Commons Northern Ireland Affairs Committee intends to visit Ireland on 21 and 22 February and agreed it would like to meet with members of that committee on the occasion of their visit.

The Committee went into Public Session at 12.40 pm.

## **5. Discussion with representatives of Border Communities Against Brexit**

The Chair welcomed Mr. Declan Fearon, Mr. John Sheridan and Mr. Bernard Boyle of Border Communities against Brexit, who presented to the Committee their concerns on the implications of Brexit for the border and for border communities.

This was followed by a question and answer session with the Committee. Following this, the Chair thanked the witnesses, on behalf of the Committee, for their appearance and contribution.

The meeting was suspended 2.04 pm and resumed at 2.10pm

## **6. Discussion with Ms. Tanya Ward and Ms. Saoirse Brady of the Children's Rights Alliance**

Ms. Tanya Ward, Chief Executive, and Ms. Saoirse Brady, Legal and Policy Director, of the Children's Rights Alliance, presented to the Committee on the particular challenges that Brexit poses for children's rights on the island of Ireland. Mickey Brady MP declared an interest in that Ms. Brady is his daughter.

This was followed by questions and discussion with committee members. The Chair thanked the witnesses for their engagement with the Committee on this important issue.

## **7. Political Developments in Northern Ireland**

The Committee again went into private session at 3.10pm to discuss political developments in Northern Ireland. The Committee agreed that the Chair would, on its behalf, issue a statement outlining its concern and its support for a resolution of the current situation, and urging all parties to adhere to the precepts, principles and protections agreed to in the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements.

---

Kathleen Funchion, TD.,  
Chair  
26 January 2017

## **Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement Draft Minutes of Meeting of Thursday 26 January 2017**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.17pm in Committee Room 2, LH2000, a quorum being present.

### **1. Members Present**

The following members were present: Deputies Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), Declan Breathnach, Fergus O'Dowd, Brendan Smith

Senators Frances Black, Frank Feighan, Mark Daly, Denis Landy, Gerard Craughwell

Also present were Mark Durkan MP and Alasdair McDonnell MP.

Apologies were received from Maureen O'Sullivan TD, Margaret Ritchie MP, Francie Molloy MP, Mickey Brady MP and Pat Doherty MP.

At 2.18pm the Committee went into private session.

### **2. Discussion on Brexit**

The Committee members engaged in a discussion on its work on Brexit. It agreed that it should begin to focus on formulating an agreed committee position with a view to engaging with and influencing interlocutors on issues relating to Brexit and the Good Friday Agreement. It was agreed that members would submit suggestions to the secretariat and that the Committee would set aside time at its next meeting to discuss this issue.

The Committee also agreed to seek briefing from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on the issue of whether the UK Supreme Court Judgement on Brexit meant that the triggering of Article 50 by the UK would render the Good Friday Agreement null and void, with a view to considering if the Committee might commission a legal opinion on this issue, possibly from the Office of the Parliamentary Legal Advisor.

The Committee went into Public Session at 2.53pm.

### **3. Discussion with Mr. Daithi O'Ceallaigh and Mr. Tom Arnold, Institute of International and European Affairs**

Mr. Daithi O'Ceallaigh and Mr. Tom Arnold of the Institute of International and European Affairs presented to the Committee on the challenges that Brexit poses for the Good Friday Agreement, North-South cooperation, and for Northern Ireland more generally, including its agriculture sector. Following this there was a question and answer session with members of the Committee. The Chair thanked the witnesses on behalf of the Committee for the insight and knowledge they brought to bear on the Committee's considerations of Brexit.

The Committee went into Private Session at 4.26pm to consider housekeeping matters.

### **4. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 12 December were agreed.

### **5. Correspondence**

The Committee noted the following correspondence:



Item 38, a letter to the Clerk from Ms. Eimear Friel, Private Secretary to Charlie Flanagan T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, in response to the Committee's request to be kept updated on efforts to secure a pension for those injured in the Troubles.

Item 39, an email to the Clerk from Ms. Fiona Bourke, Department of the Taoiseach, outlining details of the next plenary of the all island dialogue on Brexit, as well as sectoral meetings of the dialogue.

Item 40, a letter from Mr. Julian de Spáinn, General Secretary of Conradh na Gaeilge, urging the Committee to focus its attention on Irish language rights in the North. The Committee agreed that it may consider inviting Conradh na Gaeilge to appear before it at a later date.

Item 41, an email from Ms. Mary Nicholson, Head of Advocacy and Communications at the ISPCC, seeking a meeting with the Committee to discuss the implications of Brexit for child protection and the Good Friday Agreement. The Committee noted that it had already heard from the Children's Rights Alliance, of which the ISPCC is a member, but that it may consider inviting the ISPCC to appear before it at a later date.

## **6. Any other Business**

The Committee noted that the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Mr. Paschal Donohue TD, would address it on 9 February.

The Committee noted that the Westminster House of Commons Select Committee on Brexit intends to visit Dublin on 23 February, and agreed that the Committee should seek to engage with it on that date.

The Committee also noted that the Westminster House of Commons Select Committee on Northern Ireland Affairs was now planning to visit Dublin in March rather than February, and that the Committee would seek to engage with it then.

The Committee agreed to postpone its trip to NSMC Armagh and Belfast until after the March 2017 Assembly elections.

The Committee agreed that Senator Craughwell, who is also a member of the Joint Committee on European Affairs, would represent the Good Friday Committee during the visit of the JCEUA to Brussels on 7 – 8 February. The Committee agreed to sanction this travel to Brussels for engagements with EU interlocutors on Brexit.

The Committee agreed to submit two topics for consideration for the Working Group of Committee Chairs' planned engagement with the Taoiseach later this year:

1. The Implications of Brexit for the Good Friday Agreement and Northern Ireland
2. Political developments in Northern Ireland.

The meeting was adjourned at 5.03pm until 2.15pm on Thursday 9 February.

---

Kathleen Funchion, TD.,  
Chair  
9 February 2017

**Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement**

## **Draft Minutes of Meeting of Thursday 9 February 2017**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.18pm in Committee Room 2, LH2000, a quorum being present.

### **1. Members Present**

The following members were present: Deputies Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), Declan Breathnach, Fergus O'Dowd, Tony McLoughlin, Maureen O'Sullivan, Sean Sherlock, Brendan Smith

Senators Frances Black, Frank Feighan, Mark Daly, Gerard Craughwell

Also present were Senator Paul Coughlan and Pat Doherty MP

Apologies were received from Senator Denis Landy, Senator Niall O Donnghaile, Franice Molloy MP and Mickey Brady MP

### **2. Discussion with Mr. Paschal Donohoe T.D., Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform**

The Committee continued its examination of the implications of Brexit for the Good Friday Agreement, with Minister Donohoe presenting to the Committee on developments relating to EU PEACE and INTERREG funding in particular. This was followed by a question and answer session with Committee members.

The Chair thanked Minister Donohoe for an engaging presentation on this important matter.

The Committee went into Private Session at 3.51pm.

### **3. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 26 January were agreed.

### **4. Correspondence**

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of correspondence until its next meeting in order to facilitate attendance of TDs for Dáil votes at 4pm.

### **5. Any other Business**

The Committee agreed it would engage with the Westminster House of Commons Brexit Committee and a delegation of MPs from the German Bundestag, both of whom were planning to visit Dublin on 23 February.

### **6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4pm until 23 February.

---

Kathleen Funchion TD.,  
Chair  
9 March 2017

**Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement  
Draft Minutes of Meeting of Thursday 9 March 2017**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 3.15pm in Committee Room 2, LH2000, a quorum being present.

## **8. Members Present**

The following members were present: Deputies Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), Declan Breathnach, Fergus O'Dowd, Maureen O'Sullivan, Brendan Smith

Senators Frances Black, Frank Feighan and Mark Daly

Also present were Alasdair McDonnell MP and Mickey Brady MP

Apologies were received from Deputies Tony McLoughlin and Sean Sherlock, Senators Gerard Craughwell, Niall O Donnghaile and Denis Landy, Francie Molloy MP and Pat Doherty MP.

## **9. Discussion with Dr. Duncan Morrow, Director of Community Engagement, University of Ulster**

The Committee continued its examination of the implications of Brexit for the Good Friday Agreement, with a presentation by Dr. Duncan Morrow focussing on the implications of Brexit for peacebuilding and communities in Northern Ireland.

This was followed by a question and answer session with Committee members. The Chair thanked Dr. Morrow on behalf of the Committee for a thoughtful and engaging presentation.

The Committee went into Private Session at 4.21pm.

## **10. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 9 February were agreed.

## **11. Correspondence**

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Item 42, an email from Senator Daly requesting that the Chair ask the other Oireachtas Committees to include Northern Ireland in their work on Brexit. The Committee agreed that the Chair would contact the Chair of the Working Group of Committee Chairs to ask that Brexit be discussed at the next WGCC meeting, to give an opportunity for the Chair to raise this issue with other Committee Chairs then.
- Item 44, a letter from the Secretary to the Oireachtas Commission to the Clerk, noting the Commission does not have a legal basis to meet travel expenses of non-members of the Houses of the Oireachtas, and so is unable to meet the travel expenses of MPs as requested by the Committee. The Committee noted this correspondence.
- Items 46a and b, emails from Senator Daly to the Chair and Clerk, requesting that the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade be asked to provide a progress report on the Good Friday in similar format to the 6 monthly progress reports of the Fresh Start Agreement. The Committee agreed to request this information from the Department.

- Item 47, an email to the Clerk from Deputy Maureen O'Sullivan requesting that the Committee fix a date to meet with Mrs. Lorraine Taylor regarding her husband Tony Taylor's incarceration at Maghaberry prison. The Committee agreed that it could invite Mrs. Taylor to appear before it in private at its next meeting on 23 March, or at a later date in public session, along with other groups. Deputy O'Sullivan undertook to relay this information to Mrs. Taylor.
- Item 48, a letter to the Chair from Mr. Mark Basset BL and Professor Colin Harvey, requesting to come before the Committee to give evidence on voting rights in Presidential elections for non-resident citizens, and how these relate to the Good Friday Agreement. Members agreed to invite these persons to give evidence, and also agreed they should be invited to present to the Committee on matters relating to human rights in Northern Ireland.
- Item 49, an email from Deputy Declan Breathnach to the Clerk proposing that the Committee should hear from Glyn Roberts, Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Independent Retail Trade Association, and Retail Excellence Ireland. The Committee agreed that Mr. Roberts should be invited to give evidence to it.
- Item 50, an email to the Clerk from Mr. Edward Channer of Forward Thinking, requesting a meeting of Committee members with a delegation of Israeli Chiefs of Staff and Advisors from Israeli ministries who will be in Dublin on 21/ 22 March. Members agreed they would seek to meet with the group on 21 March.
- Item 51, an email to the Clerk from Ms. Sarah Levick of the British Embassy in Dublin requesting a meeting of the Committee with the House of Commons Northern Ireland Affairs Committee at 12pm on Wednesday 22 March. Members agreed to arrange such a meeting.

Correspondence items 43, 45, 52 and 53 were noted.

Correspondence items 54 and 55 were withdrawn by Senator Mark Daly.

## **12. Any other Business**

The Committee considered its future meetings and agreed that it would aim to meet informally with the Westminster House of Commons Northern Ireland Affairs Committee on Wednesday 22 January, and would invite Mr. Mark Basset BL and Professor Colin Harvey to appear before it at its meeting of 23 March. The Committee also agreed to invite Mr. Glyn Roberts, Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Independent Retail Trade Association, to appear before it on 6 April.

## **13. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5.05pm until 2.15pm on Thursday 23 March 2017.

---

Kathleen Funchion TD.,  
Chair  
23 March 2017

## **Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement Draft Minutes of Meeting of 6 April 2017**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.20pm in Committee Room 1, LH2000, a quorum being present.

The Committee went into private session at 2.22pm.

### **14. Members Present**

The following members were present: Deputies Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), Declan Breathnach, Fergus O'Dowd, Maureen O'Sullivan, Brendan Smith.

Senators Gerard Craughwell, Frances Black, Frank Feighan and Mark Daly.

Also present were Alasdair McDonnell MP, Pat Doherty MP, and Deputies Clare Daly, Eamon O Cuiv and Niamh Smyth.

Apologies were received from Deputies Tony McLoughlin and Sean Sherlock, and Senators Denis Landy and Niall Ó Donnghaile.

### **15. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 9 March were agreed.

### **16. Correspondence**

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Item 56, an email (and translation) to the Clerk from Mr. Somhairle Mac Uidhir following up on an earlier request for Conradh na Gaeilge to appear before the Committee to outline its work on how an Irish Language Act in the North might be implemented.

Members agreed to invite Conradh na Gaeilge to the first meeting after Easter recess, on 4 May.

- Item 57, the latest edition of the Just News newsletter from the Committee on the Administration of Justice.

The Committee noted this correspondence.

### **17. Further Meetings**

The Chair recalled that at the meeting of 9 March it was suggested that, following receipt of correspondence on the matter, the committee invite Mr. Mark Bassett and Professor Colin Harvey to discuss voting rights in the North. The Committee agreed to issue these invitations for the meeting of 18 May.

## **18. Letter of Condolences**

It was agreed to send a letter of condolences to the family of Martin McGuinness on behalf of the Committee.

## **19. Cooperation Ireland LEGaSi programme**

On the basis of a request from the Department of Foreign Affairs the Committee agreed to meet informally with a group visiting Dublin under the Cooperation Ireland LEGaSi programme on 17 May.

## **20. Discussion with Lorraine Taylor**

The Committee held a discussion with Ms Lorraine Taylor and solicitors regarding the case of Mr Tony Taylor, currently held in Maghaberry prison.

The Committee went into public session at 3.49pm.

## **21. Discussion with Retail NI and Retail Excellence Ireland**

Ms Lorraine Higgins, Head of Public Affairs, Retail Excellence Ireland and Mr Glyn Roberts, Chief Executive, Retail NI made their opening statements. The implications of and solutions to Brexit in relation to the all Island retail economy were discussed.

This was followed by a question and answer session with Committee members. The Chair thanked the witnesses on behalf of the Committee for an important and engaging presentation.

## **22. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4.51pm until 2.15pm on Thursday 4 May 2017.

---

Kathleen Funchion TD.,  
Chair  
4 May 2017

## **Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement Draft Minutes of Meeting of Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 4.22pm in Committee Room 4, LH2000, a quorum being present.

### **23. Members Present**

The following members were present: Deputies Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), Declan Breathnach, Maureen O'Sullivan, Sean Sherlock, Fergus O'Dowd.

Senators Mark Daly, Frank Feighan and Niall Ó Donnghaile.

The Chair acknowledged the contribution of the Northern MPs, and wished them well with their re-election campaigns and retirements.

Apologies were received from Deputy Brendan Smith and Senators Denis Landy and Frances Black.

Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív was also in attendance.

The Committee went into Private Session at 4.22pm.

### **24. Minutes**

There was one item outstanding from the meeting dated 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017, regarding next steps the Committee would take following on from engagement with Mrs. Lorraine Taylor. The Committee noted hearing had taken place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> May and matters had now been adjourned until 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

The Committee agreed to write to James Brokenshire, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland seeking a meeting to discuss the issue of prisoner's rights.

The Committee also agreed to issue a press release expressing concern regarding the continuing detention of Tony Taylor without trial.

The minutes of the meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> April were agreed.

### **25. Correspondence**

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- *Items 58,59 and 66. Correspondence from Senator Mark Daly requesting that the Committee now consider the Draft Report he was appointed as rapporteur to produce.*

Senator Daly submitted a comprehensive report of circa 1300 pages to the Committee for their consideration. After discussion the Committee agreed that an informal working group would be set up to work through the report, and report back to the Committee. Northern Ireland MPs will be able to join this working group when appointed. It was also noted that the Committee Secretariat are drafting a report on Brexit based on the Joint Committee hearings. The Committee Secretariat will circulate an email to Members inviting them to join this informal working group. The motion put forward by Senator Daly was also considered under this item and as events have moved on since the Motion was submitted the Senator agreed to withdraw it.

The Committee agreed to issue a press release welcoming the developments at the European Council specifically the declaration which allows for the entire territory of any future Ireland to legally become part of the EU.

Senator Daly requested that a briefing note be requested from the Dept. of Foreign Affairs detailing the legal agreements made re NI entry to the EU in the event of reunification and it was agreed this would be sought.

- *Item 60, Email from Senator Mark Daly suggesting a delegation travels to Washington to meet Members of Congress to outline developments in the peace process and the potential implication of Brexit on the Good Friday Agreement.*  
The Committee agreed that a report on the Committees findings regarding Brexit would need to be finalised pending any decision on a trip to Washington. The Committee further noted that engagements with London and/or Brussels would take precedence over a trip to Washington. The merits of engaging with the USA were discussed and the Committee Secretariat will research costings and confirm the travel budget assigned to the Committee. It was agreed to return to this item at a later date.
- *Items 62a and 62b, emails from Susan McDermott at Frontline Project offering to brief the Committee on the findings in their report "Frontline Project"*  
It was agreed to note this item.
- *Items 63a and 63b, correspondence from Northern Ireland Environmental Link (NIEL) requesting an opportunity to come before the Committee to discuss the impact of Brexit on the environment and shared cross border environmental issues.*  
As Environmental issues are a North South Co-operation issue the Committee had not yet had an opportunity to consider it was agreed to invite this group to the Committee meeting dated 1<sup>st</sup> June . Deputy Breathnach suggested researching other groups who could be invited in also on this topic.

Correspondence items 61a &b, 64 and 65 were noted.

## **26. Any other Business**

There was agreement amongst the Committee that they would like to investigate other themes, and particularly issues around legacy. The Committee Secretariat will request briefing on matters outstanding under the Good Friday Agreement, and investigate suitable witnesses to invite before the Committee. It was also agreed that an email would be circulated inviting Members to make suggestions.



The Chair reminded the Committee of the visit of the organisation Cooperation Ireland on the Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> of May, and a suitable time will be agreed. Invitations will be issued to Members in advance.

The Committee was suspended from 3.12pm to 3.14pm

The Committee went into Public Session at pm 3.14pm.

The Chair publicly acknowledged the contributions of the Northern Ireland MPs and wished them well with their re-election campaigns or retirements.

The Chair welcomed Conradh na Gaeilge to the meeting.

Conradh na Gaeilge made a presentation to the Committee, which was followed by a questions and answers session with Members.

The Committee agreed to issue a press release supporting Conradh na Gaeilge in their efforts to secure full implementation of an Irish Language Act in the North.

## **27. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4.05pm.

---

Kathleen Funchion TD.,  
Chair  
18 May 2017

**Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement  
Draft Minutes of Meeting of Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 3.03pm in Committee Room 2, LH2000, a quorum being present.

**1. Members Present**

The following members were present: Deputies Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair) and Declan Breathnach.

Senators Frances Black, Frank Feighan, Gerard Craughwell and Niall Ó Donnghaile.

Apologies were received from Deputies Brendan Smith, Maureen O'Sullivan and Sean Sherlock and Senator Mark Daly.

The Committee went into Private Session at 3.04pm.

**2. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> May were agreed.

**3. Correspondence**

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- *Item 69: An email from Richard Moore on behalf of Boston College requesting a meeting with the committee.*

The Committee agreed to try to meet the group on the 1<sup>st</sup> June, but to gauge Members availability by email.

Correspondence items 68 a & b, and 70 were noted.

**4. Any other Business**

The Committee discussed the visit of the delegation from Cooperation Ireland on the Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> of May. It was agreed to hold more meetings with members of the unionist community.

The Committee went into Public Session at 3.23pm.

The Chair welcomed Mr. Mark Bassett, Barrister-at-Law and Professor Colin Harvey, Queen's University Belfast.

The witnesses presented on voting rights in Northern Ireland. Questions and discussion from Members followed.

## **5. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4.13pm.

---

Kathleen Funchion TD.,  
Chair  
1 June 2017

**Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement  
Draft Minutes of Meeting of Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.17pm in Committee Room 2, LH2000, a quorum being present.

**1. Members Present**

The following members were present: Deputies Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), Declan Breathnach, Fergus O'Dowd, Maureen O'Sullivan, and Brendan Smith

Senators Frances Black, Frank Feighan, and Mark Daly

Apologies were received from Deputies Tony McLoughlin and Sean Sherlock and Senators Denis Landy, Gerard Craughwell, and Niall O Donnghaile.

**2. Presentation**

The Chair welcomed Michael Ewing, Coordinator, Environmental Pillar, Northern Ireland Environment Link; Diane Ruddock, External Affairs Manager, National Trust; Rebecca Hunter, Living Seas Manager, Ulster Wildlife; John Martin, Conservation Team Leader, Land Use & Marine Policy, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Northern Ireland; and Sean Kelly, Development Manager, Northern Ireland Environment Link.

The witnesses presented on 'Implications of Brexit for the Environment - Shared Cross Border Issues'.

Questions and discussion from Members followed.

The meeting was suspended at 3.12pm.

The meeting resumed in private session at 3.20pm

**3. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> May were agreed.

**4. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence to be dealt with at this meeting.

**5. Any other Business**

The committee discussed holding a meeting on legacy issues and the Chair asked Members to submit suggestions about which groups to invite in.

There was a discussion about a trip to Belfast and Maghaberry prison. This would be after the recess.

It was decided to discuss these issues as well as the committee's Brexit report at the next meeting.

Members agreed that the next meeting will be on the 15 June, in private session.

**6. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> May were agreed.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3.26pm.

---

Kathleen Funchion TD.,  
Chair  
15 June 2017

**Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement  
Draft Minutes of Meeting of Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.03 pm in Committee Room 2, LH2000, a quorum being present.

The Joint Committee went into private session at 2.03 pm.

**Members Present**

The following members were present: Deputies Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), Declan Breathnach, Maureen O'Sullivan, Brendan Smith and Fergus O'Dowd.

Deputy Sean Crowe was also in attendance.

Senators Mark Daly, Frances Black and Frank Feighan.

Apologies were received from Senators Denis Landy, Niall Ó Donnghaile and Gerard Craughwell, and Deputy Sean Sherlock.

The following Northern Ireland MPs also attended the meeting – Mickey Brady and Paul Maskey

**Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> July were not agreed.

Senator Daly raised complaints in relation to same.

The meeting was suspended at 2.16pm

The meeting resumed in public session at 2.20pm

**Presentation to Joint Committee by Groups dealing with Legacy Issues**

The Chair welcomed the following to the Joint Committee meeting: Anne Cadwallader, Pat Finucane Centre; Margaret Urwin, Justice for the Forgotten; and Mike Ritchie and Paul Butler from Relatives for Justice. The witnesses made presentations to the Joint Committee, which were followed by a Questions and Answers session with Members and MPs.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3.57 pm.

---

Kathleen Funchion TD.,  
Chair  
26 October 2017

## **Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement Draft Minutes of Meeting of Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.20 pm in Committee Room 2, LH2000, a quorum being present.

The Joint Committee went into private session at 2.21 pm.

### **Members Present**

The following members were present: Deputies Kathleen Funchion (in the Chair), Declan Breathnach, Fergus O'Dowd, Brendan Smith, and Tony McLoughlin.

Senators Frances Black, Mark Daly, Frank Feighan, Gerard Craughwell, and Niall Ó Donnghaile.

Apologies were received from Senators Denis Landy, and Maureen O'Sullivan.

In accordance with paragraph (4) of the Orders of Reference of the Committee, the following Members of the Westminster Parliament elected from constituencies in Northern Ireland also attended:

Mickey Brady MP, Paul Maskey MP, Chris Hazzard MP, Elisha McCallion MP, and Barry McElduff MP.

### **1 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017 were agreed.

Members were reminded of the long standing practice and the related **Salient Ruling of the Chair 723 "References to, or charges against, official of the House should not be made"**

**Complaints are dealt with through normal managerial channels.**

The minutes of the meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017 were agreed.

Members were advised that correspondence to a Committee is only circulated to Members (i.e. TDs and Senators) of that Committee.

The Joint Committee agreed that hard copies of correspondence could be shared with attending MPs at a Joint Committee meeting for the duration of that meeting.

Members were also advised that only decisions taken at a Joint Meeting are recorded in the minutes and items to be discussed should be circulated as correspondence to allow committee business proceed more efficiently.

The minutes of the meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017 with Mr Guy Verhofstadt were agreed.

### **2 Correspondence**

Items 80,81,83a, 83b, 86 87

It was agreed to note these items

#### Item 77

It was agreed that the Chair and Clerk of the Joint Committee would seek a meeting with the Commission to secure additional funding next year to support events to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement. Members are to send suggestions regarding events to the Committee Secretariat.

#### Item 78

It was agreed that an informal meeting would be arranged with Mrs Taylor and her legal team.

#### Item 79

It was agreed that a press statement would be issued expressing the disappointment of the Joint Committee with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland continual refusal to meet with the Joint Committee.

#### Item 80

It was agreed that a travel proposal would be circulated. Members who wish to propose groups the Joint Committee may like to consider meeting were asked to email the Committee Secretariat.

#### Items 84a & 84b

It was agreed that the Joint Committee write thanking McIvor Solicitors for their correspondence, and advise that the Committee's role is to consider issues arising from the Irish Government's role as a signatory to the Good Friday Agreement, not issues that are a matter for the Secretary of State.

#### Item 85

It was agreed that this correspondence would be considered as part of the Joint Committee Travel Report

#### Item 88

Deputy Breathnach advised he would be raising this matter with the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017

#### Item 89

It was agreed that both Joint Committee reports would go onto the order paper of both Houses of the Oireachtas.

### **3. Draft Travel Report – Joint Committee Visit to Northern Ireland**

Follow up actions proposed for inclusion in Travel Report  
Travel Report will be updated and circulated for agreement  
Members were reminded to email any amendments/proposals to the Committee Secretariat.

### **4. AOB**

In relation to a query regarding circulation of correspondence it was reiterated that this is circulated to Members (TDs and Senators) only.



It was agreed that the Joint Committee would review standing orders and consider proposing changes.

Senator O'Donoghua raised an issue with Media broadcasting across all counties and it was agreed he would write to the Clerk further on this matter.

The Chair formally thanked Members and the Committee Secretariat for their work, assistance and support to her in her roles as Chair of the Committee and wished everyone well in the future.

Deputy Smyth on behalf of Members thanked the Chair for her exceptional work on behalf of the Joint Committee.

### **Presentation to Joint Committee by Groups dealing with Legacy Issues**

The Chair welcomed the following to the Joint Committee meeting: Brian Gormally, Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ); Sandra Peake, CEO WAVE Trauma Centre; Dennis Godfrey, WAVE Trauma Centre. The witnesses made presentations to the Joint Committee, which were followed by a Questions and Answers session with Members and MPs.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4.09 p.m.

---

Seán Crowe TD.,  
Chair  
23 November 2017

## **Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement Draft Minutes of Meeting of Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 4.20 pm in Committee Room 1, LH2000, a quorum being present.

### **Members Present**

The following members were present:

Deputies Seán Crowe (in the Chair), Declan Breathnach, Seán Sherlock and Fergus O'Dowd.

Senators Frances Black, Frank Feighan, Gerard Craughwell and Niall Ó Donnghaile

Apologies were received from Senator Denis Landy and Deputies Tony McLaughlin, Maureen O'Sullivan and Brendan Smith.

In accordance with paragraph (4) of the Orders of Reference of the Committee, the following Members of the Westminster Parliament elected from constituencies in Northern Ireland also attended:

Mickey Brady MP, Michelle Gildernew MP, Elisha McCallion MP, Barry McElduff MP and Francie Molloy MP.

### **Presentations in relation to with Legacy Issues**

The Chair welcomed the following to the Joint Committee meeting:

- i. Mr. Austin Stack, Mr. David Kelly, Independent Victims and Survivors Coalition;
- ii. Mr. Kenny Donaldson, Mr. Ken Funston and Ms. Karen McAnerney, Innocent Victims United;
- iii. Ms. Barbara Walshe, Chair, and Mr. Pat Hynes, Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation.

Mr Stack, Mr Donaldson and Ms Walshe made presentations to the Joint Committee on behalf of their organisations. A Question and Answer session followed.

### **Meeting suspended**

The meeting was suspended at 6.14 p.m. until 6.16 p.m.

### **Private Session**

The Committee agreed to go into private session at 6.16 p.m.

### **Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence were noted by the Committee:

[JCIGFA 90a] E-mail dated 2 November to Policy Advisor, Ms Marylee Wall regarding Report entitled "*Galvanising the Peace: The Future for Conflict Transformation in Northern Ireland*".

[JCIGFA 90b] Report entitled "*Galvanising the Peace: The Future for Conflict Transformation in Northern Ireland*".

### **Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 6.22 p.m. until 2 p.m. on Thursday 23 November 2017.

---

Sean Crowe TD  
Chairman

23 November 2017

**Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement  
Draft Minutes of Meeting of Thursday 23rd November 2017**

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 14.21pm in Committee Room 2, LH2000, a quorum being present.

**2. Members Present**

The following members were present:

Deputies Seán Crowe (in the Chair), Declan Breathnach, Brendan Smith, Maureen O'Sullivan, Tony McLoughlin, Fergus O'Dowd and Stephen Donnelly.

Senators Frances Black, Mark Daly, Gerard Craughwell and Niall Ó Donnghaile

Apologies were received from Deputy Sean Sherlock, Senator Denis Landy and Frank Feighan, and Elisha McCallion MP

In accordance with paragraph (4) of the Orders of Reference of the Committee, the following Members of the Westminster Parliament elected from constituencies in Northern Ireland also attended:

Mickey Brady MP, Michelle Gildernew MP, Chris Hazzard MP, Paul Maskey MP, Barry McElduff MP and Francie Molloy MP.

**3. Matters relating to Northern Ireland and the Implications for the Good Friday Agreement – Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney TD**

The Chair welcomed the following to the Joint Committee meeting:

- iv. Simon Coveney TD, Minister for Foreign Affairs
- v. Fergal Mythen, Director General, Dept. of Foreign Affairs
- vi. Sarah McGrath, Director, Dept. of Foreign Affairs
- vii. Eoghan Duffy, Deputy Director, Dept. of Foreign Affairs

Minister Coveney made a presentation to the Joint Committee. A Question and Answer session followed.

**4. Meeting suspended**

The meeting was suspended at 15.51p.m. until 15.53p.m.

**5. Private Session**

The Committee agreed to go into private session at 16.23pm.

## **6. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 26 October 2017 were agreed.  
The minutes of the meeting of 9 November 2017 were agreed.

## **7. Correspondence**

The Joint Committee agreed that a private meeting would be scheduled for January to discuss the Joint Committees Work Programme for 2018, and some items of correspondence would be carried over for further discussion at that meeting.

The following items of correspondence were considered by the Committee:

[JCIGFA 91] E-mail advising of an Informal Briefing with the Second Secretary General of the Dept. of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Rory Montgomery on Brexit negotiations on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November, organised by the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs.

*It was agreed that any Members interested in attending would advise the Committee Secretariat who would make the arrangements for their attendance.*

[JCIGFA 92a, 92b, and 92c] E-mails from Deputy Declan Breathnach suggesting the Joint Committee invite Professor Chris McCrudden to appear before the Committee to discuss his paper entitled The Good Friday Agreement, Brexit and Rights, and copy of said paper. And emails suggesting the Committee invite Dr Niall Muldoon, Children's Ombudsman before the Committee when he has his report on Brexit completed, along with the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children Koulla Yiasouma.

*It was agreed that this correspondence would be considered as part of the Joint Committees Work Programme discussions.*

[JCIGFA 93] Email from Barbara Walshe, Chair, Glencree, suggesting the Committee invite in Judith Thompson, Victims Commission, Northern Ireland and also requesting an informal follow up meeting with the Joint Committee to further discuss Legacy issues based on the work undertaken by Glencree.

*It was agreed that any the Joint Committee would invite Judith Thompson to address the Joint Committee in the New Year.*

*It was agreed that Members would visit Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation in Enniskerry to promote a greater understanding of the work undertaken there, and to meet and hold informal meetings with those working there.*

[JCIGFA 94a, 94b and 94c] Email from Patrick Fahy & Co Solicitors relating to a case being brought before the courts in Northern Ireland, and attachments.

*It was agreed that the Joint Committee would write to Patrick Fahy & Co Solicitors thanking them for their correspondence, and advise them to contact the Dept. of Foreign Affairs directly with queries relating to documentation.*

*It was agreed that the issues raised may have relevance for the Joint Committee, separate to any ongoing court cases, and a written submission on the matters raised should be sought. The issues relating to parity of esteem may then be considered as part of the Work Programme 2018.*

[JCIGFA 95] E-mail from Deputy Maureen O'Sullivan relating to meeting regarding Tony Taylor and other matters.

*The Joint Committee has already agreed to hold meeting relating to prisoner issues. It was agreed that further consideration of this correspondence would be given as part of an overall meeting to examine issues relating to prisoners and ex-prisoners.*

[JCIGFA 96] Email from Forward Thinking requesting an informal meeting with Members to discuss the Irish experiences of conflict and peace-building with a Palestinian parliamentary, judicial and negotiations team delegation in Dublin on the afternoon of Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

*It was agreed that any the Joint Committee would meet with this group, and any Members or MPs interested in attending this meeting would advise the Committee Secretariat who would make arrangements for this meeting.*

## **8. AOB**

Senator Daly suggested the Joint Committee should consider undertaking a trip to Washington to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, and to canvass support from US politicians in maintaining focus on protecting the gains and continuing to work towards full implementation of the agreement  
*It was agreed that Senator Daly would write to the Committee Secretariat outlining his proposals.*

Chris Hazzard MP and Michelle Gildernew MP raised issues that the Minister did not get an opportunity to address

*It was agreed that any Members or MPs who had outstanding questions would send this in to the Committee Secretariat, who would formally write to the Minister requesting written responses.*

The Joint Committee briefly discussed the proposed Outreach Visit to Northern Ireland to take place in the New Year.

*It was suggested that a 2 day programme might be more realistic, and would be drafted by the Committee Secretariat.*

## **9. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 16.41pm until 2.15 p.m. on Thursday 7 December 2017.

---

Seán Crowe TD  
Chairman

14 December 2017