



**Tithe an
Oireachtais**
**Houses of the
Oireachtas**

***Roghchoiste Speisialta an tSeanaid um an
Ríocht Aontaithe do Tharraingt Siar as an Aontas Eorpach***

Tuarascáil faoi Dhul chun Cinn maidir le Brexit

Nollaig 2019

**Seanad Special Select Committee
Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union**

Brexit Progress Report

December 2019

[32SSSCWUKEU03]

Contents

Chairman’s Foreword.....	5
1. Summary position	6
1.1. Stakeholder Engagement.....	7
1.2 Draft Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration	9
2. Context- Establishment and Work of the Committee	11
3. Progress since Committee’s First Report 2017	13
3.1 Summary of significant Brexit Preparedness and Contingency Measures relevant to Ireland .	13
3.1.1 Economy.....	14
3.1.2 Common Travel Area	17
3.1.3 Northern Ireland	17
3.1.4 Citizenship and social rights.....	18
3.1.5 Agriculture.....	19
3.1.6 Future of the European Union	20
3.1.7 Transport.....	20
3.1.8 Energy	21
3.1.9 Education, Research and the Irish Language	22
3.1.10 Health.....	23
3.2 Summary of evidence presented to the Committee in 2019	24
3.2.1 Citizenship Rights	24
3.2.2 Economy.....	27
3.2.3 Transport.....	29
3.2.4 Education and research	33
3.2.5 Energy	35
3.2.6 Agri-Food.....	37
4. Context: Brexit Negotiations 2017-2019	41
4.1 Developments in 2017	41
Negotiators’ Joint Report on Phase One.....	42
4.2 Developments in 2018	43
Draft Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration	44
4.3 Developments in 2019	45
Revised Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland	48
Revised Withdrawal Date and UK General Election	50
Appendix One: Committee Engagements 2019.....	51
Appendix Two: Abbreviations.....	53

Appendix Three: Timeline of Significant Developments 2017-2019	54
2019	54
2018	55
2017	56
Appendix Four: Solutions outlined in the Committee’s First Report 2017	57
1. Economy.....	57
2. Common Travel Area	59
3. Northern Ireland	59
4. Citizenship and Social Rights.....	60
5. Agriculture.....	60
6. The Future of the EU	61
7. Transport.....	62
8. Energy	63
9. Education, Research and the Irish Language	64
10. Health.....	65
Appendix Five: Membership of the Committee	67
Appendix Six: Terms of Reference	68
11 July 2019 to 31 December 2019.....	68
4 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.....	68
23 February 2017 to 30 April 2018	71
Appendix Seven: References.....	76

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

In June 2017, the Seanad Special Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union published its First Report "Brexit: Implications and Potential Solutions". Since then the Committee has been closely monitoring developments in the negotiations and following the progress of our recommendations. The Committee's work in 2017-18 was summarised in the Report of Activities, which was published in February.

Given the significant developments since the Committee held its first hearings in 2017, in May 2019 we decided to invite a number of stakeholder groups back to update us on the status of sectoral preparations and to re-assess the implications of Brexit for Ireland.

In the 12 months since the publication of the first Draft Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration, it has become clear that agreement at negotiator level was only the first hurdle. Ratification by the UK Parliament has proven to be difficult and politically contentious. Despite extensions beyond the original deadline and revisions to both the Draft Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration, the path of the UK's withdrawal still remains unclear. We must also remember that this is only the beginning. Once the UK has left, negotiations will start on free trade agreement or something similar. These talks are likely to be long and complicated, continuing well beyond the end of 2020, and will require difficult decisions to be made on both sides.

I would like to thank all of the witnesses who came before the Committee for their time and for sharing their unique perspectives. It is clear that many of the concerns we identified in 2017 still persist. While some sectors are well advanced in preparedness and contingency planning, others have still not been given the assurances and clarity they require. In the absence of certainty, it is important for us to focus on mitigating potential challenges, while also looking to secure the best possible future relationship with the UK.

This Committee will stand dissolved on 31 December 2019. I believe that the work carried out over the last two and a half years by this this Committee has been extremely valuable and worthwhile, and I would like to commend the Members and former Members for their hard work and dedication. I would also like to thank the secretariat for their support.



Senator Neale Richmond,
Chairman,
17 December 2019



1. SUMMARY POSITION

Between the establishment of the Committee in February 2017, the publication of the Committee's Report "Brexit: Implications and Potential Solutions" ('First Report') in June 2017 and the publication of this 'Second Report' in December 2019, there have been significant developments in the withdrawal negotiations between the EU and the UK, and a profound shift in the surrounding political context. An outline of developments relevant to the situation for Ireland is provided in section 4 of this Second Report.

The agreement at negotiator level of a Draft Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration in November 2018 represented the most significant development in the negotiation process. The withdrawal process outlined in Article 50 of the Treaty on the European Union was triggered by the British Prime Minister in March 2017, kicking off the first stage of negotiations between the EU and the UK, a two-year process provided for in Article 50(3). It was therefore presumed and accepted that the UK would leave the EU on 29 March 2019 with a Withdrawal Agreement in place, after which a second stage of negotiations on the future relationship would begin.

As of the publication of this Second Report (17 December 2019), the Draft Withdrawal Agreement has not been ratified. The scheduled date for the UK to leave the EU has been extended beyond 29 March; firstly to 10 April, then to 31 October, and now to 31 January 2020. A *revised* Draft Withdrawal Agreement was agreed at negotiator level in October of this year, but has not been ratified by the UK Parliament or the European Parliament. The Committee is also particularly aware that the strategic direction that the UK chooses to pursue may change after the General Election on 12 December.

Since 2017, a lot of work has been done on Brexit preparedness at national and European level. This has included both preparing for the changes that will come from an orderly Brexit, and putting measures in place to mitigate the risks of a no-deal scenario. It is clear that Ireland will be the EU Member State (of the EU 27) most affected by Brexit in either scenario. The Committee commends the Irish Government and the European Commission for prioritising necessary preparedness and contingency measures, which have provided ongoing supports to citizens and businesses in Ireland. It is important that this work is continued after the UK leaves and negotiations move into the next phase; talks on the terms of the future relationship. Many of the concerns raised by the Committee in its First Report in 2017 have been addressed through these preparedness measures and the Draft Withdrawal Agreement. However, it is important to note that some of the potential solutions suggested by the Committee in its First Report, particularly in relation to future trading arrangements, will form part of the negotiations on the future relationship.

A list of the significant Brexit preparedness and contingency measures, as well as the provisions of the Draft Withdrawal Agreement and the Political Declaration, for each of the policy areas the Committee examined are included in section 3.1 of this Second Report.

1.1. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

It was made clear to the Committee during its engagement with stakeholders that the lack of clarity on the direction of Brexit has caused huge uncertainty for a number of sectors. There were significant concerns about what the future will bring in all scenarios, whether there is a Withdrawal Agreement in place when the UK leaves, or the UK leaves the EU without a deal. The Committee held stakeholder engagements between May and October 2019, a time during which the possibility of the UK leaving the EU without a Withdrawal Agreement in place on 31 October sometimes seemed strong, and at other times seemed less likely. This was reflected in the evidence presented to the Committee.

The Committee heard how Brexit uncertainty has already had a significant impact on several sectors, particularly in the **agri-food sector**. Stakeholders outlined to the Committee in stark terms the financial losses which have already been experienced, particularly in the beef and dairy sectors. Trade with the UK is particularly vital for the Irish agri-food sector, and Brexit has left businesses in this sector particularly exposed. The European Commission and the Irish Government have jointly funded the Beef Exceptional Aid Measure (BEAM), making €100 million available to farmers to compensate for losses caused by Brexit uncertainty. While the BEAM was welcomed, some stakeholders argued that the terms of this measure were too restrictive, and that more dedicated supports should be made available to farmers. The Committee agrees that all the necessary measures should be put in place both at national and European level to support Ireland's agri-food sector. The Committee also believes that businesses, in the agri-food sector should be supported in maintaining their existing trade links with the UK, while also diversifying their export markets.

When looking at **citizenship rights for all people in Northern Ireland**, the Committee heard that there was still much uncertainty regarding future arrangements. It is clear to the Committee that Brexit has highlighted already-existing issues relating to the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement. Stakeholders expressed concern that there was not sufficient clarity on how the provisions of the Draft Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration would be implemented in practice, particularly in relation to 'birthright' provisions, family reunification rights and the continuing non-diminution of human rights for the people of Northern Ireland. It is the Committee's view that the Good Friday Agreement should be protected and upheld in all its parts, and that clarification should be provided on these issues as a matter of urgency.

The Draft Withdrawal Agreement outlines that the **Common Travel Area** is a bilateral arrangement between the Irish Government and the UK Government. While stakeholders found it encouraging that a Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed between the Irish Government and the UK Government regarding the Common Travel Area, there are still concerns that this may not provide enough legal certainty following Brexit, particularly in a no-deal scenario.

The Committee heard that Brexit will have, and is already having, a significant impact on the Irish **economy**. While the Central Bank of Ireland forecasts economic growth for Ireland in all Brexit scenarios, this growth is weaker than it would have been if the UK had not voted to leave the EU. Stakeholders expressed their concerns about the potential impact of tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade between Ireland and the UK, particularly for SMEs. Although there are, and will be, supports in place, the cost for small businesses of preparing for Brexit has been and continues to be very high, especially in the context of uncertainty regarding when and how the UK will leave. It is the Committee's view that a flexible and proactive approach should be taken to supporting small business and promoting Ireland's economic growth. The Committee also reiterates the importance of the landbridge trade route from Ireland through the UK to mainland Europe to Irish businesses, exports and supply chains.

The Committee heard that there is a lack of clarity for the **higher education and research** sectors as to future arrangements. While the Draft Withdrawal Agreement provides for cooperation in the area of education, how this will be implemented in practice has not yet been established. Irish higher education institutions and researchers have strong links with their UK-based colleagues, both bilaterally and through the Horizon 2020 funding programme. Stakeholders were clear that it is important that these relationships are maintained and developed. Stakeholders expressed particular concern regarding the current status of North-South collaborative research programmes on the island of Ireland, the funding of which has been discontinued in the absence of a functioning Northern Ireland Assembly. Stakeholders informed the Committee that proposals had been made to the Irish and UK Governments to continue funding these programmes, but that programmes have not yet been re-established. The Committee believes that funding should be provided as soon as possible so that collaborative research programmes can continue between Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The Committee was encouraged to hear that in the **transport and energy sectors** a significant body of contingency measures have been put in place at EU and national level. While there are some outstanding areas to be addressed, stakeholders assured the Committee that in a no-deal scenario air, rail and bus services between Ireland and the UK, and the provision of electricity and gas on the island of Ireland, would not be adversely

affected in the short-term. The Draft Withdrawal Agreement provides for the continuance of the Single Electricity Market, which is very positive. It is important to ensure that the long-term continuation of transport services and security of energy are provided for in any agreement on the EU-UK future relationship, whether it is a free trade agreement or something similar. The Committee also commends the work done by Dublin Port to prepare for all Brexit scenarios.

1.2 DRAFT WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT AND POLITICAL DECLARATION

While acknowledging that there cannot be a “good Brexit”, the Committee supports ratification of the Draft Withdrawal Agreement as the best possible available outcome. Once an orderly Brexit has been secured, Ireland can then, along with the other 26 EU Member States and the European Commission, focus on negotiating the best possible future relationship. In parallel, it is important that national-level Brexit preparedness planning and supports are continued.

The Committee welcomes the intentions set out in the Political Declaration setting out the framework of the future relationship. While this document is not legally binding, and does not require ratification, it provides welcome assurance. If the framework for the future relationship is a free trade agreement, as outlined in the Political Declaration, then talks will likely be complex and lengthy. Starting the process with an agreed outline of shared intentions will hopefully assist in the complexity of negotiations.

The Draft Withdrawal Agreement from November 2018 provided for a “backstop” solution, which would have kept the UK and Northern Ireland in a temporary shared customs territory with the EU if a deal was not in place by the end of the transition period. Seanad Éireann, Dáil Éireann and the Irish Government agreed that the “backstop” provided an important insurance policy to prevent a hard border on the island of Ireland. However, this provision proved politically contentious for the House of Commons, and despite being put to two “meaningful votes”, the Draft Withdrawal Agreement of 2018 was not ratified.

In October 2019 a revised Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland of the Draft Withdrawal Agreement was agreed at negotiator level. The Revised Protocol saw the “backstop” provision removed and replaced with a dual tariff regime. Under this protocol, a selection of EU trading rules would apply to the island of Ireland. As a result there would be no border checks and no tariffs on goods traded between Ireland and Northern Ireland. The revised Agreement also includes a consent mechanism for Northern Ireland, which provides for the Northern Ireland Assembly to hold a vote on the trading arrangements.

The Committee welcomes the revised Protocol, and the joint commitment to avoiding a hard border on the island of Ireland. The revised Protocol and Political Declaration provide for a different relationship framework than that foreseen by the 2018 Agreement and Declaration, which perhaps reflects a change in political strategy in the UK towards pursuing an independent trade policy. There are many details still to be clarified on the implementation of the proposed arrangements, but the Committee feels that it is a step in the right direction. The Committee hopes that the Draft Withdrawal Agreement will be approved promptly by the House of Commons once a new British Government is in place, so that a no-deal exit on 31 January 2020 can be avoided.

The Committee is very aware that the ratification of the Draft Withdrawal Agreement does not represent the end of the negotiation processes, rather the end of the beginning. Once the Draft Withdrawal Agreement is approved and the UK's withdrawal has taken place, the negotiations on the future relationship will begin. While the Political Declaration has outlined a joint commitment to developing a "ambitious, wide-ranging and balanced economic partnership", negotiations on international free trade agreements are typically long and complicated. The EU negotiating a free trade agreement with a departed Member State is unprecedented, so it is difficult to predict with any level of certainty the potential timeframe. The Draft Withdrawal Agreement provides for a transition period up to December 2020, with the option for the UK to request an extension of up to two years. If the UK leaves the EU on 31 January 2020 with the Draft Withdrawal Agreement in place, and does not seek an extension to the transition period, this leaves very little time to negotiate and agree a sufficiently comprehensive free trade agreement that secures all parties' interests. It is the opinion of the Committee that flexibility should be considered in this circumstance.

The Committee would like to acknowledge the support the Chief Negotiator Michel Barnier, the Article 50 Taskforce and the other 26 Member States have shown to Ireland during the Brexit negotiation process. The Taskforce, Member States' Governments and the National Parliaments of other EU Members States have all taken the time to understand Ireland's singular position and appreciated the complexity and sensitivity involved. The Committee would also like to formally acknowledge the work of both the Government and the officials, and indeed Members of the Houses of the Oireachtas, in making the strong case that Ireland's unique circumstances be recognised and taken into account in the negotiation of the Draft Withdrawal Agreement.

2. CONTEXT- ESTABLISHMENT AND WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

The Seanad Special Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom (the Committee) was established on 23 February 2017 to consider the implications for Ireland of Brexit in the following policy areas;

- (a) the implications for the Irish economy of hard and soft exit scenarios,
- (b) relations between the State and Northern Ireland,
- (c) the citizenship rights of all the people of Northern Ireland,
- (d) the Common Travel Area and the Border: movement of goods, services and people between the State and Northern Ireland and between Ireland and Great Britain,
- (e) agriculture and fisheries,
- (f) transport, energy and communications,
- (g) welfare, health and education,

and to such other related matters as the Committee may determine.

Between March and June 2017, the Committee held hearings with a large number of key stakeholders in the relevant sectors from Ireland and Northern Ireland. Based on the evidence considered during these engagements, the Committee made a number of recommendations, published in the First Report in June 2017, “Brexit: Implications and Potential Solutions”.

In July 2017, Seanad Éireann agreed that the timeline of the Committee be extended in order to allow it to engage with elected representatives and related parties in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in respect of the findings and recommendations made in its First Report. From December 2017 to July 2019, Seanad Éireann agreed to extend the timeline of the Committee on a number of occasions in order to allow it to track the progress of the Brexit negotiations and to follow up on the recommendations made in the First Report. The relevant Orders of Seanad Éireann are included in this report in Appendix Six.

In 2018 the Committee held a number of informal engagements with visiting parliamentary delegations and travelled to Westminster to meet with relevant Committees in the House of Commons and House of Lords. Further details of these engagements can be found in the Committee’s “Report of Activities in 2017 and 2018”.

In 2019, the Committee held a number of informal meetings with stakeholders and visiting parliamentary delegations, undertook travel episodes to Belfast and London, and visited Dublin Port. A full list of the Committee's formal meetings, informal meetings and travel episodes for 2019 is included in this report in Appendix One.

Considering the significant developments in the Brexit negotiation process since June 2017, in May 2019 the Committee agreed to meet with key stakeholder groups to hear updated evidence. The findings of these hearings, along with the Committee's summary position, are included in this Second Report, which is published on 17 December 2019. The Committee will stand dissolved on 31 December 2019.

3. PROGRESS SINCE COMMITTEE'S FIRST REPORT 2017

When drafting its First Report in June 2017, the Committee chose to take a solutions-based approach to the potential impact of Brexit on Ireland. In its First Report, the Committee proposed 99 potential solutions to the possible implications of Brexit in ten key policy areas;

(1) Economy, (2) Common Travel Area, (3) Northern Ireland, (4) Citizenship and social rights, (5) Agriculture, (6) The Future of the EU, (7) Transport, (8) Energy, (9) Education, research and the Irish language and (10) Health.

A detailed list of the potential solutions proposed by the Committee in its previous report is included in this report in Appendix Four.

3.1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT BREXIT PREPAREDNESS AND CONTINGENCY MEASURES RELEVANT TO IRELAND

Since the publication of the Committee's First Report in June 2017, there have been a number of measures taken at national and European level to prepare for the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

This section contains a summary of the most significant Brexit preparedness and contingency measures which have been put in place for Ireland, relating to ten policy areas that the Committee has examined; (1) Economy, (2) Common Travel Area, (3) Northern Ireland, (4) Citizenship and social rights, (5) Agriculture, (6) The Future of the EU, (7) Transport, (8) Energy, (9) Education, research and the Irish language and (10) Health.

The summary includes provisions made in the Draft Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration, and preparedness and contingency measures introduced by both the Irish Government and at a European level. For the purpose of reporting on progress made since its First Report, the Committee has considered preparedness and contingency measures in the areas that the Committee examined and that are relevant to the Irish context.

At the time of the publication of this Second Report, the Draft Withdrawal Agreement was agreed at negotiator level, but has not been ratified by the UK Parliament or the European Parliament. This means that at present the Draft Withdrawal Agreement is not legally binding, and will not be legally binding until the ratification process is complete. The Political Declaration is not intended to be a legally binding document, and therefore does not require ratification. The Political Declaration outlines the intended parameters of the future relationship. However, as negotiations on the future relationship will not start until after the UK leaves the EU, those parameters could change.

Brexit preparedness

Preparedness measures are plans for an orderly exit as per the Draft Withdrawal Agreement, and include the following;

- Provisions made in the Draft Withdrawal Agreement. The Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland is particularly relevant
- Parameters outlined in the Political Declaration
- National-level preparedness measures initiated by the Irish Government
- European Commission preparedness measures

Brexit contingency

Contingency measures are plans for a no-deal or disorderly exit; in the event that the Draft Withdrawal Agreement is not ratified by the UK and European Parliaments, and include the following;

- National-level contingency measures introduced by the Irish Government, particularly the *Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (Consequential Provisions) Act 2019*
- Irish Government's Contingency Action Plan
- European Commission Communications and legislation

In the event that the Draft Withdrawal Agreement is not ratified before the UK leaves the European Union, contingency measures will be enacted.

3.1.1 ECONOMY

The following is a summary of the most significant preparedness and contingency measures put in place to mitigate the impact of Brexit on the Irish economy.

Irish Government	Preparedness <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In September 2018, the Government launched a communications campaign "Getting Ireland Brexit Ready" aimed at citizens and businesses, which includes media advertising, advisory publications and national events• Advisory programmes and supports for businesses have been made available through InterTrade Ireland, Local Enterprise Offices, Enterprise Ireland, Bord Bia, Bord Iascaigh Mhara and Fáilte Ireland• Financial supports available for businesses include the Brexit Loan
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Scheme, the Future growth Loan Scheme and grants available through InterTrade Ireland, Local Enterprise Offices, and Enterprise Ireland

- Brexit stakeholders' forum was convened in 2017 to liaise with sectoral stakeholders and holds regular meetings
- Five plenary sessions of the All-Island Civic Dialogue have taken place since November 2016, along with accompanying sectoral dialogues. These dialogues have been held by the Irish Government to engage with stakeholders from across the island of Ireland
- A number of senior-official level cross-departmental groups have been established to coordinate Brexit preparedness and contingency planning.

Contingency

- Over €1 billion has been made available for a no-deal scenario in Budget 2020, including;
 - €650 million temporary targeted measures for agriculture, enterprise and tourism- €260 million assigned, €390 million un-assigned
 - €365 million for extra Social Protection expenditure
 - €355 million for ongoing Brexit preparedness, compliance and activation supports
- Irish Government's Brexit Contingency Action Plan includes actions to mitigate risks to Ireland's financial services and to engage with the European Commission and stakeholders on State Aid options

Contingency Legislation

- Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (Consequential Provisions) Act 2019 provides;
 - Part 3 enables Enterprise Ireland to offer enhanced support to companies involved in research and development and to facilitate additional lending/investment instruments in certain circumstances
 - Part 6 enables the continuation of existing arrangements for taxation (income tax, corporation tax, capital gains tax, value added tax, stamp duties, capital acquisitions tax and excise)
 - Part 7 enables the implementation of Central Securities

	<p>Depositories Regulation and extension of Settlement Finality Directive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Part 8 provides for a temporary run-off regime which enables insurance undertakings to continue to fulfil contractual obligations to Irish customers for three years
Draft Withdrawal Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Article 4 of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland specifies that Northern Ireland will remain part of the UK customs territory ● Article 5 of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland, and accompanying annexes, states that EU customs rules will continue to apply in respect to Northern Ireland
Political Declaration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Article 17 states that both parties wish to develop an “ambitious, wide-ranging and balanced economic partnership” in the form of a free trade agreement ● Article 18 states that “parties will retain their autonomy and the ability to regulate economic activity” ● Article 22-34 outline joint intentions on arrangements for tariffs, regulatory aspects, customs, checks and controls, services and investments, and market access and non-discrimination ● Article 77 provides for a level playing field for open and fair competition, commitment to maintain “a robust and comprehensive framework for competition and state aid control that prevents undue distortion of trade and competition”
European Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The European Commission’s Brexit Contingency Action Plan states that it “stands ready to engage as of now with the Member States that will be most affected by a disorderly withdrawal and explore pragmatic and efficient support solutions, in line with EU State Aid law. In particular, the Commission will support Ireland in finding solutions addressing the specific challenges of Irish businesses.”

3.1.2 COMMON TRAVEL AREA

The table below is a summary of the most significant developments in relation to the maintenance of the Common Travel Area.

<p>Irish Government</p>	<p>Preparedness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Common Travel Area was agreed bilaterally between the Irish and UK Governments before the British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference meeting on 8 May 2019 <p>Contingency Legislation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (Consequential Provisions) Act 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Part 14, section 97 enables the continuance of the British-Irish Visa Scheme, pursuant to Common Travel Area arrangements
<p>Draft Withdrawal Agreement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 3 of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland states “The United Kingdom and Ireland may continue to make arrangements between themselves relating to the movement of persons between their territories (the ‘Common Travel Area’), while fully respecting the rights of natural persons conferred by Union law.”

3.1.3 NORTHERN IRELAND

The table below is a summary of the most significant developments in relation to the economy and institutions of Northern Ireland.

<p>Irish Government</p>	<p>Contingency Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Brexit Contingency Action Plan suggests that a no-deal Brexit scenario could lead to increased calls for a border poll to be held in Northern Ireland. The Irish Government states its position; that this could “have implications for the stability of the institutions if they are in place, or the process to restore them to operation.”
<p>Draft Withdrawal Agreement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland recalls “the Union and the United Kingdom’s commitment to the North-South PEACE and INTERREG funding programmes under the current multi-annual financial framework and to the maintaining of the current proportions for the future programme”. • Article 18 of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland provides for

	democratic consent in Northern Ireland. Under this provision, the UK may provide the opportunity to the Northern Ireland Assembly to vote on whether to continue the trading arrangements provided for in the Draft Withdrawal Agreement.
Political Declaration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 13 states that “the parties recall their shared commitment to delivering a future PEACE PLUS programme to sustain work on reconciliation and a shared future in Northern Ireland, maintaining the current funding proportions for the future programme Articles 24-25 state that “parties will put in place ambitious customs arrangements” and envision “making use of all available facilitative arrangements and technologies”, which will also be considered in alternative arrangements for ensuring the absence of a hard border on the island of Ireland

3.1.4 CITIZENSHIP AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

The table below is a summary of the most significant developments in relation to maintaining citizenship and social rights on the island of Ireland.

Irish Government	Contingency Legislation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (Consequential Provisions) Act 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part 11 provides for the continuation of social assistance payments as part of Common Travel Area arrangements Part 12 provides for the continuation arrangements for cross-border insolvency, including the protection of employees
Draft Withdrawal Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 2(1) of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland on the rights of individuals, states that “the United Kingdom shall ensure that no diminution of rights, safeguard and equality of opportunity as set out in that part of the 1998 Agreement entitled Rights, Safeguards and Equality of opportunity results from its withdrawal of the union” Article 2(2) of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland states that the United Kingdom shall continue to facilitate “the related work of the institutions and bodies set up pursuant to the 1998 Agreement, including the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and the Joint Committee of representatives of the Human Rights Commissions of Northern Ireland

	and Ireland, in upholding human rights and equality standards”
Political Declaration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 7 states that the future relationship should incorporate the UK’s “continued commitment to respect the framework of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)”

3.1.5 AGRICULTURE

The table below is a summary of the most significant developments in relation to supporting the Irish agriculture sector.

Irish Government	Contingency Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Brexit Contingency Action Plan outlines supports for agriculture through the Future Growth loan scheme and a €78 million dedicated Brexit package in the 2019 Budget Budget 2020 allocated €110 million to be provided through the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> €85m for beef farming €14m for fisheries sector €6m for other livestock farmers and the mushroom sector €5m for the food and drinks processing industry
Draft Withdrawal Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 5 of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland and accompanying annexes state that EU customs rules will continue to apply in respect to Northern Ireland Article 10 provides for the maintenance of EU State Aid rules regarding measures to support the production of and trade in agricultural products in Northern Ireland Article 11 states that continued North-South cooperation shall be maintained in the area of agriculture
Political Declaration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 71 states that bilateral and international cooperation will be maintained to ensure sustainable fishing, while noting that the UK will be “an independent coastal state”
European Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In May 2019 the European Commission provided a €50 million exceptional aid fund for the beef sector (BEAM) in Ireland to address price difficulties caused in part by the ongoing uncertainty in relation to Brexit

3.1.6 FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The table below summarises the developments in the Future of Europe debate up to May 2019, when European Parliament elections were held.

<p>Irish Government</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, in conjunction with European Movement Ireland (EMI), held a number of Citizens' Dialogues on the Future of Europe between December 2017 and May 2018. A report on the Citizens Dialogues on the Future of Europe was published in October 2018 • The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade published its Global Ireland strategy in June 2018, with the aim of expanding Ireland's international diplomatic footprint in Europe and worldwide
<p>European Institutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An informal European Council Summit on the Future of Europe was held in Sibiu, Romania on 9 May 2019. At this conference, leaders agreed the <i>Sibiu Declaration</i>. The Declaration contained 10 high level principles for a shared European future, including; seeking joint fair solutions to issues, protecting democracy and the rule of law, and coming together to be a responsible global leader.

3.1.7 TRANSPORT

The table below is a summary of developments in planning and contingency measures relating to the continuation of transport links and connectivity.

<p>Irish Government</p>	<p>Contingency Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government's Brexit Contingency Action Plan states that in order to prepare for additional customs and phytosanitary checks at ports and airports; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the capacity of Dublin Port has been expanded ○ over 600 additional staff have been hired by the Revenue Commissioners, the HSE and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine <p>Contingency Legislation</p> <p>Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (Consequential Provisions) Act 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 10 provides for the continuation of travel for international
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	passengers by road, including making the National Transport Authority the competent authority to regulate bus services between Ireland and third countries
Draft Withdrawal Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 3 of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland states “The United Kingdom and Ireland may continue to make arrangements between themselves relating to the movement of persons between their territories (the ‘Common Travel Area’), while fully respecting the rights of natural persons conferred by Union law.”
Political Declaration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section X (10) outlines shared commitments to maintaining transport cooperation in the areas of (a) aviation, (b) road transport, (c) rail transport and (d) maritime transport
European Commission	<p>Preparedness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In August 2018 the European Commission published a proposal to amend the North Sea – Mediterranean Core Network Corridor to provide maritime links between Ireland and continental Europe, by-passing the UK. The proposal would add support for new maritime links for Dublin and Cork with ports in Belgium (Zeebrugge, Antwerp) and the Netherlands (Rotterdam) <p>Contingency Legislation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 25 March 2019 an EU Regulation on common rules ensuring basic road freight and road passenger connectivity with regard to the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the Union was enacted On 25 March 2019 an EU Regulation on common rules ensuring basic air connectivity with regard to the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the Union was enacted

3.1.8 ENERGY

The table below is a summary of developments relating to maintaining cooperation and security of energy supply on the island of Ireland.

Irish Government	<p>Contingency Legislation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (Consequential Provisions) Act 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part 4 enables the Commission on the Regulation of Utilities (CRU)
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	to facilitate Ireland’s compliance with EU energy rules in a no-deal scenario
Draft Withdrawal Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 9 and Annex 4 of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland state that EU rules relating to the governing of the electricity market will apply to Northern Ireland • Article 11 of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland states that continued North-South cooperation shall be maintained in the area of energy
Political declaration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section XI outlines commitments made to maintaining cooperation in the area of energy, in particular electricity and gas, civil nuclear and carbon pricing. • Article 64 states that “parties should cooperate to support the delivery of cost-efficient, clean and secure supplies of electricity and gas, based on competitive markets and non-discriminatory access to networks”
European Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In October 2019, it was announced that funding for the Celtic Interconnector, an electricity connection between Ireland and France, would be made available under the European Commission’s Connecting Europe Facility

3.1.9 EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND THE IRISH LANGUAGE

The table below is a summary of the provisions for cooperation in the areas of education, research and the Irish language.

Irish Government	Contingency Legislation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (Consequential Provisions) Act 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Part 5 ensures the continuation of student grants and the recognition of qualifications
Draft Withdrawal Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 11 of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland states that continued North-South cooperation shall be maintained in the areas of education, higher education and sport.
Political Declaration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 11 states that both parties will establish general principles for the UK’s participation in Union programmes in areas including science and innovation and education • Article 14 states that parties should engage in dialogue and exchanges in areas of shared interest in areas such as culture, education, science and innovation

3.1.10 HEALTH

The table below is a summary of the provisions put in place to maintain cooperation in the area of health.

<p>Irish Government</p>	<p>Contingency Legislation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (Consequential Provisions) Act 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Part 2 enables the continuation of reciprocal arrangements between Ireland and the UK in relation to health services • Health and Childcare Support (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Part 2 provides for the establishment of a direct reimbursement scheme which will enable eligible residents of Northern Ireland to be reimbursed by Ireland for the cost of necessary medical care incurred while abroad in an EU or EEA Member State, or Switzerland. ○ Part 3 makes provision for British citizens to access the National Childcare Scheme on the same basis as Irish citizens. <p>Contingency Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irish Government's Brexit Contingency Plan update outlines plans to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ensure security of supply of medicines and medical devices ○ seek to secure European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) access for residents in Northern Ireland
<p>Draft Withdrawal Agreement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 11 of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland states that continued North-South cooperation shall be maintained in the area of health
<p>European Institutions and Agencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Medicines Agency was relocated from London to Amsterdam • European Commission and the European Medicines Agency in February 2019 published a preparedness notice to marketing authorisation holders regarding ensuring compliance with EU law on medical products once the UK becomes a third country

3.2 SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE IN 2019

Between May and October 2019, the Committee held eight sessions to follow up on the recommendations made in its First Report. A delegation of the Committee also visited Dublin Port in November.

Meetings were held on the topics of; (1) citizenship rights, (2) economy, (3) transport, (4) education and research, (5) energy, and (6) agri-food. A summary of the evidence presented at each of these sessions is presented in the sections below.

A summary of the evidence presented to the Committee is outlined in the sections below.

3.2.1 CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS

In its First Report, the Committee made recommendations regarding citizenship and social rights, including ensuring the protection of equivalence of human rights protections in both Ireland and Northern Ireland. The Committee followed up on this issue on 8 May 2019 with an engagement with the Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC), Les Allamby, Professor Colin Harvey, Queen's University Belfast, and the Deputy Director of the Committee on the Administration of Justice, Daniel Holder.

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

In his presentation to the Committee, the Chief Commissioner of the NIHRC, Les Allamby, stated that the Draft Withdrawal Agreement published in November 2018 contained a number of important commitments, but that it did not sufficiently address concerns regarding the non-diminution of citizenship rights in Northern Ireland. He expressed concern that in the absence of clarification, retained EU legal rights may only apply to those who identify as Irish in Northern Ireland, which would lead to an 'unequal citizenship', contrary to the principles of the Good Friday Agreement (GFA).

He recommended that a three strand approach to ensuring the continued non-diminution of citizenship rights in Northern Ireland be taken:

- (i) agreements between the EU and the UK (e.g. Withdrawal Agreement),
- (ii) bilateral agreements between the Irish and UK governments (e.g. Common Travel Area), and

(iii) UK domestic legislation (e.g. by amending the British Nationality Act 1981, and transposing the GFA into UK law).

Mr Allamby discussed the NIHRC's recommendations that a Bill of Rights be drafted and established, along with an All-Ireland Charter of Rights and the creation of a Civic Forum for Northern Ireland. He commended the agreement of a Memorandum of Understanding on the Common Travel Area (CTA) between the UK and Irish governments, but highlighted the need for the CTA be legally underpinned.

While the Chief Commissioner of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC), Emily Logan, was unable to attend the meeting in May 2019, the Committee received a substantial submission from her relating to the Commission's work. The IHREC works together with the NIHRC on a Joint Committee, as established under the GFA. The Joint Committee of the IHREC and the NIHRC agreed the following recommendations regarding the Withdrawal Agreement;

1. Ensure commitment to 'no diminution of rights' is evident and enforceable in final Withdrawal Agreement;
2. Safeguard North-South equivalence of rights on an ongoing basis;
3. Guarantee equality of citizenship within Northern Ireland;
4. Protect border communities and migrant workers;
5. Ensure evolving justice arrangements comply with commitment to non-diminution of rights; and
6. Ensure continued right to participation in public life for EU citizens in Northern Ireland.

Professor Colin Harvey, Queen's University

In his presentation to the Committee, Professor Colin Harvey stressed that Brexit had served to highlight already-existing issues regarding the implementation of citizens' rights in Northern Ireland. He argued that there remained an "implementation gap" regarding the GFA.

He drew attention to paragraph 52 of the UK EU Joint Negotiators' report from December 2017, outlined below, which referred to the birthright provisions in Northern Ireland;

"Both Parties acknowledge that the 1998 Agreement recognises the birth right of all the people of Northern Ireland to choose to be Irish or British or both and be accepted as such. The people of Northern Ireland who are Irish citizens will continue to enjoy rights as EU citizens, including where they reside in Northern Ireland. Both Parties therefore agree that the Withdrawal Agreement should respect and be without

prejudice to the rights, opportunities and identity that come with European Union citizenship for such people and, in the next phase of negotiations, will examine arrangements required to give effect to the ongoing exercise of, and access to, their EU rights, opportunities and benefits.”

Professor Harvey expressed concern that it was not clear how this commitment would be implemented. He was also of the opinion that this commitment had been “neglected” somewhat in the Draft Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration. He submitted to the Committee his proposed amendments to the Political Declaration, which emphasised the birthright provisions of the GFA and committed to supporting the ongoing access and exercise of EU legal rights for the people of Northern Ireland who are Irish citizens.

Professor Harvey highlighted, that in his view, Brexit had encouraged larger constitutional questions and discussions about how the island will be shared in the future. He stressed that human rights and equality must be a part of this ongoing conversation. In answer to questions posed by the Committee, Professor Harvey noted that Brexit could give renewed impetus to the British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference, and other institutions provided for under the GFA. Finally he referred to the proposal to extend voting rights for European Parliament elections to the people of Northern Ireland, which he specified would be an issue for the Irish Government to decide, rather than the European Institutions.

Committee on the Administration of Justice

The Deputy Director of the Committee on the Administration of Justice, Daniel Holder, discussed the important role that EU law played in supporting the GFA by providing a common legal framework. He explained that in the context of Brexit, a lack of clarity remained regarding the rights of both Irish citizens and British citizens in Northern Ireland.

Mr Holder detailed to the Committee, that current British citizenship laws do not take into account the birthright provisions of the Good Friday Agreement. Under the British Nationality Act 1981, the UK Government currently considers people from Northern Ireland as British citizens by default, despite the provision in the GFA for citizens to choose to “be Irish or British or both and be accepted as such”. Mr Holder noted that up until 2012, the Home Office generally respected the rights of Northern-Irish born people who identified as Irish citizens, but that this policy had changed in the interim. He also explained that Northern Irish people were excluded from the UK’s EU Settlement Scheme, under the assumption that they were British citizens, even if they identified solely as Irish. In such cases, this would result in EU citizens in Northern Ireland not being able to retain their full rights as EU citizens after Brexit. He detailed to the Committee how this policy change had already affected the family reunification rights of Irish citizens in Northern Ireland, in a number of cases.

3.2.2 ECONOMY

On 16 June 2019, the Committee engaged with representatives of the Central Bank of Ireland, Ibec and ISME to follow up on its recommendations for mitigating the economic impact of Brexit on Ireland.

The Central Bank of Ireland

In his presentation to the Committee, Mark Cassidy, Director of Economics and Statistics of the Central Bank of Ireland, outlined the potential impacts of Brexit on the financial system and the work undertaken by the Central Bank to identify and mitigate the related risks.

While noting that any type of Brexit would be negative for Ireland, he outlined the Central Bank's forecast that in an orderly Brexit scenario the outlook for the Irish economy for the next two years remained broadly favourable, with some moderate growth. Disruptive effects would be relatively contained and spread out over the medium term, with a prediction of a 1.75% reduction in output in the medium term.

However, he confirmed that a no-deal scenario would have very severe and immediate disruptive effects for the Irish economy, with consequences for almost all areas of activity. Disruption would be front-loaded, and sectors which are reliant on trade with the UK and vulnerable to trade barriers would be particularly adversely affected, notably the agri-food sector. On a regional level, a no-deal scenario would have the biggest impact on the regions which export most to the UK and on the regions with a high degree of concentration in exporting agricultural products- namely the Border region and the Midlands and Western regions.

In terms of the financial system, Mr Cassidy stated that, based on the work undertaken over the last decade on increasing resiliency, he considered the immediate cliff-edge financial stability risks of a no-deal Brexit to be "broadly manageable". He emphasised that the Central Bank still saw positive growth for the economy under all scenarios, but that in a no-deal scenario it would be significantly weaker. He also outlined that there were opportunities for increased foreign direct investment. However, he added that a no-deal scenario would be challenging for all firms operating in Ireland, as any introduction of tariffs, regulatory checks or increased documentary compliance would have material effects for businesses. According to the Central Bank's analysis, in a no-deal scenario compared with a scenario in which Brexit did not take place, medium-term economic output would be over 6% lower and there would be approximately 110,000 fewer jobs.

At a European level, the Central Bank works with the European Central Bank across the Single Supervisory Mechanism and the European supervisory authorities to agree Europe-

wide approaches to the key policy issues that have arisen from Brexit. Mr Cassidy noted that the loss of the UK's regulatory expertise in European fora will require increased engagement from Ireland, and that this was a priority area of work for the Central Bank. Gina Fitzgerald, Head of the Financial Risks and Governance division, added that the Central Bank had ongoing engagement with UK authorities and was also working on strengthening alliances within the sector at European level.

Ibec

Pat Ivory, Director of EU and International Affairs for Ibec, discussed the views and concerns of employers and businesses in Ireland. He noted that the most pressing concerns of Ibec's members regarding Brexit had changed little since he last presented to the Committee in 2017. He confirmed that Irish businesses were supportive of the Draft Withdrawal Agreement, emphasising the importance of customs and regulatory alignment across the island of Ireland.

In his presentation, Dr Ivory noted that the divisive political climate in the UK had increased the likelihood of a no-deal Brexit, which had created increased uncertainty and driven up the cost of contingency planning. The impact of this has been felt particularly by SMEs, many of whom still do not have contingency plans in place. He informed the Committee that about 46,000 small companies of the 84,000 that trade with the UK had yet to register for the economic operator and registration identification (EORI), which will be necessary to continue to trade post Brexit.

He stressed the need for Government and EU interventions to protect jobs and businesses in a no-deal scenario. While acknowledging the contingency legislation had addressed certain issues such as the treatment of VAT on UK imports, he argued that a comprehensive State Aid programme would be required to support businesses. He discussed proposals Ibec had made to Government in its pre-budget submission, including stability mechanisms and subsidy schemes to support workers and businesses most at risk. He outlined that issues such as major sterling depreciation, cancelled investment, falling consumer confidence, rising prices and significant trade disruption were significant concerns for businesses. He also argued that in order for businesses to keep operating, there needed to be an agreement at European Commission level on personal data flows and exchange. Arnold Dillon, Head of Strategic Campaigns, emphasised the importance of also preparing for additional inward investment resulting from Brexit, specifically in terms of the labour market and housing.

Dr Ivory detailed to the Committee Ibec's involvement with BUSINESSEUROPE. He noted that BUSINESSEUROPE had shown strong solidarity with Ireland, and support for the Draft Withdrawal Agreement and the "backstop" solution. Ibec had also had meetings with the

European Commission's Article 50 Taskforce and the Council of the European Union's Brexit unit.

ISME (The Irish SME Association)

Neil McDonnell, Chief Executive of ISME, informed the Committee that Brexit had already started to impact upon Irish businesses, particularly over the last year. He stated that concerns regarding a no-deal Brexit had led to the stalling of investment decisions, the changing of marketing policies, the curtailing employment in at-risk areas and reduced confidence. In order to prepare for the possibility of a no-deal exit on 29 March, SMEs had invested in inventories which then had to be liquidated once the UK was granted an extension. With a revised Brexit deadline of 31 October, SMEs were once again in a cycle of preparing for a no-deal exit, which Mr McDonnell described as a drain on working capital and management time. He stressed that SMEs required assistance from the Government and Local Authorities in order to put contingency plans in place. Given the uncertainty, SMEs were reluctant to take on additional debt, which he argued may be a reason why the Government's Brexit loan scheme had been less successful than envisioned.

Mr McDonnell argued that creative and flexible solutions were needed to assist the UK, as Ireland's nearest neighbour and largest trading partner. He expressed concerns that "blind adherence" by Ireland to the maintenance of the "backstop" could prove costly if political disagreement leads to the Draft Withdrawal Agreement not being ratified, and subsequently a no-deal Brexit. From his perspective, there was a disconnection between the practical aspects of the "backstop" solution and the political aspects. He discussed the interdependence of supply chains between the UK and Ireland, and expressed concerns regarding the impact of any regulatory divergence. At European level, ISME is a member of the European-level business association SMEunited. From engagements within this Network, Mr McDonnell commented that, apart from Germany and the Netherlands, Brexit was no longer pressing concern for SME organisations from other Member States.

3.2.3 TRANSPORT

On 25 June 2019, the Committee engaged with representatives of the National Transport Authority (NTA), Dublin Airport Authority (DAA), Iarnróid Éireann, Rosslare Europort and Freight Transport Association Ireland on the implications of Brexit in relation to transport. In addition to this hearing, Members of the Committee visited Dublin Port on 6 November 2019.

National Transport Authority (NTA)

Anne Graham, Chief Executive Officer of the NTA, updated the Committee on the regulation of cross-border bus services. She explained to the Committee that all bus and coach traffic

from the UK into Ireland is currently regulated by Regulation 1073/2009 on Common Rules for Access to the International Market for Coach and Bus Services. This Regulation applies to regular, special regular, occasional, and cabotage operations. However, once the UK leaves the EU, it will become a “third country”. As a “third country”, the Interbus Agreement (European legislation on the occasional carriage of passengers by coach and bus) would be the relevant legal framework, as it extends to countries outside the EU. Ms Graham explained that the Interbus Agreement only applies to international occasional services between certain non-EU member states and EU member states, and does not apply to regular international services, national services, the use of buses and coaches designed to carry passengers or the transport of goods for commercial purposes. The continuation of passenger bus connectivity was therefore provided for in national level contingency legislation.

In March 2019, EU contingency legislation came into effect on common rules ensuring basic road freight and road passenger connectivity, which in a no-deal scenario would extend regular, authorised services up to 31 December 2019 and cabotage operations up to 30 September 2019. Ms Graham explained that the Interbus Agreement and the Draft Withdrawal Agreement do not provide for cabotage operations, which is an area of regulation which is within the EU’s exclusive competence. Cabotage refers to the national carriage of goods for hire or reward carried out by non-resident hauliers on a temporary basis in a host Member State. Ms Graham noted that she expected the dates for arrangements covering cabotage to be extended by the EU for at least six months after the UK exits the EU. She expressed the view that the NTA would be supportive of permission being granted at an EU level that would enable Ireland to put alternative arrangements with the UK to permit cabotage in the Border region.

Dublin Airport Authority (DAA)

Niall MacCarthy, DAA Executive Brexit Lead and Managing Director of Cork Airport, presented to the Committee on Brexit planning for both Dublin and Cork airports. He outlined to the Committee that Dublin and Cork airports were uniquely exposed to Brexit in a European airport context, as UK traffic comprised 38% of Ireland’s airport traffic. In response to this, DAA established an internal Brexit team to identify risks. In its planning DAA has worked closely with the relevant government departments, state bodies and commercial partners through industry fora and national level groups.

Mr MacCarthy stressed to the Committee that DAA anticipated operational impacts to Irish aviation to be relatively minimal in a no-deal Brexit scenario. He confirmed that he expected flights to continue to operate as normal at Dublin and Cork airports. There would be no

changes or additional requirements for UK-bound passengers departing from Irish airports, and no additional immigration checks applied to UK passport holders on entering Ireland.

In March 2019, EU contingency legislation came into effect on common rules ensuring basic air connectivity, which in a no-deal scenario would extend services up to October 2020. Mr MacCarthy noted that the UK Government had confirmed that it would mirror the provisions set out in the EU regulation in respect of the rights of EU air carriers within the UK. He stated that airports would be affected by the additional paperwork and inspections needed for bulk cargo in a no-deal scenario, but commented that airports would be much less affected than ports. By way of example, the Committee heard that in 2018 Dublin Airport handled 143,000 tonnes of freight, while Dublin Port handled more than 26 million tonnes of freight.

Iarnróid Éireann

Billy Gilpin, Director of Train Operations for Iarnróid Éireann, updated the Committee on the regulation of cross-border rail services. He confirmed to the Committee that Iarnróid Éireann did not foresee any changes from a customer point of view to the provision of cross-border rail services. Iarnróid Éireann provides cross-border services in partnership with Translink in Northern Ireland. Mr Gilpin informed the Committee that Translink was in the process of obtaining approval from the Commission for Railway Regulation to be licenced as a railway undertaking in Ireland. He noted that if the licensing of Translink was not completed by 31 October 2019, proposals have been developed under which Enterprise services south of the Border would operate under Iarnród Éireann's operating arrangements and licences.

Mr Gilpin also informed the Committee that as part of its Brexit contingency plan, the CIÉ group held three months' supply of fuel, and intend to increase these levels further to ensure security of fuel supply for rail and bus services in the event of a no-deal Brexit.

Rosslare Europort

Glenn Carr, General Manager of Rosslare Europort, outlined to the Committee the work carried out in the port in preparation for Brexit. He informed the Committee that as part of the Government's strategy for increasing Ireland's customs' capacity, Rosslare Europort had been approved for significant facility upgrades and extra resourcing. Temporary border inspection posts and facilities have been built, and permanent upgrades have been planned as part of overall development of the port. In response to questions from the Committee regarding rail freight, Mr Carr outlined that as a roll-on roll-off port, Rosslare Europort was not a priority for the development of rail infrastructure. He noted that rail freight was more traditionally associated with lift-on lift-off ports such as Dublin Port and Waterford Port.

Mr Carr noted that as Ireland's closest port to mainland Europe, opportunities for new routes from Rosslare were being explored with French, Belgian, Spanish and Dutch ports as an alternative to the UK landbridge. He also highlighted the potential for Rosslare to take on extra capacity and act as a "release valve" for Dublin Port, especially since its recent designation as a border inspection post.

Freight Transport Association Ireland

Aidan Flynn, General Manager of Freight Transport Association Ireland, discussed the challenges that Brexit presented to the freight distribution and logistics industry. He highlighted to the Committee that existing supply chains had been developed as part of the Single Market, and that therefore the UK's withdrawal from the Single Market would cause significant disruption to transport links and just-in-time supply chains. He expressed concern regarding the lack of certainty regarding future customs and regulatory requirements, and the increased costs and delays which would result from any disruption to the landbridge transport route through the UK, which he described as the cheapest and quickest route to the EU market from Ireland.

In his presentation, he also highlighted the need for an all-inclusive approach to contingency planning which includes all industries involved in economic supply chains, and the need for comprehensive customs training for businesses to ensure compliance.

Dublin Port

On 6 November 2019, a delegation of Members of the Committee travelled to Dublin Port for an engagement on the Dublin Port Company's (DPC) Brexit preparedness planning;

- Senator Neale Richmond,
- Senator Niall Ó Donnghaile,
- Senator Michelle Mulherin, and;
- Senator Ian Marshall.

The members met with representatives of the DPC including the Chief Executive, the Head of Property, Harbour Master and the Community Engagement Manager.

In his presentation to the Committee, Chief Executive, Eamonn O'Reilly, outlined the activity of the DPC, including to roll-on roll-off and lift-on lift-off operations and routes to the UK (Holyhead, Liverpool and Heysham), and to Cherbourg, Zeebrugge and Rotterdam.

Mr O'Reilly informed Members that DPC had been working to prepare for the introduction of border controls in Dublin Port since December 2017, and had invested €30 million to provide the necessary infrastructure. He detailed that of the 1.6m units of freight (trailers and

containers) that move through Dublin Port currently, 200,000 were from/to destinations outside the EU and were already subject to border controls. However, after Brexit, the number of freight units from outside the EU would rise from 200,000 to 1 million.

Despite the uncertainty regarding the outcome of Brexit, Mr O'Reilly explained that the DPC had worked with state agencies and companies to prepare as much as possible. He explained that as much physical infrastructure for border inspection checks as could be provided in Dublin Port, had been provided. State agencies responsible for carrying out border inspection checks had confirmed that these facilities would be manned on a 24 hour a day, 7 day a week basis. Based on this, DPC believed that the infrastructure and manning levels would be sufficient to continue operations in a no-deal scenario. However, Mr O'Reilly confirmed that it was expected that additional inspections resulting from increased customs requirements would lead to delays. DPC was in the process of finalising a multi-level traffic response plan with a variety of agencies including Dublin Port Tunnel, Dublin City Council and An Garda Síochána to manage any traffic congestion resulting from delays at the Port.

3.2.4 EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

On 9 October 2019, the Committee held hearings on the implications for Ireland of Brexit in relation to education and research sector with representatives of Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and the Irish Universities Association (IUA).

Science Foundation Ireland (SFI)

Professor Mark Ferguson, Director General of SFI and Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government of Ireland, outlined the implications of Brexit for the research sector in Ireland.

In his opening statement, Professor Ferguson outlined arrangements put in place by SFI to preserve bilateral relationships with sectoral colleagues in the UK, including United Kingdom Research & Innovation, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council. He emphasised the SFI's support for a proposal from the British-Irish Chamber of Commerce to establish a UK-Ireland research and innovation fund. He discussed opportunities for increased collaboration with UK universities, such as joint appointments.

Professor Ferguson highlighted to the Committee the current status of North-South collaborative research programmes. He informed the Committee that in the absence of a functioning Northern Ireland Assembly, funding could not be allocated to North-South collaborative research programmes, as such programmes are not line item in the Northern Ireland budget. SFI has submitted proposals to the Irish and British Governments, arguing

for the funding of North-South research collaboration, including the establishment of all-island of Ireland Research Centres. Professor Ferguson stated that discussions on strengthening North-South research cooperation were ongoing with the Northern Irish Civil Service and the UK Government, and that there was broad agreement that further cooperation would be a positive development.

Professor Ferguson explained that Ireland was set to become a net contributor to the Horizon 2020 programme for the first time. He provided the breakdown of Ireland's top five research EU research collaboration partners as of July 2019 - Germany (10.64%), Spain (10.3%), UK (10.01%), France (9.48%), Italy (8.75%), the Netherlands (5.4%). If the UK withdraws from the Horizon programme, 10% of Ireland's research projects would need to find alternative collaboration partners. He informed the Committee that UK Government had committed to funding its component of Horizon 2020 and other existing EU programmes in a no-deal scenario. However, it was not clear if the UK would remain a part of EU research programmes into the future. Regarding bilateral cooperation, Professor Ferguson made the point that while Irish-UK programmes could continue at an administrative level, the UK being outside of the Horizon programme would likely lead to a loss of project funding.

Irish Universities Association (IUA)

Dr Lisa Keating, Director of Research and Innovation of the IUA, discussed the importance to the economy of higher education and research. Dr Keating argued that investment in higher education and research in the early 2000s had laid the groundwork for Ireland's knowledge-led economic recovery after the 2008 recession. She expressed the view that Brexit posed a similar challenge to the Irish economy, and required similar investment. The UK is Ireland's largest research collaborator on research documents, a significant partner in the Horizon 2020 programme, and also a strategic partner in influencing the agenda for European programme funding. The loss of the UK's proportion of the EU budget would also impact on project funding. However, she suggested that with sufficient investment in the sector, Brexit could also provide opportunities for Ireland to attract additional researchers and academics. She also noted that while it was necessary to diversify relationships, maintaining existing links with UK universities was also strategically important for Ireland.

Lewis Purser, Director of Learning & Teaching and Academic Affairs of the IUA, outlined the challenges and opportunities of Brexit for Irish universities. He expressed concern regarding the impact of Brexit on cross-border student mobility, noting that both the number of Irish students registered in UK universities and the number of UK students registered in Irish universities had decreased since 2016. He argued that this posed an economic and social challenge to Ireland, as well as potentially having long-term detrimental impacts on all-island cooperation. He welcomed the MoU agreed between the Irish and UK Governments on the

Common Travel Area, but stressed the need for a sector-specific Memorandum to ensure that Irish students, who study in the UK in the future, will continue to be subject to the same financial terms and conditions, including eligibility for grants and loans, as UK students, and vice versa for UK students studying in Ireland, including eligibility for Student University Support Ireland (SUSI) grants. He noted that this Memorandum was due, but had not yet been finalised. Mr Purser informed the Committee that the UK Government had committed to funding EU students who are currently in higher education in the UK for the continuation of their studies, and to fund those who start next year. However, no guarantees have been offered beyond this, which he argued has made it difficult for students and prospective students to plan ahead, and contributed to the decrease in student mobility.

Mr Purser informed the Committee that applications for Irish universities from students in other European countries had increased significantly year-on-year since 2017. He stated that this was a welcome development for the university sector, but that increased investment was required to meet the growing demand of both Irish and international students.

3.2.5 ENERGY

On 9 October 2019, the Committee engaged with representatives of EirGrid, SSE and Gas Networks Ireland on the implications of Brexit in relation to energy sector.

EirGrid

Rodney Doyle, EirGrid's Director of Market Operations and General Manager of Single Electricity Market Operator, updated the Committee on developments since 2017.

Mr Doyle discussed the role of EirGrid as the state-owned transmission system operator on the island of Ireland. EirGrid operates the transmission system both in Ireland and in Northern Ireland, through the System Operator of Northern Ireland (SONI). Eirgrid also works with the ESB and Northern Ireland Electricity Networks (NIE) to operate the electricity market on the island of Ireland. Mr Doyle confirmed that the Integrated Single Electricity Market (I-SEM) project, linking the all-island Single Electricity Market to the wider European market, had been completed. He discussed the benefits of the I-SEM, and argued that the North-South integration of electricity systems should be maintained regardless of the final Brexit scenario.

Michael Mahon, EirGrid's Director of Grid Development and Interconnection, outlined the details of the Celtic Interconnector project, which would link the electrical grids of Ireland and France at points in Cork and Brittany. He stated that the Interconnector would increase competition in the energy market and provide Ireland's only energy connection to an EU

Member State after Brexit. The project was approved for grant funding of €530 million by the European Commission, 65% of which would be allocated to Ireland.

SSE

Stephen Wheeler, SSE Thermal and Ireland Country Lead, discussed the company's activities in the UK and Ireland, and its preparations for Brexit. He noted that the company's priorities had not changed since 2017, but that there was now a greater threat of a no-deal Brexit.

Mr Wheeler discussed the benefits of the SEM, and argued that it should be maintained in all Brexit scenarios, both in the short term after the UK leaves the EU and in the long term. He noted that the Draft Withdrawal Agreement made provision for the SEM to be maintained. Statements by regulators outlined that in a no-deal scenario the SEM would be retained, with the exception of day-ahead coupling. It was his position that this would be regrettable as it would lead to reduced efficiency in flows over the electricity interconnectors, but this reduction in efficiency would be minor in comparison to the overall benefits of the SEM. SSE also supports the development of the North-South Interconnector project, which would connect the electricity grids of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Mr Wheeler noted that while the proposal had gone through the planning process in Ireland, it was still facing delay in Northern Ireland.

Mr Wheeler also discussed the Government's Climate Action Plan, which includes the target of 70% of Ireland's electricity being sourced from renewables by 2030. He argued that Brexit should not impede investment in decarbonisation or infrastructure for generating renewable energy, with particular discussion of off-shore wind turbines. He highlighted that in a no-deal scenario the UK would leave the European Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). He argued that the Government should ensure that any replacement for the ETS in Northern Ireland maintains alignment to the greatest extent possible, in order to ensure electricity generators in the SEM compete on a level playing field.

Gas Networks Ireland (GNI)

Denis O'Sullivan, Managing Director of GNI, provided an update on the likely impacts of Brexit on Ireland's gas supply. He informed the Committee that based on its assessment and engagement with Government Departments and key industry stakeholders, GNI believed that Brexit would not impact on security of gas supply to the island of Ireland. He acknowledged that there was potential for regulatory divergence in the future, but stated that given the interconnected nature of our energy systems, GNI was confident that this could be managed.

He noted that following Brexit, the physical gas infrastructure linking Ireland to the rest of Europe would not change. He also explained that of the three entry points to the Irish gas system, approximately half of Ireland's gas was supplied from indigenous sources in Corrib and Kinsale, with the balance being imported from Scotland. The Irish gas market has been heavily interconnected with that of the UK since the 1990s, with gas supplies to Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man being dependent on GNI infrastructure. EU gas legislation has been transposed into UK national law, which Mr O'Sullivan confirmed meant that the status quo would be maintained with the flow of gas between the UK and Ireland. He also informed the Committee that it had been confirmed by both the UK and the EU that a zero tariff will apply to gas flows in the event of a default to World Trade Organization (WTO) tariff rules.

3.2.6 AGRI-FOOD

On 23 October 2019, the Committee engaged with representatives of the Irish Farmers Association (IFA), the Ulster Farmers Union (UFU), the Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association (ICMSA) and Food Drink Ireland (FDI) on the implications of Brexit for the agriculture and food sectors.

Irish Farmers Association (IFA)

Joe Healy, President of IFA, updated the Committee on the impact of Brexit on Ireland's agricultural sector.

Mr Healy argued that given the dependence on the UK market, Brexit presented a serious threat to farming and the agri-food sector. He informed the Committee that 37% of Ireland's food and drinks exports and 50% of beef exports went to the UK, making Irish agriculture uniquely exposed. He reported that Brexit uncertainty and the devaluation of sterling had already had a major impact on Irish agriculture, particularly the beef sector. He expressed concern that any disruption to the UK market through the imposition of tariff barriers, border checks, certification requirements or other regulatory changes, or new entrants to the UK market, would seriously undermine Irish exports. He maintained that the optimum outcome would be for the UK to remain within the Single Market and the Customs Union. However, in the absence of this, he argued for tariff-free and quota-free trade for agricultural and food products and full regulatory alignment to current and future EU standards. Mr Healy also discussed the IFA's work in Brussels and its strong relationships with the Ulster Farmers' Union and the farming unions in Britain.

In May 2019, the European Commission approved an exceptional aid fund for the beef sector in Ireland in conjunction with the Irish Government, with €50 million provided by each party. However, only €78 million of the available €100 million under the beef exceptional aid

measure (BEAM) has been applied for by farmers. Mr Healy argued that the criteria for the fund were unnecessarily restrictive, and that the €22 million underspend should be paid out to beef farmers to cover losses. The IFA estimates that between May and September 2019 €100 million was lost in the beef sector, and that farmers were continuing to lose money. Mr Healy argued that losses at this level constituted a market disturbance under EU regulations, and that as a result the EU should provide a €1 billion Brexit fund of market support measures to include direct supports for farmers, structural and adjustment funding, as well as the setting aside of state aid limits. He also proposed that the €110 million funding made available in the Budget 2020 for Brexit contingency should instead be paid out to farmers who have experienced losses.

Mr Healy informed the Committee that the IFA was supportive of the revised Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland in the Draft Withdrawal Agreement, as the arrangements provided for the avoidance of a hard border. However, further clarification on arrangements on issues such as beef exports and dairy labelling would be required.

Ulster Farmers' Union (UFU)

Victor Chestnutt, Deputy President of UFU, discussed the implications of Brexit for farmers in Northern Ireland. In his opening presentation, he explained to the Committee that the UFU did not campaign either way in the referendum, based on the wishes of its Members. He stated that the organisation's position was that was that, in the absence of a compelling reason to leave the EU, there was no reason to do so. He informed the Committee that approximately 85% of Northern Irish produce was sold to British market, so free and frictionless trade with the Great Britain was a priority for the UFU. Based on this, the organisation supported the Draft Withdrawal Agreement, as agreed in November 2018. He emphasised the UFU's position that a no-deal Brexit was not acceptable. He reported to the Committee that Brexit had already had an impact on farmers in Northern Ireland, with overall losses of approximately £27 million up to September 2019.

Mr Chestnutt discussed the high level of integration of the food industry on the island of Ireland, citing examples of the two-way trade between Ireland and Northern Ireland in the processing of livestock and dairy. In relation to the revised Ireland/Northern Ireland Protocol, he stressed that further clarity was needed on a number of points. One issue he raised was whether Northern Ireland produce processed in Ireland could be treated as Irish and go to the rest of the world as part of EU trade deals. He stated that he had received conflicting information on this.

Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association (ICMSA)

Pat McCormack, President of ICMSA, discussed the implications of Brexit for the agri-food sector, specifically in relation to dairy producers. Mr McCormack emphasised the need to maintain the existing strong links between the Irish and UK agricultural sectors, highlighting that Ireland was the third largest supplier of food to the UK. 30% of Irish dairy exports go to the UK and 50% of Irish cheese was exported to the UK in 2018. He discussed the impact that any tariff and non-tariff barriers such as custom declarations, quotas and regulatory divergence would have on agri-food trade. He noted that ICMSA was a member of the European Milk Board, and that there was support and understanding for Ireland's position regarding Brexit among its members.

He discussed the significant financial losses already experienced by producers as a result of Brexit uncertainty, particularly in the beef sector. In discussion of BEAM, he argued that the scheme was over-regulated, and that environmental constraints made it unattractive to prospective applicants. He also noted the exclusion of dairy farmers with over 40 cows from the BEAM. He welcomed the contingency fund included for agriculture in Budget 2020, but argued that this funding should be made available to farmers who had already experienced financial losses. He discussed ICMSA's proposals to introduce a Farm Management Deposit Scheme and to establish an enterprise stabilisation fund for food businesses.

Food Drink Ireland (FDI)

Paul Kelly, Director of FDI, discussed the impact of Brexit on the Irish food and drink sector. He informed the Committee that FDI was part of Ibec, and worked closely with its sectoral organisations Dairy Industry Ireland, Drinks Ireland, Meat Industry Ireland and the Prepared Consumer Foods Council.

He highlighted the industry's reliance on the UK market, with 71% of beer exports, 85% of cider exports and 66% of prepared consumer foods exports going to the UK. He referred to the Copenhagen Economics Report, commissioned by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation in 2018, which quantified the impacts of the various Brexit scenarios on the processed foods, beef and sheep meat and dairy sectors, amongst others. He also emphasised the importance of the UK landbridge in Ireland's trade with continental Europe, and argued that all measures should be taken to maintain access to this route.

Mr Kelly discussed the potential impact of a no-deal scenario. He expressed the view that any introduction of tariffs would decimate much of Ireland's food and drink imports to the UK, arguing that alleviation measures were required at national and EU level to support the industry. He proposed the creation of a three-year temporary EU State Aid Framework, with annual funds amounting to 5% of the value of current annual export sales to the UK, to

support companies through any adjustment period. He proposed, at national level, the introduction of an enterprise stabilisation fund, an employment subsidy scheme, and a scheme for export credit insurance to enable companies to diversify.

In the discussion on the revised Draft Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration, Mr Kelly was of the view that there was much to commend, but that any arrangements which involve the UK leaving the Single Market and the Customs Union would be sub-optimal to current arrangements. He emphasised that any future EU-UK free trade agreement should seek to minimise divergence in food and veterinary standards and avoid trade impediments, while including a sufficient transition period for business to plan and prepare. He discussed the impact Brexit uncertainty had already had on businesses, detailing that businesses had initially planned for a withdrawal deal followed by a transition period. However, uncertainty regarding the final withdrawal date and scenario has affected businesses' ability to plan ahead and make capital investments.

4. CONTEXT: BREXIT NEGOTIATIONS 2017-2019

In the period between the publication of the Committee's First Report in June 2017, and the publication of this Second Report in December 2019, there have been a number of significant political developments in the course of negotiating the UK's withdrawal.

This section contains an overview of the developments since the start of the Brexit negotiations in June 2017 up to December 2019, in the context of the Committee's remit of examining the implications for Ireland of the UK's withdrawal from the EU. A timeline of significant events is included in this report in Appendix Three.

4.1 DEVELOPMENTS IN 2017

On **29 March**, Prime Minister Theresa May issued the UK's Article 50 notification letter to the President of the European Council, triggering the process for the UK's exit from the EU. In accordance with the Treaty, the date of the UK's exit from the EU was set as **29 March 2019**, two years after it notified the European Council. According to the Treaty, this date could be extended by unanimous agreement.

In a statement following the UK's notification to trigger Article 50, the Irish Government outlined its negotiation priorities as;

- minimising the impact on trade and the economy;
- to protect the Northern Ireland Peace Process, including through maintaining an open border;
- to continue the Common Travel Area with the UK; and
- to work for a positive future for the European Union.

The European Parliament agreed a resolution on **5 April**, noting that, while it was the UK's sovereign right to leave the EU, the decision was regrettable. It also emphasised that it was:

“concerned at the consequences of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union for Northern Ireland and its future relations with Ireland; whereas in that respect it is crucial to safeguard peace and therefore to preserve the Good Friday Agreement in all its parts, recalling that it was brokered with the active participation of the Union”.

The European Council approved negotiating guidelines on 29 April, and negotiating directives were adopted by the General Affairs Council on 22 May. On **19 June** the first

phase of official-level negotiations began. The EU was represented by Chief Negotiator, Michel Barnier, negotiating on behalf of the 27 Member States as head of the European Commission's Article 50 Taskforce. The UK Government was represented by the Brexit Secretary and officials from the Department for Exiting the European Union (DexEU). The opening negotiations focused on issues related to citizens' rights, the financial settlement, the Northern Irish border and other separation issues.

On **22 September**, the Prime Minister made a speech in Florence in which she stated that the UK wished to be a "strongest friend and partner" to the EU. Specifically, in relation to Ireland and Northern Ireland, she outlined the UK's commitment to protecting the GFA and the Common Travel Area, and avoiding any physical infrastructure at the border between Ireland and Northern Ireland. The Tánaiste welcomed the speech, but stressed that it did not provide sufficient clarity or detail on the UK's approach to Northern Ireland issues to allow the Brexit process to move on to the next stage.

NEGOTIATORS' JOINT REPORT ON PHASE ONE

On **8 December**, the negotiators of the European Union and the UK Government published a **Joint Report** outlining that sufficient progress had been made in phase one of the negotiations to allow the negotiations to move on to the next phase.

The report outlined both parties' commitment to **protecting North-South cooperation** and **avoiding a hard border**. It was also agreed that in the absence of agreed solutions, the UK would ensure that no new regulatory barriers develop between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK. It was stated in the joint report that agreement had been reached in principle on the areas of:

- protecting the rights of Union citizens in the UK and UK citizens in the EU;
- the framework for addressing the unique circumstances in Northern Ireland;
- the financial settlement.

In a press conference, the Taoiseach welcomed the Joint Report, stating that Ireland had "achieved all that we set out to achieve in phase one of these negotiations". He stated that Ireland had received the necessary "assurances and guarantees" from the UK to proceed to the next stage of negotiations. During the second phase, the EU and the UK would work out the detail of what had been agreed in the first phase, and start to discuss the transition period, free trade, and the future relationship.

4.2 DEVELOPMENTS IN 2018

On **19 March** a **Partial Agreement** was presented by the negotiators, showing which areas were agreed, and which areas had still to be agreed. The Partial Agreement stated that a legally operative version of the “**backstop**” solution should be agreed as part of the legal text of the Withdrawal Agreement, as per the commitment made by both sides in December 2017. The Tánaiste welcomed this agreement as an important step in the Brexit negotiations.

On **12 July**, the DexEU published a policy paper on the UK’s future relationship with the EU, known as the “Chequers Plan”. In the paper, the UK Government proposed that the future relationship would take the form of an Association Agreement, as it did not wish to remain as a member of the Single Market or of the Customs Union. In order to facilitate frictionless trade and to avoid a hard border between Ireland and Northern Ireland, the paper includes proposals for a “facilitated customs arrangement”, which would remove the need for customs checks and controls between the UK and the EU, and establish a free trade area for goods only. The Irish Government welcomed these proposals as something which could inject momentum into the negotiations, and stated that it would consider the proposals along with Michel Barnier and the Article 50 Taskforce. The European Parliament welcomed the paper, but urged the UK Government to clarify its position on the “backstop”, so that the Withdrawal Agreement could be finalised as quickly as possible.

On the **13 November**, the European Commission published its Contingency Action Plan, in which it outlined key actions for action to prepare for a no-deal scenario at both EU and national level. It stated that it “*stands ready to engage as of now with the Member States that will be most affected by a disorderly withdrawal and explore pragmatic and efficient support solutions, in line with EU State aid law. In particular, the Commission will support Ireland in finding solutions addressing the specific challenges of Irish businesses*”. At EU level, areas of preparation included citizens’ rights, financial services, air transport, road transport, customs, sanitary/phytosanitary requirements, personal data, EU climate policy. The European Commission proposed a number of legislative acts, and called on the European Parliament and the Council of the EU to ensure that this legislation was passed through the legislative process before 29 March 2019. The Communication also emphasised the need for “a united and coordinated approach of the EU27 Member States”.

On **14 November** it was determined that sufficient progress has been made at negotiator level to publish a Draft Withdrawal Agreement. The Draft Withdrawal Agreement outlined the terms on which the UK would leave the EU. It included a Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland, which outlined both parties' recognition of unique circumstances on the island of Ireland regarding the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

The Protocol included provision for a **UK-wide backstop**, a single customs territory between the EU and the UK which would automatically come into place if an alternative solution is not agreed by the end of the transition period. The **transition period** was outlined in the Agreement as period ending in December 2020. However, there was provision for the transition period to be extended by mutual consent. The agreement would be overseen by a Joint Committee composed of representatives from the EU and the UK, with subcommittees for specific issues. It is proposed that the Joint Committee would meet at least once a year or at the request of one of the two parties. The Agreement also provides for an independent arbitration procedure for dispute resolution between the two parties, instead of the European Court of Justice.

The Ireland/Northern Ireland protocol outlined that the **Common Travel Area** would remain in place between the UK and Ireland and that the **Good Friday Agreement** should be protected in all parts. It reiterated previous commitments to **protecting North-South cooperation**, including maintaining PEACE and INTERREG funding, and to **avoiding a hard border**, including any physical infrastructure or related checks and controls.

Both the Irish Government and the Houses of the Oireachtas welcomed the publication of the Withdrawal Agreement. On **21 and 22 November** respectively, Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann voted to agree motions of support for the Draft Withdrawal Agreement. The European Parliament welcomed the inclusion of the "backstop" and the guarantee to safeguard the Good Friday Agreement. The Agreement was endorsed by the European Council at a special meeting of **25 November**.

The **Political Declaration** setting out the framework for the future relationship between the European Union and the United Kingdom was published on **22 November**. This document is not legally binding and does not require ratification. It is a statement of joint intention which has been agreed at negotiator-level between both parties. It outlined the joint intention to develop "an ambitious, broad, deep and flexible partnership across trade and economic cooperation, law enforcement and criminal justice, foreign policy, security and defence and wider areas of cooperation". It included a joint commitment to the Peace Process in Northern

Ireland, protection of the GFA and continuation of the PEACE Plus programme. It also noted both parties' "determination to replace the backstop solution on Northern Ireland by a subsequent agreement that establishes alternative arrangements for ensuring the absence of a hard border on the island of Ireland on a permanent footing".

Once agreed at negotiator level, the Draft Withdrawal Agreement requires ratification by the European Parliament and by the UK Parliament. The consent of the European Parliament is required as part of the Article 50 process. The House of Commons introduced the EU Withdrawal Act (2018) in June, section 13 of which requires the House of Commons to vote on a motion to approve the Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration on the future relationship, giving it a "meaningful vote". The House of Commons began its debate on the Draft Withdrawal Agreement on **4 December**.

On **19 December** the Irish Government published its Brexit Contingency Action Plan. In this Plan, it is noted that ratification of the Draft Withdrawal Agreement was the Government's central case scenario, but that it had taken the decision in December 2018 to give immediate priority to contingency planning. The Plan stated that the Government had identified 45 issues which would require legislative change, either through primary or secondary legislation. Areas identified for action included preparing ports and airports, supports for businesses, financial services, the landbridge, the Common Travel Area, connectivity, justice and security and medicines. It was outlined that the necessary legislation would be presented to the Houses of the Oireachtas in January 2019.

The European Commission also published a follow-up to its November Contingency Action Plan COM (2018)890 "Preparing for the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union on 30 March 2019: Implementing the Commission's Contingency Action Plan" on 19 December.

4.3 DEVELOPMENTS IN 2019

On **15 January**, MPs voted 432 to 202 against ratifying the Draft Withdrawal Agreement, in the House of Commons' first "meaningful vote". The Taoiseach stated that the Government profoundly regretted this outcome. As per obligations of the EU Withdrawal Act (2018), the Prime Minister gave a statement to the House of Commons on a revised plan on **21 January**. In this statement, the Prime Minister reported that she had held cross-party discussions with all groups in the House, and that some Members had concerns regarding the "backstop" arrangements provided for the Draft Withdrawal Agreement;

“Members of this House, predominantly but not only on the Government Benches and the DUP, continue to express their concern on the issue of the Northern Ireland backstop. All of us agree that as we leave the European Union we must fully respect the Belfast agreement and not allow the creation of a hard border between Northern Ireland and Ireland, or indeed a border down the Irish sea. And I want to be absolutely clear, in the light of media stories this morning: this Government will not reopen the Belfast agreement. I have never even considered doing so, and nor would I.

With regard to the backstop, despite the changes we have previously agreed, there remain two core issues: the fear that we could be trapped in it permanently; and concerns over its potential impact on our Union if Northern Ireland is treated differently from the rest of the UK. So I will be talking further this week to colleagues, including in the DUP, to consider how we might meet our obligations to the people of Northern Ireland and Ireland in a way that can command the greatest possible support in the House. I will then take the conclusions of those discussion back to the EU.”

On **29 January**, the House of Commons voted on an amendment to seek “alternative arrangements” to the “backstop”, but would support and would support the Withdrawal Agreement "subject to this change". This amendment was known as the Brady amendment.

On **30 January**, the Irish Government published an update to its Contingency Action Plan, outlining progress made since December 2018, including the preparation of Brexit contingency legislation, the General Scheme of which was published on **24 January**.

A joint statement was issued on behalf of the Prime Minister and the President of the European Commission on **7 February**. This statement re-iterated the European Commission’s position that negotiations on the Draft Withdrawal Agreement would not be re-opened. However, President Juncker expressed openness to adding additional wording to the Political Declaration.

The General Scheme of the Miscellaneous Provisions (Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union on 29 March) Bill 2019 was published by the Irish Government on 24 January. This bill, also referred to as the **Omnibus Bill**, contained 17 parts including contingency provisions for healthcare arrangements, industrial provisions, electricity licences, student grants, taxation, financial services, railway and bus services, social welfare and employee protection, data protection and extradition. The bill was considered by the Houses of Oireachtas from **26 February until 13 March**. In order to facilitate prioritised consideration of the bill in its entirety, the Third Stage (Committee Stage) of the bill was considered by Dáil Éireann sitting as a Committee on 5 and 6 March. The final bill, titled the

Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (Consequential Provisions) Bill 2019, passed Final Stage in Seanad Éireann on 13 March and was enacted on **17 March**.

On **11 March** the Prime Minister and the President of the European Commission agreed an Instrument relating to the Draft Withdrawal Agreement and a Joint Statement supplementing the Political Declaration. The Instrument offered further clarification on the “backstop” arrangements including the details of the dispute resolution mechanism. The two parties also committed to prioritising the resolution of negotiations by 31 December 2020, so that the “backstop” need not be triggered.

A second “meaningful vote” was held in the House of Common on **12 March**. MPs voted against ratifying the Draft Withdrawal Agreement by 391 to 242. On **20 March**, the Prime Minister wrote to the President of the European Council to request an extension of the Article 50 period until 30 June 2019 in order to facilitate further consideration by the House of Commons. The European Council met on **21 March** to consider the request, and agreed an **initial extension until 12 April**. At this meeting, the European Council also endorsed the Instrument relating to the Draft Withdrawal Agreement and a Joint Statement supplementing the Political Declaration.

On **27 March** and **1 April**, a series of non-binding indicative votes were held in the House of Commons to indicate the level of support for different Brexit scenarios. MPs considered eight different motions, outlining different approaches including; (i) No Deal, (ii) Common market 2.0, (iii) EFTA and EEA, (iv) Customs Union, (v) Labour's alternative plan, (vi) Revocation to avoid No Deal, (vii) Confirmatory public vote and (viii) Contingent preferential arrangements. However, none of these options were able to command a majority vote. On **5 April**, the Prime Minister again sought further extension from the European Council until 30 June 2019. The European Council met on **10 April** to consider this request, and agreed to extend the process until **31 October 2019**.

On **8 May**, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Common Travel Area (CTA) was agreed by Tánaiste and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, stating a joint commitment by the Irish and UK Governments to maintain the CTA in all circumstances. The MoU was signed before a meeting of the British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference, which was established under Strand Three of the GFA “to promote bilateral co-operation at all levels on all matters of mutual interest within the competence of both Governments”. Issues discussed on 8 May included east/west matters, rights and citizenship matters, economic cooperation, security cooperation, political stability and legacy issues.

European Parliament elections were held during the week of **20-24 May**. The UK took part in the elections, electing 73 MEPs. In anticipation of the UK leaving the EU on 29 March 2019,

the European Council had approved the proposal to re-distribute 27 of the UK's 73 European Parliament seats to other EU Member States. Under this re-distribution, Ireland was allocated two extra MEP seats. However, as the UK returned MEPs, the two extra seats allocated to Ireland remain in reserve until after Brexit.

On **24 May**, Prime Minister Theresa May announced her resignation as of 7 June. On **23 July**, Boris Johnson was nominated by party ballot as Conservative Party leader and Prime Minister. In August, the Prime Minister advised the Queen to suspend (prorogue) Parliament from 9 September to 14 October. A subsequent Supreme Court case found that this advice and the prorogation that followed were unlawful, and Parliament resumed on **25 September**. A subsequent prorogation was put in place from 8 October to 14 October, ending the 2017-2019 Parliamentary term. The UK Parliament resumed sitting on **14 October**.

On **4 September**, the House of Commons approved the European Union (Withdrawal) (No. 2) Act 2019, known as the Benn Act. Under this Act the UK Government was obliged to see a three-month extension to the Article 50 period from the European Council if the Withdrawal Agreement was not ratified by 19 October 2019. This Act became law on 9 September.

The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister held their first bilateral meeting in Dublin on **9 September**. In a statement given after the meeting, the Taoiseach reiterated the importance of the “backstop”, but confirmed that Ireland was open to alternatives that were “realistic, legally binding and workable”. On **10 October**, the Taoiseach and the Prime Minister held a bilateral meeting in England to discuss outstanding issues regarding the Draft Withdrawal Agreement. The Joint Statement issued after the meeting outlined that the discussions concentrated on the “challenges of customs and consent”, and that they “could see a pathway to a possible deal”. They also discussed the potential to strengthen bilateral relations, including on Northern Ireland.

REVISED PROTOCOL ON IRELAND/NORTHERN IRELAND

On **17 October**, a revised Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland (of the Draft Withdrawal Agreement) and a revised Political Declaration on the framework of the future EU-UK relationship were published.

The revised Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland did not include the “backstop” provision. Instead, it stated that Northern Ireland would remain part of the UK customs territory, but would be subject to a selection of EU customs rules. **Article 5**, “customs, movement of goods”, provides for a **dual tariff regime**. Under these provisions, EU customs rules would apply to trade between Ireland and Northern Ireland, so there would be no tariffs or restrictions. Goods moving directly from Great Britain to Northern Ireland would not be

subject to tariffs unless the good is “at risk” of being moved into the EU afterwards. Goods from third countries entering Northern Ireland would be subject to the UK tariff, unless they were at risk of being moved on to the EU. For goods deemed “at risk”, the EU tariff would be applied. If the UK tariff was lower, and those goods were proven to have stayed in Northern Ireland, the UK could reimburse traders. The Joint Committee would establish further conditions under which goods coming into Northern Ireland from Great Britain would have to pay the EU tariff.

Article 18 of the Revised Protocol also included a provision for **democratic consent in in Northern Ireland**. Under this provision, four years after the end of the transition period, the UK would provide the Northern Ireland Assembly with the opportunity to give consent to the trade elements of the protocol, specifically Articles 5 to 10. The Northern Ireland Assembly would periodically vote on whether to consent to the continued operation of the protocol for as long as it remained in force. The frequency of the vote would depend on how the decision was made. If a decision is made on the basis of a simple majority in the Assembly, the Assembly would have the opportunity to vote again four years later. If a decision was made on a cross-community basis, either a majority of members and a majority of both communities, or 60% of members and 40% of unionists and nationalists, then the Assembly would not vote again for eight years. If consent was withheld at any point, the arrangements would cease to apply two years later. In this circumstance, Joint Committee would make recommendations on how to protect the Good Friday Agreement. It was noted that a decision expressing the Assembly’s consent would be a unilateral decision of the UK Government.

In a statement to Dáil Éireann on **23 October**, the Taoiseach stated that the “the revised withdrawal agreement fulfils the Government’s and the EU’s negotiating objectives”. He endorsed the Agreement to the House, arguing that;

“it protects the rights of EU citizens in the UK and UK citizens in the EU and it includes a fair financial settlement. Importantly, it ensures that there will be no hard border on this island. The all-island economy will continue to develop and North-South co-operation, as envisaged by the Good Friday Agreement, can continue. The agreement secures the integrity of the Single Market and our place in it. The common travel area between the UK and Ireland will stay in place, alongside all the reciprocal rights and entitlements”.

The **Revised Political Declaration** confirmed the objective to achieve economic partnership through a free trade agreement. Part II of the Declaration outlines the objectives for the economic partnership, including regulatory and customs cooperation. Articles 24-25 state that both parties “envisage making use of all available facilitative arrangements and

technologies... ", which will "also be considered in alternative arrangements for ensuring the absence of a hard border on the island of Ireland".

REVISED WITHDRAWAL DATE AND UK GENERAL ELECTION

On **19 October**, the House of Commons sat to consider the revised Draft Withdrawal Agreement. MPs supported a motion by 322 to 306, tabled by Independent MP Sir Oliver Letwin, that "withholds approval" for the Agreement until legislation implementing it has been passed. As the Agreement was not approved by 19 October, the Prime Minister was required by the Benn Act to send a request to European Council to extend the Article 50 period by three months. On **22 October**, the House of Commons approved the second reading of the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill.

On **29 October**, the European Council agreed to delay the exit date to **31 January 2020**. Also on **29 October**, House of Commons voted 438 to 20 to approve the Early Parliamentary General Election Bill, which would allow a General Election to be held on **12 December**. The Parliament was dissolved on **4 November**.

On **27 November**, the European Parliament voted to approve the College of Commissioners as presented by the European Commission President. The 2019-2024 European Commission began its mandate on **1 December**. The European Commission President requested that the UK put forward a nomination for a Commissioner by 22 November. However, the UK Government did not put forward a candidate due to rules governing the pre-election period. On **14 November** the European Commission launched an infringement procedure, arguing that a Member State may not invoke provisions prevailing in its domestic legal system to justify failure to observe obligations arising under Union law.

Formal Meetings

Date	
08/05/19	<p>Engagement on citizenship rights following the withdrawal of the UK from the EU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Les Allamby, Chief Commissioner, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission • Colin Harvey, Professor of Human Rights Law, Queen’s University Belfast • Daniel Holder, Deputy Director, Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ) <p>(link to meeting transcript)</p>
19/06/19	<p>Implications for the Irish Economy of the Withdrawal of the UK from the EU</p> <p><u>Session A</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Cassidy, Director of Economics and Statistics, Central Bank of Ireland • Gina Fitzgerald, Head of the Financial Risks and Governance division, Central Bank of Ireland <p><u>Session B</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pat Ivory, Director of EU and International Affairs, Ibec • Arnold Dillon, Head of Strategic Campaigns, Ibec • Neil McDonnell, Chief Executive, ISME <p>(link to meeting transcript)</p>
25/09/19	<p>Implications for Ireland of the Withdrawal of the UK from the EU in relation to transport matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anne Graham, Chief Executive Officer, National Transport Authority (NTA) • Anneliese Jones, Public Transport Regulation Manager, NTA • Niall MacCarthy, DAA Executive Brexit Lead and MD Cork Airport, DAA • Billy Gilpin, Director of Train Operations, Iarnróid Éireann • Glenn Carr, General Manager of Rosslare Europort • Aidan Flynn, General Manager, Freight Transport Association Ireland <p>(link to meeting transcript)</p>
09/10/19	<p><u>Session A</u></p> <p>Implications for Ireland of the Withdrawal of the UK from the EU in relation to education and research sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Mark Ferguson, Director General, Science Foundation Ireland and Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government of Ireland • Lisa Keating, Director of Research and Innovation, Irish Universities Association • Lewis Purser, Director of Learning, Teaching and Academic Affairs, Irish Universities Association <p>(link to meeting transcript)</p> <p><u>Session B</u></p> <p>Implications for Ireland of the Withdrawal of the UK from the EU in relation to energy sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rodney Doyle, Director of Market Operations and General Manager of SEMO, EirGrid • Michael Mahon, Director of Grid Development and Interconnection, EirGrid • Stephen Wheeler, SSE Thermal and Ireland Country Lead, SSE

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marian Troy, SSE • Denis O’Sullivan, Managing Director, Gas Networks Ireland • Brian Mullins, Head of Regulatory Affairs, Gas Networks Ireland (link to meeting transcript)
23/10/19	<p>Implications for Ireland of the Withdrawal of the UK from the EU in relation to agriculture and the food sector</p> <p><u>Session A</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joe Healy, President, Irish Farmers’ Association (IFA); • Victor Chestnutt, Deputy President, Ulster Farmers’ Union (UFU) • Pat McCormack, President Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association (ICMSA) <p><u>Session B</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Kelly, Director, Food Drink Ireland (FDI) (link to meeting transcript)

Informal Engagements

Date	
26/02/19	Meeting with Members of the Dutch Parliament’s European Affairs Committee
08/05/19	Meeting with Emma de Souza
12/06/19	Meeting with Parliamentary Delegation from Germany

Trips

Date	
04-05/03/19	<p>Delegation Visit to Belfast</p> <p>Meetings with stakeholders;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural and Business Representatives • Civic Space • Civic Nationalists • Belfast City Council Brexit Committee and Chief Officers • PSNI Assistant Chief Constable • Academics/thought leaders • SEUPB/PEACE funded programme - Peace and Conflict Transformation (PACT) (link to travel report)
18/06/19	<p>Chairman Visit to London</p> <p>Discussion on future UK-EU relations hosted by the House of Lords EU Select Committee</p>
06/11/19	<p>Delegation Visit to Dublin Port</p> <p>Engagement to discuss Brexit preparedness planning</p>

APPENDIX TWO: ABBREVIATIONS

BEAM	Beef Exceptional Aid Measure
CTA	Common Travel Area
DAA	Dublin Airport Authority
DBEI	Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation
DexEU	Department of Exiting the European Union [UK Government]
DPC	Dublin Port Company
EHIC	European Health Insurance Card
EORI	Economic Operator and Registration Identification
ETS	European Emissions Trading Scheme
EU	European Union
FDI	Food Drink Ireland
FTA	Free trade agreement
GFA	Good Friday Agreement [also known as Belfast Agreement or 1998 Agreement]
ICMSA	Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association
IFA	Irish Farmers' Association
IHREC	Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission
I-SEM	Integrated Single Electricity Market
MEP	Member of the European Parliament
MP	Member of Parliament
NIHRC	Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission
NTA	National Transport Authority
SEM	Single Electricity Market
SFI	Science Foundation Ireland
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
SUSI	Student University Support Ireland grants
UK	United Kingdom
WTO	World Trade Organization

APPENDIX THREE: TIMELINE OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS 2017-2019

2019

2019	
12 December	UK General Election
1 December	New European Commission begins its mandate without a UK Commissioner
14 November	European Commission launches infringement procedure against UK for not proposing a nomination for a national Commissioner
4 November	UK Parliament is dissolved before General Election
29 October	House of Commons votes for to hold a General Election on 12 December
29 October	European Council agrees delay to 31 January 2020
22 October	House of Commons approves Second Reading of European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill (2019)
19 October	Prime Minister writes to European Council to request an extension
19 October	House of Commons passed Ledwin Amendment, which states that that the House withholds approval for the Draft Withdrawal Agreement until legislation implementing it has been passed
17-18 October	European Council Summit
17 October	Agreement at negotiator level of a revised Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland (of the Draft Withdrawal Agreement) and a revised Political Declaration
10 October	The Taoiseach and Prime Minister meet bilaterally in England
8- 14 October	UK Parliament prorogued
9- 25 September	UK Parliament prorogued
9 September	Taoiseach and Prime Minister Johnson hold first bilateral meeting in Dublin
4 September	House of Commons passes the European Union (Withdrawal) (No 2) Act 2019 (referred to as the Benn Act). This Act requires the Prime Minister to seek an extension to Article 50 if MPs haven't approved a deal, or approved leaving the EU without a deal, by 19 October
28 August	Prime Minister requests the suspension (prorogation) of Parliament
23 July	Prime Minister Johnson takes office
9 July	Irish Government publishes updated Contingency Action Plan
21 June	European Council Summit
7 June	Prime Minister May resigns
20-24 May	European Parliament elections take place across the EU, including the UK

8 May	Irish Government and the UK Government agree a Memorandum of Understanding on the Common Travel Area
10 April	European Council agrees a delay to 31 October
5 April	Prime Minister writes to European Council to request extension to 30 June
27 March & 1 April	House of Commons held Indicative votes on a number of Brexit scenarios
21 March	European Council agrees a delay to 12 April
20 March	Prime Minister writes to European Council to request extension to 30 June
17 March	Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (Consequential Provisions) Bill 2019 is enacted
12 March	House of Commons votes against Draft Withdrawal Agreement
11 March	The Prime Minister and the European Commission President agree an Instrument relating to the Draft Withdrawal Agreement and a Joint Statement supplementing the Political Declaration in Strasbourg
26 February – 13 March	Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (Consequential Provisions) Bill 2019 is considered by the Houses of the Oireachtas
22 February	Irish Government publishes the 'Miscellaneous Provisions (Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union on 29 March 2019) Bill 2019'
30 January	Irish Government publishes updated Contingency Action Plan
29 January	House of Commons voted to support a motion, known as the Brady Amendment, to seek "alternative arrangements" to the backstop
24 January	Irish Government publishes the General Scheme of the Miscellaneous Provisions (Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union on 29 March 2019) Bill 2019
15 January	The UK House of Commons votes against the Draft Withdrawal Agreement

2018

2018	
19 December	Irish Government publishes Brexit Contingency Action Plan
19 December	The European Commission publishes Communication on the implementation of its Contingency Action Plan
11 December	House of Commons vote on the Draft Withdrawal Agreement is postponed until 15 January 2019
25 November	European Council endorses Draft Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration
22 November	Publication of the Political Declaration on the future relationship
22 November	Seanad Éireann votes to support the Draft Withdrawal Agreement

21 November	Dáil Éireann votes to support the Draft Withdrawal Agreement
14 November	Publication of the Draft Withdrawal Agreement, as agreed at negotiator level
13 November	European Commission publishes Contingency Action Plan
12 July	UK Government publishes policy paper on “The Future Relationship between the United Kingdom and the European Union”, known as the “Chequers Plan”
26 June	European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 is enacted in the UK
19 March	Negotiators present a partial version of the Draft Withdrawal Agreement which showed which areas had been agreed and which areas were outstanding

2017

2017	
8 December	Publication of the Joint Report from the negotiators
3 October	European Parliament passes a resolution on the state of play of negotiations
22 September	Prime Minister’s Florence Speech
20 September	European Commission publishes position paper on ‘Guiding principles for the Dialogue on Ireland/Northern Ireland’
13 July	House of Commons starts debate of the European Union Withdrawal Bill
19 June	Start of negotiations on the UK’s withdrawal from the EU
12 June	European Commission publishes Brexit position papers- ‘Essential Principles on Citizens’ Rights’ and ‘Essential Principles on Financial Settlement’
29 April	European Council (Art 50) agrees negotiating guidelines
5 April	European Parliament passes a resolution on negotiations with the UK following its notification that it intends to withdraw from the EU
29 March	The UK notifies the European Council of its intention to leave the EU

1. ECONOMY

Trade

1. The establishment of a Common Trading Area on the island of Ireland as part of a future EU/UK Agreement.
2. That Ireland does not sign up to any EU/UK transitional agreement post-Brexit that does not include a lengthy period of phasing in any new customs and tariff arrangements on the Island of Ireland that may occur.
3. The conclusion of a far reaching, comprehensive trade deal, with minimal trade barriers.

Foreign Direct Investment

4. Ensuring that the Central Bank of Ireland is competitive with other EU and Eurozone Central Banks in assisting regulated institutions seeking to locate in Ireland with well-resourced support and information on Ireland's financial regulatory regime. The Special Committee also recommend that the Central Bank of Ireland consider how, without jeopardising its independent regulatory function, it could assist the IDA in their role of attracting foreign direct investment into Ireland arising from Brexit.
5. The provision of further capital projects, including in the areas of transport, education and housing, in order to equip Ireland to compete for new opportunities resulting from and after Brexit.

State Aid / Fiscal Solutions

6. Ireland should seek to work with other affected EU partners to negotiate an enlargement of the General Block Exemption Regulations in the area of state aid to assist those sectors likely to be most adversely affected by Brexit due to both proximity and trade reliance. In certain sectors, this could include a large state aid exemption regime of the form undertaken during the 2008 Financial Crisis.
7. A derogation from fiscal rule requirements could also be explored to allow for the required capital expenditure on adapting and expanding infrastructure, housing and support services.
8. The utilisation of funding from the European Investment Bank to alleviate the need for additional fiscal space for capital projects.

Financial Services

9. The Committee recommends that the Department of Finance commission an independent review on the opportunities and disadvantages of the UK losing its passporting rights

within the Single Financial Markets with particular focus on the potential impact and opportunity for professional services in Ireland. This review should form the basis for a renewing and amending the “Strategy for Ireland’s International Financial Services sector 2015-2020.”

10. It is essential that Ireland supports a lengthy transitioning period post-Brexit for the UK’s potential loss of passporting and access to the Financial Single Market.

Supports for Businesses

11. Campaign to increase awareness of services that state agencies provide to all businesses.
12. The supports and tools provided by state agencies should continue to be rolled out to all businesses and efforts should be made to make all relevant businesses aware of supports.
13. There is a need for an aid package for businesses already impacted by Brexit, particularly those businesses with low profit margins impacted by currency fluctuations.
14. Funding to allow exporters who are not EI clients to prepare a Brexit plan should be explored.

Transit and Movement of Goods

15. A pre-clearance model for goods may function as part of a solution, whereby trucks and drivers can pass through the UK land-bridge without incurring duties or checks.
16. A system of pre-registering loads online and tracking using GPS or number plate recognition is a possible solution for trade with Britain and Northern Ireland.
17. Anti-abuse measures need to be put in place, including mobile spot-checks of goods.

Strategy

18. The Department of the Taoiseach Interdepartmental Brexit group should include officials from the Central Bank of Ireland, as was the case during the Financial Crisis when similar interdepartmental groups existed.
19. The interdepartmental group needs to be sufficiently resourced so that it can shadow the UK Government’s Department of Exiting the European Union in ensuring that Ireland take the challenges and opportunities posed by Brexit as seriously as our nearest and most important trading partner.
20. The interdepartmental group should work more closely with a wider consultative group of stakeholders’ right across the industry and society sectors concerned about Brexit.
21. This group should be mandated to publish a post-Brexit Ireland White Paper before the

end of 2017, so that citizens, businesses and future investors in Ireland would see precisely how it intends to manage its economy no matter what the outcome of the EU/Brexit negotiations.”.

2. COMMON TRAVEL AREA

Maintaining Border Controls between the CTA and Schengen Area

22. As neither Ireland nor the United Kingdom is part of the Schengen Area, the imposition of border controls with the Schengen Area could remain in place. This is the preservation of the status quo.

Common Visa Scheme

23. The Committee recommends the common visa scheme, where it exists, be continued.

3. NORTHERN IRELAND

Funding and the Border

24. The provisions of the Good Friday Agreement are the bedrock for peace and stability in Northern Ireland and the wider island. It is imperative that any agreement respects this and ensures the continuance of its provisions.

25. The PEACE and INTERREG programmes should be retained to support the continuance of cross-border and cross-community initiatives following Brexit. This is vital to the peace process and ensuring political stability in Northern Ireland. A continued financial support for the two schemes will have to be explored with the UK along the model that already exists for INTERREG programmes with third countries.

26. Some witnesses and Members of the Committee suggested that no border poll under the Good Friday Agreement should occur until it is clear that a respectable or sizeable number of all communities are in favour and such a poll follows the principle of consent.

27. Other witnesses and Members of the Committee were clear in their desire to ultimately see Irish reunification, and for the principle of consent, contained in the Good Friday Agreement, to be respected and that a poll be held when it is likely that ‘a majority of those voting would express a wish that Northern Ireland should cease to be a part of the United Kingdom and form part of a united Ireland’.

28. Environmental legislation and mechanisms may diverge post-Brexit. To address this, effective mechanisms and minimum common standards should be explored, including the treatment of the island of Ireland as a single bio-geographic area.

4. CITIZENSHIP AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

29. The equivalence of human rights protections in both Ireland and Northern Ireland, as provided for in the Good Friday Agreement, should be protected.
30. An all-island approach to human rights should be explored, with possible solutions including a reimagined role for the Joint Committee on Human Rights and a Charter of Rights for the island of Ireland. Additionally, the Bill of Rights project in Northern Ireland should also be revisited.
31. The Government should support all arrangements which allow for the free movement of EU citizens, either from Ireland or other EU27 states.
32. In the event the right to permanent residence does not form part of the final withdrawal agreement for EU citizens, Ireland could adopt an approach of allowing residence in Northern Ireland to be reckonable for the purposes of naturalisation as an Irish citizen.
33. In the context of social rights, the EU should promote the social pillar as a key facet of its work, and a Social Semester should be explored.

5. AGRICULTURE

Customs Union/Single Market

34. The Government should advocate strongly for the UK to re-consider its original position and consider remaining a member of the Single Market and/or Customs Union.
35. Should the UK leave the Single Market and/or Customs Union, exploration of ways in which Northern Ireland could remain in the Customs Union completely, or solely for agricultural products is required.

Free Trade Agreement

36. Ireland should advocate for the EU to conclude a Free Trade Agreement between the EU and the UK, which includes an agricultural chapter in advance of the UK's withdrawal. In the event that this is possible because of lack of time, transitional periods should be supported.
37. The Agreement should address the conditions and standards under which the UK imports food products from outside of the EU that do not meet similar high health and safety standards.

Transitional Arrangements

38. Consideration should be given to transitional arrangements. Negotiations to develop Free Trade Agreements are often long, detailed processes that cannot be rushed.

State Aids

39. Relaxation of state aids on farming and agri-food industry is required.

Legislative Equivalence

40. Efforts should be made to ensure that legislative equivalence is secured.

Competitiveness

41. Efforts to address cost competitiveness should be continued

Market Supports

42. In the event of important (Euro- Sterling) currency fluctuation, direct market supports should be considered.

43. Employment subsidy schemes and enterprise stabilisation measures should be re-introduced.

Support for Innovation, Market Diversification and increased capacity

44. The Government should consider increasing supports for the development of new products, addition of new attributes to existing products, and increasing knowledge transfer.

45. Companies should continue to be assisted and supported in entering new markets as well as increasing their share of existing markets.

46. Consideration given to increasing the budget of Bord Bia and other relevant bodies to support companies.

47. The Irish Government should continue to review and improve supports aimed at increasing the capacity, efficiency and productivity of the sector.

EU Budget

48. A strong CAP within the EU Budget after 2020 is required.

Horse racing and thoroughbred

49. Maintain the Tripartite Agreement.

6. THE FUTURE OF THE EU

Future of Europe debate

50. That all stakeholders in Ireland take full part in the 'Future of Europe' process.

51. That the Government consider holding an All-Island Civic Dialogue on the Future of Europe as part of the engagement process following the White Paper.

52. While Ireland should not advocate for any Treaty Reform, the possibility of Reform, even if it includes Treaty amendment, should remain possible.

Citizens involvement

53. That the Government consider holding an All-Island Civic Dialogue on the Future of Europe every year so that citizens and stakeholders can increase their ongoing involvement and participation in Ireland's EU involvement.

Prepare for a post-Brexit EU

54. That the Government, through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, continue to deepen existing alliances with like-minded Member States.
55. The Houses of the Oireachtas should increase the level of engagement between national parliaments of Members States, initially focused on parliaments from like-minded Member States
56. Continue to use Embassy network effectively

7. TRANSPORT

Common Travel Area

57. A preferred solution is maintaining the Common Travel Area on the island of Ireland to the closest possible extent and avoiding a situation where passport checks have to be completed along the border.

Rail Services

58. While the ideal solution on the issue of border controls is the continuance of the Common Travel Area, in the event of a hard Brexit, a method of passport checks causing minimal disruption to cross-border rail services should be pursued.
59. Agreements establishing the Enterprise rail service between Dublin and Belfast are expected to be unaffected, but this should be monitored closely.

Bus Services

60. Any post-Brexit regulation should reflect, as close as possible, the provisions of Regulation 1073/2009. The Committee does not believe the Inter-Bus Agreement is a viable alternative, as it applies only to occasional passenger travel, rather than the regular bus services which constantly operate.

Other Public Transport Issues

61. Legislation on both sides of the border will be required for cross-border taxi services.
62. There is no expected impact on free travel either side of the border.

Aviation

63. Separate EU-UK and US-UK Open Skies Agreements will need to be agreed to replace the current EU-US Open Skies arrangements, to which the UK will no longer be a party.
64. The Committee recommends that a new agreement is put in place before Spring 2018, so air routes for 2018 / 2019 are not adversely impacted.

- 65. The reintroduction of duty free for passengers to the UK could be positive.
- 66. There is a need for Ireland to deepen connectivity, in particular long-haul connectivity.

Ports and Freight

- 67. Significant investment may be required to adapt Irish ports to cater for higher volumes of freight and increase capacity for direct links to continental Europe.
- 68. Allowing private concessions to operate Ireland's ports in order to obtain investment for further development without impacting on group debts of current operators should be explored.
- 69. Adding projects that develop Irish ports to the trans-European transport policy (TEN-T) should be explored.

8. ENERGY

Single Electricity Market

- 70. The maintenance of the SEM and the progression of the I-SEM are key components of the all-island economy.
- 71. Guarantee the functionality of the I-SEM by ensuring adequate data protection rules are deemed to apply in the UK.

Interconnectors

- 72. The preferred solution is the facilitation of the seamless interconnection of energy between the EU and the UK as part of the negotiated agreement on the future EU-UK relationship.
- 73. In the event of a hard Brexit, the most prominent solution post-Brexit is the completion of the Celtic Interconnector between Ireland and France, which would reduce Ireland's reliance on the UK. A transition period may be needed here to ensure the interconnector is completed.

Gas

- 74. Derogations under the European Gas Directive should continue to be available to Ireland post-Brexit.
- 75. While the imposition of a tariff poses no financial risk to Gas Networks Ireland, it may increase the cost to the consumer and negatively impact the competitiveness of gas. A zero tariff at EU level should continue and be included in an EU-UK free trade agreement.

Electricity

- 76. The preferred solution is the maintenance of the SEM and the completion of the I-SEM.
- 77. The free-flow of electricity through inter-connectors, particularly through the completion of the Celtic Interconnector, should be a priority.
- 78. Investment in the Irish market is important and recommitting to Ireland's energy challenges, including new ways in which to address these challenges, should be explored.
- 79. Due to the falling cost of technology, more opportunities exist for the offshore generation of wind energy.

Security of Supply

- 80. In the case of gas, a voluntary protocol exists between Gas Networks Ireland and National Grid (UK gas network operator) to address emergencies. This needs to be secured post-Brexit.
- 81. On the issue of regulatory compliance, Ireland should request a derogation from EU energy legislation post-Brexit to maintain security of gas supply arrangements with the UK. However, if this is not possible, then the costs and benefits to consumers must be considered in any decisions to build new gas infrastructure.

9. EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND THE IRISH LANGUAGE

Research

- 82. The maintenance of strong collaborations between Ireland and the UK in the area of scientific research.
- 83. Ireland should put more emphasis on leading and winning research projects within the Horizon 2020 framework programme and future framework programmes.

Talent

- 84. There is an opportunity to attract academics from the UK. This, as a solution, may need to be integrated with infrastructural projects for building more housing and office space, as well as with the additional funding of research and an ability to enhance remuneration packages for notable academics.

Erasmus Programme

- 85. The continued participation of the UK in the Erasmus Programme is essential, particularly as English is a working language of the EU. EEA Member States and Turkey

all have access to this Programme. Switzerland is currently suspended from the programme due to restrictions on the free movement of people, which has resonance with the Brexit scenarios

Third Level Education Generally

- 86.** The safeguarding of current equivalence for EU students from third-level fees should be considered in the UK and for UK students in either the whole EU or in Ireland. Generally, non-EU students have to pay full rates of tuition fees. The ideal solution is the continuance of current arrangements between the UK and the EU (as part of the agreement on their future relationship).
- 87.** The creation of a single education sector or area for Irish and Northern Irish students, either as a temporary measure or permanent arrangement, is another solution which may mitigate the impact of Brexit.

Gaeilge / Irish Language

- 88.** Preserving access to Irish-medium education should not be impeded as a result of Brexit. The Committee heard that continued access to Irish-medium education for students from Northern Ireland is important for developing the Irish language in Northern Ireland.
- 89.** Solutions previously discussed on the protection of cross-border workers, including the continuance of the Common Travel Area and a soft border in the context of travel apply equally to organisations working in the Irish language sector.

Young People and Brexit

- 90.** Full utilisation by Ireland of funds such as the Global Adjustment Fund and the Youth Guarantee should be explored.

10. HEALTH

Cross-Border Health Care

- 91.** The most important solution is to ensure that there are no new obstacles to the access to healthcare on the island of Ireland and that the *status quo* is maintained.
- 92.** The maintenance of the CTA may be a very important aspect to ensuring this care, particularly in ensuring that healthcare professionals travel freely to work and cooperate in joint initiatives.
- 93.** The Irish and UK authorities should ensure mutual cooperation in the healthcare sector through bilateral arrangements. This could include the establishment of negotiating bodies between Ireland and the UK to replace negotiations that would have happened at

EU level, which could be explored provided it is compatible with Ireland's continued membership of the EU.

Rights of Healthcare Workers

94. The retention of the rights of UK and EU citizens in each others' jurisdictions post-Brexit, with particular rights to permanent residence granted to doctors, including those in the UK for less than five years.
95. The mutual recognition of qualifications must be retained.
96. While there are concerns over the number of Irish medical professionals moving to the UK, particularly nurses and midwives, further incentives to keep such workers in Ireland could be explored. The importance of UK programmes in training healthcare workers should also be recognised.

Regulation

97. There are concerns that common European rules on pharmaceuticals, medical devices, data protection, as well as legislation aiding the movement of health care professionals may no longer apply, and not be replaced by something similar.
98. It is imperative that common standards on patient safety, medical education and training are maintained between the EU and the UK post-Brexit. The cross-border recognition of patient prescriptions should be maintained, as well as arrangements for the secure transfer of patient data from one side of the border to the other.

European Medicines Agency

99. Ireland's bid for the relocation of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) is welcome and could present a number of opportunities and benefits for Ireland and Northern Ireland.

APPENDIX FIVE: MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

Senator Gerard P. Craughwell	Independent
Senator Paul Daly	Fianna Fáil
Senator Pippa Hackett	Civil Engagement Group ¹
Senator Ian Marshall	Independent
Senator Michelle Mulherin	Fine Gael
Senator Ged Nash	Labour
Senator Niall Ó Donnghaile	Sinn Féin
Senator Joe O'Reilly	Fine Gael
Senator Ned O'Sullivan	Fianna Fáil ²

¹ Senator Frances Black served on the Committee until 26 November 2019, when she was replaced by Senator Hackett

² Senator Mark Daly served on the Committee until 18 December 2018, when he was replaced by Senator O'Sullivan

APPENDIX SIX: TERMS OF REFERENCE

11 JULY 2019 TO 31 DECEMBER 2019

Seanad Éireann on 11 July 2019 Ordered:

“Go leanfaidh –

(1) d'ainneoin aon ní sna Buan-Orduithe nó in Orduithe an 4 Iúil 2018 agus an 20 Nollaig 2018 ón Seanad i leith Roghchoiste Speisialta an tSeanaid um an Ríocht Aontaithe do Tharraingt Siar as an Aontas Eorpach, agus

(2) de réir an mholta ón gCoiste um Nós Imeachta agus Pribhléidí,

Roghchoiste Speisialta an tSeanaid um an Ríocht Aontaithe do Tharraingt Siar as an Aontas Eorpach de bheith ar marthain agus go ndéanfar Ordú an 4 Iúil 2018, ón Seanad, arna leasú le hOrdú an 20 Nollaig 2018, a leasú tuilleadh trí ‘30 Meitheamh 2019’ a scriosadh i mír (7) agus ‘31 Nollaig 2019’ a chur ina ionad.

That –

(1) notwithstanding anything in Standing Orders or in the Orders of the Seanad of 4th July, 2018 and 20th December, 2018 in respect of the Seanad Special Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, and

(2) in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee on Procedure and Privileges,

the Seanad Special Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union continue in being and the Order of the Seanad of 4th July, 2018, as amended by the Order of 20th December, 2018, be further amended by the deletion in paragraph (7) of ‘30th June, 2019’ and the substitution therefor of ‘31st December 2019’.”

4 JULY 2018 TO 30 JUNE 2019

Seanad Éireann on 20 December 2018 Ordered:

“Go ndéanfar Ordú an 4 Iúil 2018, ón Seanad a bhaineann le Roghchoiste Speisialta an tSeanaid um an Ríocht Aontaithe do Tharraingt Siar as an Aontas Eorpach, a leasú trí ‘31 Nollaig 2018’ a scriosadh i mír (7) agus ‘30 Meitheamh 2019’ a chur ina ionad.

That the Order of the Seanad of 4th July, 2018, relating to the Seanad Special Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, be amended by the deletion, in paragraph (7), of ‘31st December 2018’ and the substitution therefor of ‘30th June 2019’.”

Seanad Éireann on 4 July 2018 Ordered:

“D’ainneoin aon ní sna Buan-Orduithe—

That, notwithstanding anything in Standing Orders —

(1) go ndéanann Seanad Éireann—

(1) Seanad Éireann —

(a) á thabhairt dá aire, i dtaobh na gcaibidlí maidir leis an Ríocht Aontaithe do tharraingt siar as an Aontas Eorpach, a thábhachtaí atá siad, ar bhonn leanúnach, d’Éirinn,

(a) noting the continued importance for Ireland of the negotiations for the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union,

(b) á thabhairt dá aire tionchar ionchasach leanúnach na gcaibidlí ar go leor réimsí den bheartas poiblí, agus

(b) noting the continued potential impact of the negotiations on many areas of public policy, and

(c) ag féachaint don obair atá déanta ag Roghchoiste Speisialta an tSeanaid um an Ríocht Aontaithe do Tharraingt Siar as an Aontas Eorpach (‘an Chéad Choiste’) agus dá Thuarascáil dar teideal ‘Brexit: Impleachtaí agus Réitigh Ionchasacha’ inar aithníodh cuid mhór de na dúshláin shuntasacha agus na réitigh ionchasacha chun dul i ngleic leis na dúshláin sin,

(c) having regard to the work of the Seanad Special Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (‘the First Committee’) and its Report entitled ‘Brexit: Implications and Potential Solutions’ which identified many of the significant challenges and potential solutions to address those challenges, appoints a Seanad Special Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (‘the Committee’) to —

Roghchoiste Speisialta Seanaid um an Ríocht Aontaithe do Tharraingt Siar as an Aontas Eorpach (‘an Coiste’) a cheapadh chun na nithe seo a leanas a dhéanamh —

(i) an cur chuige a ghlacfar sna caibidlí i ndáil le fionnachtana agus moltaí an Chéad Choiste ina Thuarascáil ‘Brexit: Impleachtaí agus Réitigh Ionchasacha’ (Meitheamh 2017), agus an chaoi a gcuirfear na moltaí agus na fionnachtana sin i ngníomh, a leanúint,

(i) track the implementation and approach taken in the negotiations in relation to the findings and recommendations of the First Committee in its Report ‘Brexit: Implications and Potential Solutions’ (June 2017),

(ii) ionchur a thabhairt i ndáil le Seanad Éireann do bhreithniú na gcaibidlí

(ii) provide input to consideration by Seanad Éireann of the withdrawal

	maidir leis an tarraingt siar,		negotiations,
	(iii) dul i mbun plé le toscaireachtaí parlaiminteacha a thiocfaidh ar cuairt, agus		(iii) engage with visiting parliamentary delegations, and
	(iv) dul i mbun plé le hinstitiúidí iomchuí de chuid an Aontais Eorpaigh agus le hionadaithe tofa sa Bhreatain Mhór agus i dTuaisceart Éireann.		(iv) engage with relevant institutions of the European Union and elected representatives in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
(2)	Deichniúr comhaltaí a bheidh ar an gCoiste, ar comhalta amháin díobh an Seanadóir Neale Richmond a bheidh ina Chathaoirleach, agus a mbeidh naonúr díobh ainmnithe ag an gCoiste Roghnóireachta mar a leanas:	(2)	The Committee shall consist of ten members of whom one shall be Senator Neale Richmond who shall be Chairman and of whom nine shall be nominated by the Committee of Selection as follows:
	Grúpa Fhine Gael 2 chomhalta,		Fine Gael group 2 members,
	Grúpa Fhianna Fáil 2 chomhalta,		Fianna Fáil group 2 members,
	An Grúpa Neamhspleách 2 chomhalta,		Independent group 2 members,
	Grúpa Shinn Féin 1 chomhalta,		Sinn Féin group 1 member,
	An Grúpa Comhpháirteachas Phoiblí 1 chomhalta,		Civil Engagement group 1 member,
	Grúpa Teicniúil an tSeanaid 1 chomhalta		Seanad Technical group 1 member.
(3)	Cúigear is córam don Choiste.	(3)	The quorum of the Committee shall be five.
(4)	Beidh ag an gCoiste na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i mBuan-Ordú 72, seachas míreanna (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (9), (10), (11) agus (12) de.	(4)	The Committee shall have the powers defined in Standing Order 72, other than paragraphs (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (9), (10), (11) and (12) thereof.
(5)	Ní bheidh feidhm ag míreanna (2) go (6), go huile, de Bhuan-Ordú 77 maidir leis an gCoiste.	(5)	Paragraphs (2) to (6) inclusive of Standing Order 77 shall not apply to the Committee.
(6)	Ní bheidh feidhm ag mír (2) de Bhuan-Ordú 84 maidir leis an gCoiste.	(6)	Paragraph (2) of Standing Order 84 shall not apply to the Committee.
(7)	Déanfaidh an Coiste tuarascáil deiridh a thabhairt do Sheanad Éireann tráth nach déanaí ná an 31 Nollaig 2018,	(7)	The Committee shall make a final report to Seanad Éireann not later than 31 st December 2018 and thereupon stand

agus air sin beidh an Coiste arna dhíscaoileadh.

dissolved.”

23 FEBRUARY 2017 TO 30 APRIL 2018

Seanad Éireann on 14 December 2017 Ordered:

“Go ndéanfar, de réir an mholta ón gCoiste um Nós Imeachta ordú an 23 Feabhra 2017, ón Seanad, arna leasú le hOrdú an 13 Aibreán 2017 agus le hOrdú an 20 Iúil 2017, a bhaineann le Roghchoiste Speisialta an tSeanaid um an Ríocht Aontaithe do Tharraingt Siar as an Aontas Eorpach, a leasú mar a leanas:

(i) trí ‘31 Nollaig 2017’ a scriosadh i mír 10 agus ‘30 Aibreán 2018’ a chur ina ionad;

(ii) tríd an mír nua seo a leanas a chur leis:

“(11) Á aithint dó go bhfuil dul chun cinn suntasach déanta sna comhchaibidlí maidir leis an tarraingt siar, ón uair a d’ullmhaigh an Coiste a Thuarascáil, déanfaidh an Coiste an cheist a bhreithniú i dtaobh an leor an fiúntas breise chun gurbh fhiú dó cromadh ar an dara céim dá chuid oibre. Ullmhóidh an Coiste measúnú ar an gceist agus tabharfaidh sé tuairisc air tráth nach déanaí ná an 30 Aibreán 2018.

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee on Procedure and Privileges, that the Order of the Seanad of 23rd February, 2017, as amended by the Orders of 13th April, 2017 and 20th July, 2017, relating to the Seanad Special Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, be amended as follows:

(i) by the deletion in paragraph 10 of ‘31st December, 2017’ and the substitution therefor of ‘30th April, 2018’;

(ii) By the addition of the following new paragraph:

“(11) Recognising that the withdrawal negotiations have progressed significantly since the Committee prepared its Report, the Committee shall consider whether there is sufficient added value in beginning a second phase of its work. The Committee shall prepare an assessment and report thereon not later than the 30th April, 2018.”

Seanad Éireann on 20 July 2017 Ordered:

“Go ndéanfar Ordú an 23 Feabhra 2017, ón Seanad, arna leasú le hOrdú an 13 Aibreán 2017, a bhaineann le Roghchoiste Speisialta an tSeanaid um an Ríocht Aontaithe do Tharraingt Siar as an Aontas Eorpach, a leasú trí na míreanna seo a leanas a chur leis i ndiaidh mhír (7):

‘(8) Nuair a bheidh an Coiste tar éis a thuarascáil deiridh a thabhairt do Sheanad Éireann, féadfaidh sé dul i mbun plé le hionadaithe tofa agus páirtithe gaolmhara sa Bhreatain Mhór agus i dTuaisceart Éireann maidir leis na fionnachtana agus na moltaí a bheidh déanta sa tuarascáil sin.

(9) Chun críche mhír (8) agus d’ainneoin mhír (4), leanfaidh an Coiste de na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i míreanna (1), (2) agus (9) de Bhuan-Ordú 71, agus na cumhachtaí sin amháin, a bheith aige.

(10) Déanfaidh an Coiste tuairisc a thabhairt do Sheanad Éireann tráth nach déanaí ná an 31 Nollaig 2017, maidir le haon ghníomhaíocht arna gabháil de lámh de réir mhír (8) agus air sin beidh sé arna dhíscaoileadh.’

That the Order of the Seanad of 23rd February, 2017, as amended by the Order of 13th April, 2017, relating to the Seanad Special Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, be amended by the addition of the following paragraphs after paragraph (7):

‘(8) When the Committee has made its final report to Seanad Éireann it may engage with—elected representatives and related parties in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in respect of the findings and recommendations made in that report.

(9) For the purpose of paragraph (8) and notwithstanding paragraph (4) the Committee shall continue to have only the powers defined in paragraphs (1), (2) and (9) of Standing Order 71.

(10) The Committee shall report to Seanad Éireann not later than 31st December, 2017, in respect of any activity undertaken in accordance with paragraph (8) and shall thereupon stand dissolved.’.”

Seanad Éireann on 13 April 2017 Ordered:

“Go ndéanfar Ordú an 23 Feabhra 2017, ón Seanad, a bhaineann le Roghchoiste Speisialta an tSeanaid um an Ríocht Aontaithe do Tharraingt Siar as an Aontas Eorpach, a leasú trí ‘1(h) Todhchaí na hEorpa,’ a chur isteach i ndiaidh mhír 1(g).

That the Order of the Seanad of 23rd February, 2017, relating to the Seanad Special Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, be amended by the insertion after paragraph 1(g) of ‘1(h) Future of Europe,’.”

Seanad Éireann on 23 February 2017 Ordered:

“D’ainneoin aon ní sna Buan Orduithe—

That, notwithstanding anything in Standing Orders—

(1) mar aitheantas ar na hiarmhairtí ionchasacha a thiocfaidh mar thoradh ar bhreith na Ríochta Aontaithe tarraingt siar as comhaltas an Aontais Eorpaigh, go ndéantar Coiste Speisialta, ar a dtabharfar Roghchoiste Speisialta an tSeanaid um an Ríocht Aontaithe do Tharraingt siar as an Aontas Eorpach (‘an Coiste’) a cheapadh chun impleachtaí na tarraingthe siar sin i leith na hÉireann a bhreithniú, ag tagairt go háirithe do na nithe seo a leanas:

(1) In recognition of the potential consequences of the decision of the United Kingdom to withdraw from membership of the European Union, a special committee, which shall be called the Seanad Special Select Committee on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (‘the Committee’), be appointed to consider the implications for Ireland of such withdrawal, with particular reference to the following matters:

(a) na himpleachtaí do gheilleagar na hÉireann ag cásanna imeachta chrua nó imeachta bhoig,

(a) the implications for the Irish economy of hard and soft exit scenarios,

(b) an caidreamh idir an Stát agus Tuaisceart Éireann,

(b) relations between the State and Northern Ireland,

(c) cearta saoránachta phobal uile Thuaisceart Éireann,

(c) the citizenship rights of all the people of Northern Ireland,

(d) an Comhlimistéar Taistil agus an Teorainn: gluaiseacht earraí, seirbhísí agus daoine idir an Stát agus Tuaisceart Éireann agus idir Éire agus An Bhreatain Mhór,

(d) the Common Travel Area and the Border: movement of goods, services and people between the State and Northern Ireland and between Ireland and Great Britain,

(e) talmhaíocht agus iascach,

(e) agriculture and fisheries,

(f) iompar, fuinneamh agus cumarsáid,

(f) transport, energy and communications,

(g) leas, sláinte agus oideachas,

agus do cibé nithe gaolmhara eile a chinnfidh an Comhchoiste.

(g) welfare, health and education,

and to such other related matters as the Committee may determine.

(2) Deichniúr comhalta a bheidh ar an gCoiste, ar comhalta amháin díobh An Seanadóir Neale Richmond a bheidh ina Chathaoirleach/ina Cathaoirleach agus a mbeidh naonúr díobh ainmnithe ag an gCoiste Roghnóireachta mar a leanas:

Grúpa Fine Gael 2 chomhalta,
Grúpa Fhianna Fáil 2 chomhalta,
An Grúpa Neamhspleách 2 chomhalta,
Grúpa Shinn Féin 1 chomhalta,
An Grúpa Comhphárteachais
Phoiblí 1 chomhalta,
Grúpa Pháirtí an Lucht
Oibre 1 chomhalta.

(2) The Committee shall consist of ten members, of whom one shall be Senator Neale Richmond who shall be Chairman, and of whom nine shall be nominated by the Committee of Selection as follows:

Fine Gael group 2 members,
Fianna Fáil group 2 members,
Independent group 2 members,
Sinn Féin group 1 member,
Civil Engagement group 1 member,
Labour group 1 member.

(3) Cúig is córam don Choiste.

(3) The quorum of the Committee shall be five.

(4) Beidh ag an gCoiste na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i mBuan-Ordú 71 seachas míreanna (2A), (3), (4), (4A), (4B), (6), (6A), (6B) agus (6C) de.

(4) The Committee shall have the powers defined in Standing Order 71, other than paragraphs (2A), (3), (4), (4A), (4B), (6), (6A), (6B) and (6C) thereof.

(5) Ní bheidh feidhm ag míreanna (2) go (6), go huile, de Bhuan-Ordú 76 maidir leis an gCoiste.

(5) Paragraphs (2) to (6) inclusive of Standing Order 76 shall not apply to the Committee.

(6) Ní bheidh feidhm ag mír (2) de Bhuan-Ordú 83 maidir leis an gCoiste.

(6) Paragraph (2) of Standing Order 83 shall not apply to the Committee.

(7) Déanfaidh an Coiste tuarascáil deiridh a thabhairt do Sheanad Éireann nach déanaí ná 30 Meitheamh, 2017.

(7) The Committee shall make a final report to Seanad Éireann not later than 30th June, 2017.”

APPENDIX SEVEN: REFERENCES

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