

North/South Ministerial Council



An Chomhairle Atrachta
Thuaidh/Theas

annual report 2000

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INTRODUCTION BY JOINT SECRETARIES

INTRODUCTION

We are very pleased to present the first Annual Report of the North/South Ministerial Council (NSMC). Established under the terms of the Belfast Agreement of Good Friday 1998, the NSMC brings together representatives of the Northern Ireland Executive and the Irish Government to develop consultation, co-operation and action within the island of Ireland on matters of mutual interest. Our task as Joint Secretaries, together with our colleagues in the Joint Secretariat, is to support the work of the Ministers in the Council and to help ensure the smooth and efficient conduct of its business.

We are honoured to work with the Ministers from both jurisdictions, their Departments and Agencies and the Boards and staff of the new North/South Bodies in taking forward the mandate given to us all under the Belfast /Good Friday Agreement. We would also like to put on record our appreciation of the commitment of our own staff in the Joint Secretariat in Armagh who have worked diligently to ensure the success of the Council.

We look forward to playing our part in the consolidation of the new North/South institutions and in ensuring that the potential for mutual benefit that they hold can be delivered upon effectively and efficiently.

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CHAPTER 1
**BACKGROUND TO THE NORTH/SOUTH
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

THE COUNCIL

- 1.1 The North/South Ministerial Council (NSMC) was established on Thursday 2 December 1999 on the entry into force of the British-Irish Agreement, which was signed by the British and Irish Governments as part of the Agreement reached in the Multi-Party Negotiations on Good Friday in Belfast on 10 April, 1998 ("the Agreement"). The Agreement stipulates that the North/South Ministerial Council will bring together those with executive responsibilities in Northern Ireland and the Irish Government to develop consultation, co-operation and action within the island of Ireland - including through implementation on an all-island and cross-border basis - on matters of mutual interest and within the competence of each Administration, North and South. The NSMC, therefore, comprises Ministers of the Northern Ireland Administration and the Irish Government, working together to take forward co-operation between both parts of the island to mutual benefit.
- 1.2 The Agreement provided that at least 12 subject areas would be identified for co-operation and implementation for mutual benefit under the aegis of the Council. Co-operation in these areas would be implemented in two ways - in the case of at least six of them by means of existing bodies in each jurisdiction separately (also commonly referred to as the Areas for Co-operation), and in the case of at least six others by means of new North/South Implementation Bodies (also commonly referred to as the North/South Bodies) operating at a cross-border or all-island level.
- 1.3 The Agreement also provided that the 12 Areas in question would be identified and agreed by the representatives of the Northern Ireland transitional Administration and the Irish Government, in consultation with the British Government as part of a work programme of the transitional North/South Ministerial Council.
- 1.4 Prior to the meeting of the transitional North/South Ministerial Council, negotiations between the parties and the two Governments resulted in agreement on the 12 Areas. The outcome of these negotiations was set out in a Joint Statement issued by the First Minister (designate) and Deputy First Minister (designate) on 18 December 1998.
- 1.5 In that statement, the Six Areas identified as those in which co-operation would be taken forward by the new North/South Bodies, were as follows:

AREAS OF OPERATION OF THE COUNCIL

- 1.2 The Agreement provided that at least 12 subject areas would be identified for co-operation and implementation for mutual benefit under the aegis of the Council. Co-operation in these areas would be implemented in two ways - in the case of at least six of them by means of existing bodies in each jurisdiction separately (also commonly referred to as the Areas for Co-

Inland Waterways
Food Safety
Trade and Business
Development
Special EU Programmes
Language (Irish and Ulster-Scots)
Aquaculture and Marine Matters.

- 1.6 Aspects of six other Areas, listed below, were identified as those in which co-operation would be taken forward by existing bodies in each jurisdiction separately:

Agriculture
Education
Environment
Health
Transport
Tourism.

- 1.7 In accordance with the Statement of 18 December, 1998, the British and Irish Governments subsequently concluded an Agreement on the establishment of the North/South Bodies - "Agreement between the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland establishing Implementation Bodies," signed on 8 March, 1999 ("the British-Irish Agreement of 8 March, 1999"). The British-Irish Agreement of 8 March, 1999 formally set out the functions and structure of the North/South Bodies and the common arrangements applying to them.
- 1.8 The British-Irish Agreement of 8 March, 1999 was given domestic effect, North and South, by means of the North/South Co-operation (Implementation Bodies) (Northern Ireland) Order, 1999, and the British-Irish Agreement Act, 1999, respectively.

would take place. Accordingly, for this purpose, the Council met in transitional form on 1 December, 1999 in Belfast, at Parliament Buildings, Stormont. At this meeting the Irish Government was represented by Mr John O'Donoghue, TD, Minister for Justice and by Ms Liz O'Donnell, TD, Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs. The Northern Ireland transitional administration was represented by Rt Hon David Trimble, MP, MLA, First Minister (designate) and by Mr Seamus Mallon, MP, MLA, Deputy First Minister (designate).

- 1.10 At this meeting, the Council formally confirmed the 12 Areas and the arrangements in relation to them set out in paragraphs 1.5 to 1.8 above.
- 1.11 These 12 Areas constitute those matters on which the Council can take decisions by agreement on (a) policies for implementation separately in each jurisdiction and on (b) policies and actions at an all-island and cross-border level for implementation by the North/South Bodies. Further development of these arrangements is possible by agreement in the Council, and with the specific endorsement of the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Oireachtas, subject to the extent of the competences and responsibilities of the two Administrations.

TRANSITIONAL MEETING OF NSMC

- 1.9 As mentioned above, the Agreement required that the North/South Ministerial Council, meeting in transitional form, should agree the areas where co-operation and implementation





CHAPTER 2

THE OPERATION OF THE NORTH/SOUTH
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

THE FORMATS OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

- 2.1 The NSMC meets in a number of Formats. It meets in Plenary Format with the Northern Ireland Executive delegation led by the First Minister and Deputy First Minister and the Irish Government delegation led by the Taoiseach and the Tánaiste. The task of the Plenary is to take an overview of co-operation on the island and of the North/South institutions.
- 2.2 The NSMC also meets in Sectoral Format to oversee co-operation in the agreed 12 Areas or Sectors, as described in Chapter 1. The NSMC meets in relation to each of the 12 Sectors a number of times per year. At these meetings, the Irish Government side is represented by the Minister responsible for that Sector, while the Northern Ireland Executive is represented by two Ministers nominated by the First Minister and Deputy First Minister on a cross-community basis, one normally being the Minister with responsibility for that Sector within the Executive. This is in line with the requirements of the Agreement and the Northern Ireland Act 1998 that participation by the Executive in the NSMC must be such as to ensure cross-community involvement.
- 2.3 By December 2000, a total of 21 meetings in Sectoral Format and two Plenary meetings had taken place.
- 2.4 The Agreement also provided for the NSMC to meet in Institutional Format to consider institutional and cross-sectoral issues, including in relation to the EU and to resolve any disagreements. (The Council did not meet in this Format to year end 2000).
- 2.5 All NSMC decisions are by agreement between the two sides in the Council.

FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

- 2.6 The Council carries out a number of functions in accordance with Strand Two of the Agreement. These were set out in the Agreement, as follows:
- To exchange information, discuss and consult with a view to co-operation on matters of mutual interest within the competence of both Administrations, North and South;
 - To use best endeavours to reach agreement on the adoption of common policies, in areas where there is a mutual cross-border and all-island benefit, and which are within the competence of both Administrations, North and South, making determined efforts to overcome any disagreements;

- To take decisions by agreement on policies for implementation separately in each jurisdiction, in relevant meaningful areas within the competence of both Administrations, North and South;
- To take decisions by agreement on policies and action at an all-island and cross-border level to be implemented by the North/South Bodies.

NORTH/SOUTH BODIES

2.7 Each of the six North/South Bodies operates on an all-island basis. While having a clear operational remit, all function under the overall direction of the North/South Ministerial Council, with clear accountability lines back to the Council and to the Oireachtas and the Northern Ireland Assembly.

2.8 The Bodies are:

Waterways Ireland

The Food Safety Promotion Board (FSPB)

The Trade and Business Development Body (InterTradelreland)

The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)

The North/South Language Body (consisting of two Agencies i.e. Foras na Gaeilge and Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch)

The Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission (FCILC) (consisting of two Agencies i.e. the Loughs Agency and The Lights Agency)

2.9 In regard to three of the Bodies, InterTradelreland, the North/South Language Body and the FCILC, the functions of each Body are exercised by a Board appointed by the NSMC. A fourth Body, the FSPB, has an advisory Board, also appointed by the NSMC. In its case, the functions of the Body are exercised by the Chief Executive. The remaining two Bodies, Waterways Ireland and the SEUPB, do not have Boards; in each of these cases, the functions of the Body are exercised by the Chief Executive.

2.10 The North/South Bodies are funded from grants made by the two administrations, North and South. The Bodies may employ staff or may employ the services of other persons for particular purposes. In the initial stage of their establishment the Bodies have been largely staffed by civil servants seconded from their parent Departments, North and South. However, the Bodies have also been taking on directly recruited staff.

2.11 Further information on the work of the North/South Bodies is set out in the Sectoral Reports in Chapter 4.

AREAS FOR CO-OPERATION

2.12 The Areas for co-operation and the aspects that were agreed for initial consideration by the NSMC are as follows:

- **Transport:** strategic planning and development of cross-border co-operation (while co-operation would primarily arise in respect of road and rail planning, it would take account of issues arising in the port and airport sectors), and road and rail safety;

- **Agriculture:** discussion of CAP issues, animal and plant health policy and research and rural development;
- **Education:** education for children with special needs (eg autism, hearing impairment), educational underachievement, teacher qualifications, and school, youth and teacher exchanges;
- **Health:** accident and emergency planning; emergency services, co-operation on high technology equipment, cancer research and health promotion;
- **Environment:** research into environmental protection, water quality management and waste management in a cross-border context;
- **Tourism:** it was agreed to establish a publicly-owned limited company to market the island of Ireland overseas as a tourism destination.

2.13 Further information on the work of the Council in these areas is set out in the Sectoral Reports in Chapter 4.

NORTH/SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL JOINT SECRETARIAT

2.14 The work of the North/South Ministerial Council is supported by a standing Joint Secretariat, staffed by members of the Northern Ireland Civil Service and the Irish Government Civil Service - see Chapter 5.

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CHAPTER 3
NSMC PLENARY FORMAT MEETINGS

NSMC PLENARY FORMAT MEETINGS



- 3.1 The Council met in Plenary Format twice between December, 1999 and December, 2000. The Inaugural Plenary Meeting was held in Armagh on 13 December, 1999 and the second Plenary Meeting was held in Dublin Castle on 26 September, 2000. At both these meetings the Irish Government delegation was led by the Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern TD and the Tánaiste, Ms Mary Harney TD, and the Northern Ireland Executive delegation was led by the First Minister, the Rt Hon David Trimble, MP MLA and the Deputy First Minister, Mr Séamus Mallon, MP MLA.
- 3.2 At the Inaugural Plenary Meeting, both sides in the Council acknowledged the importance of the occasion as a significant step in the implementation of the Agreement. They looked forward to the role that the Council could play in developing consultation, co-operation and action within the island of Ireland - including
- through implementation on an all-island and cross-border basis on matters of mutual interest within the competence of the Administrations, North and South. The Council agreed that there was very real potential for mutual benefit in many sectors and they looked forward to realising that potential in the Council in the period ahead.
- 3.3 Both sides also agreed, recalling the commitment in the Agreement to the principles of partnership, equality and mutual respect as the basis of relationships between North and South, that the Council should play a central role in promoting reconciliation within, and in ensuring a better future for all the people on, the island.
- 3.4 At this Inaugural meeting the Council:
- adopted a Memorandum of Procedure setting out

- arrangements relating to the proceedings and operation of the Council;
 - agreed the location of headquarters and of other offices of the six North/South Bodies and of the Tourism company;
 - made appointments of members to the Boards of the Bodies;
 - agreed an outline programme of work in the Areas for Co-operation as a basis for follow-up in the appropriate sectoral format meetings, and that the relevant programme of work should be tabled at the first meetings of the Council in each appropriate sectoral format;
 - considered its approach to future work arrangements, programmes and meetings, including the sectoral formats of its meetings. (The details of these formats are contained in chapter 4);
- 3.5 The Council also agreed that the question of additional sectoral formats would be agreed by the Council meeting in Institutional format.
- 3.6 The Second Plenary took an overview of the progress made in getting the new North/South institutions up and running and it noted the satisfactory progress made in setting in train a substantial programme of work in respect both of the North/South Bodies and of the agreed Areas for Co-operation.
- 3.7 The main decisions taken by the Council at this Plenary meeting included:
- agreeing procedures for recruiting Chief Executives of a number of North/South Bodies, and the terms and conditions of service for staff employed by the Bodies;
 - agreeing an initial opinion on the budgets for the North/South Bodies for the period 2001 to 2003. The Council envisaged that the total to be spent by the Bodies in 2001 would be IRE64m, £48m Sterling. This reflected the continuing work of the Bodies which were expected to employ some 900 staff in total during the course of 2001;
 - agreeing to initiate a study on an Independent North/South Consultative Forum, appointed by the two Administrations, as recommended for consideration in the Agreement. The Council agreed that a Working Group of officials from both Administrations and the Joint Secretariat would be established to take forward the study and report to the next meeting of the Plenary;
 - at this meeting the Irish Government agreed to co-operate with the Northern Ireland Executive in taking forward a study, through a steering group of officials, North and South, on the obstacles to mobility between the two parts of the island. This initiative was in response to the Northern Ireland Executive's Agenda for Government which identified actions to support North/South development including the need to take action to remove barriers to living/working North or South;

- the Council had a useful exchange of views on an Irish Government paper on enhancing competitiveness of the two economies on the island, North and South, and it agreed that further consideration should be given to the matter by the Council in its Trade and Business Development format;
 - it was anticipated that the Council would meet by agreement in Institutional Format before the next Plenary meeting.
- 3.8 The Council also had a discussion on a number of EU issues.
- 3.9 A list of the Ministers who attended the Plenary meetings is set out in Annex 1.

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CHAPTER 4
NSMC SECTORAL FORMAT MEETINGS

INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 This Chapter provides an outline of the work of the NSMC in Sectoral Format from the inception of the Council in December, 1999 to the end of 2000. The Council covers 12 Sectors, corresponding to the 12 Areas which constitute those matters on which the Council can take decisions by agreement (a) on policies for implementation separately in each jurisdiction and (b) on policies and actions at an all-island and cross-border level for implementation by the North/South Bodies.

4.1.2 A list of the Ministers who attended these meetings is at Annex 2.

INLAND WATERWAYS SECTOR

WATERWAYS IRELAND

4.2.1 The Council meets in the Inland Waterways Sector in order to take decisions on policies and action to be implemented by Waterways Ireland. Details in regard to the Ministers attending the meetings of the Council in this Sector are contained in Annex 2.

4.2.2 Waterways Ireland has assumed responsibility for specific navigable inland waterways on the island. It is empowered to engage in promotion, including marketing and development of the inland waterways.

4.2.3 There was one meeting of the North/South Ministerial Council in its Inland Waterways Sectoral format in the year to end 2000. At this meeting, the Council gave

direction to the work of Waterways Ireland. A report on the activities of the Body follows.

Waterways Ireland 1999/2000

FUNCTIONS/OBJECTIVES

4.2.4 Waterways Ireland's primary function is the management, maintenance, development and restoration of the inland navigable waterway system throughout the island, principally for recreational purposes. Waterways Ireland is responsible for the following navigation systems which were previously under the control of the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands in the South and the Rivers Agency in the North:

- The Shannon-erne Waterway, The Erne System, The Grand Canal, The Barrow Navigation, The Lower Bann Navigation, The Royal Canal, The Shannon Navigation.

4.2.5 Waterways Ireland is also charged with:

- Taking forward further studies and appraisals in relation to the possible restoration of the Ulster Canal, and
- responsibility for Shannon-erne Waterways Promotions Ltd.

4.2.6 Waterways Ireland's Headquarters is in Enniskillen with Regional Offices in Scarriff, Co. Clare, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim and Dublin.

4.2.7 Waterways Ireland does not have a Board of Directors. The Interim Chief Executive for Waterways Ireland during its first year of activities was Mr John Mahony. (Mr John Martin has since been appointed as the permanent Chief Executive).

ESTABLISHMENT/ADMINISTRATION

4.2.8 Waterways Ireland successfully completed the first phase of its establishment during the period under review when a number of important practical arrangements were put in place. Within a short space of time, it was functioning from an interim Headquarters in Dublin and work was started on establishing its new permanent Headquarters in Enniskillen. Regional offices are being set up in Scarriff, Co Clare, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim and in Dublin.

4.2.9 The Body initially assumed responsibility for the Shannon Erne Waterway. On 1 April 2000 the island's other specified navigable waterways were transferred to the Body, when a three region structure - Eastern, Western and Northern - came into effect. These are the Erne System, the Grand Canal (including the Barrow Navigation), the Lower Bann Navigation, the Royal Canal and the Shannon Navigation.

4.2.10 As a first step, an interim organisation structure was put in place to ensure continuity in the provision of works and services and this arrangement has worked well. By the end of 2000, Waterways Ireland had 287 staff. The aim is to have the full staff complement of 381 in place during the first half of 2002.

4.2.11 Progress was also made on a number of other issues related to the administration of the new Body including the putting in place of the necessary financial procedures and powers, the process of development of an information technology system and the drafting of the Equality Scheme on fair employment required under Northern Ireland legislation.

4.2.12 A draft code of conduct was also submitted to the two sponsoring Departments and a formal sealed order was made authorising named staff to enforce bye-laws.

4.2.13 The year 2000 Budget requirement for Waterways Ireland, approved at the Sectoral Meeting held in Belfast on 21 June 2000, was IR£14.0m (Stg £10.8m). The out-turn for the year was IR£11.7m (Stg £9m).

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

4.2.14 In line with the decisions made by Council, Waterways Ireland made substantial progress in a number of key areas. Major capital projects on the Shannon Navigation, the Grand and Royal Canals and the Lough Erne Moorings all made satisfactory progress. In addition, the important work of maintenance was advanced on all navigations under Waterways Ireland's control.

4.2.15 The Body commissioned further consultancy on the feasibility of the re-opening of the Ulster Canal.

4.2.16 A number of initiatives were taken on waterways promotion. Following discussions with tourism interests, boating/cruising on the inland navigations was

selected for promotion as a separate niche market.

4.2.17 A number of meetings took place with User Groups including the Lough Erne and Lower Bann Advisory Committees. The Erne Boat Rally and the Youth Cruise 2000 from Killaloe to Enniskillen were facilitated. A presentation was made to the Millennium Rally in Athlone.

4.2.18 Waterways Ireland also undertook outreach activities at an international level including participation in the World Canal Conference in the USA.

HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY SECTORS

FOOD SAFETY PROMOTION BOARD

4.3.1 The Council meets in the Health and Food Safety Sectors in order to consider matters for co-operation in Health as well as to take decisions on policies and action to be implemented by the Food Safety Promotion Board, which is a North/South Implementation Body. Details in regard to the Ministers attending the meetings of the Council in these Sectors are contained in Annex 2.

4.3.2 A meeting of the Council in the Health and Food Safety Sectors, arranged for 24 November 2000, did not take place, because no Northern Ireland Ministers were nominated to attend.

4.3.3 The Food Safety Promotion Board is principally charged with the promotion of food safety and supporting North/South scientific co-operation and links between institutions working in the field

of food safety. It has an Advisory Board of 12 members, appointed by the NSMC (see Annex 6).

4.3.4 The Council met in sectoral format on two occasions in 2000 to consider Health and Food Safety matters. At these meetings, the Council gave direction to the work of the Food Safety Promotion Board, - a report on the activities of the Board follows.

4.3.5 The Council meeting in these Sectors also considered the potential for co-operation in each of the five identified areas in the Health sector and commissioned officials to undertake a significant programme of work - further details are contained in the report on health cooperation on pages 60 and 61.

FOOD SAFETY PROMOTION BOARD

FUNCTIONS/OBJECTIVES

4.3.6 The Food Safety Promotion Board is principally charged with promoting food safety - through public campaigns, conferences, training and advising professionals and the general public. It is also involved in supporting North/South scientific co-operation, and links between institutions working in the field of food safety - laboratories, statutory food safety enforcement agencies, international and domestic research bodies. Its remit also includes the promotion of scientific co-operation and linkages between laboratories and the development of cost-effective facilities for specialised laboratory services, North and South. Cross-border co-operation in all of

these areas, between organisations working these fields, is central to the work of the Body. The Board began operations by establishing a number of informal interdisciplinary functional groups to assist in the elaboration of functions. The output from these groups was used to help develop an initial corporate strategy and annual plan.

ESTABLISHMENT/ADMINISTRATION

4.3.7 The Food Safety Promotion Board was formally launched in November 2000 by Micheál Martin, TD, the Minister for Health and Children and by Ms Bairbre de Brún, the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety. The Body's Headquarters is at Little Island in Cork. The Body has an interim Chief Executive, Mr Martin Higgins and an Advisory Board consisting of 12 members, appointed by the NSMC. The NSMC will appoint a Chief Executive and an Advisory Committee to include scientific experts and representatives of broader food safety interests. The Board currently has a temporary staff of seven but when fully operational it will have a staff complement of 30 (projected). While the Board's Scientific Advisory Committee has yet to be appointed, an informal interim committee has been convened to provide scientific and technical advice.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

4.3.8 In its first year in operation the Food Safety Promotion Board has made substantial progress in a number of key areas. To coincide with its launch in November 2000, a TV food safety promotion advertising campaign,

under the Board's "safefood" brand, was initiated. For communication through the medium of Irish, a brand name "biaslán" has been developed. To complement the TV advertising campaign the Board established a helpline service and has developed a consumer leaflet based on key food safety messages of 'cook, clean, chill and separate'. A further campaign was developed for the Christmas period and 350,000 leaflets were distributed through major supermarket chains and local butcher shops.

4.3.9 On the scientific and technical side the Board issued a research call in Autumn 2000, and as a result has commissioned 8 all-island research projects. The projects include; development of a rapid test for the pathogen *M. tuberculosis*, analysis of the operation of domestic fridges, establishing the effectiveness of food safety control systems in industry, examining the potential health effects of residues in poultry meat, assessment of a range of pathogens in raw milk and a telephone based survey to provide enhanced data on food borne diseases in the community. A further research call was issued in December 2000 with a closing date for submissions of 23 February, 2001.

4.3.10 In view of the public disquiet in relation to BSE, the Board undertook to develop a consumer information leaflet "BSE - the facts" in consultation with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland and the Food Standards Agency Northern Ireland.

- 4.3.11 The Board has also established an expert group to examine stimulant drinks and the Board is co-operating with the Irish Universities Nutrition Alliance on the launch of a major study on consumption patterns throughout the island.

Trade and Business Development Sector

Trade and Business Development Body - InterTradelreland

- 4.4.1 The Council meets in the Trade and Business Development Sector in order to take decisions on policies and action to be implemented by the Trade and Business Development Body. Details in regard to the Ministers attending the meetings of the Council in this Sector are contained in Annex 2.
- 4.4.2 The Trade and Business Development Body, which operates under the name of InterTradelreland, exercises a range of functions in the trade and business sector. InterTradelreland works in close collaboration with the existing development agencies, North and South, with a focus on promoting North/South trade and business co-operation by building enterprise capability and competitiveness.
- 4.4.3 There were three meetings of the NSMC in the Trade and Business Development Sector to end year 2000. At these meetings, the Council gave direction to the work of InterTradelreland - see the report on the activities of the Body following.

InterTradelreland - The Trade and Business Development Body

Functions/Objectives

- 4.4.4 InterTradelreland - The Trade and Business Development Body - exercises a valuable range of functions in the trade and business sector. Under the overall policy direction of the NSMC, InterTradelreland works in close collaboration with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Belfast, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Dublin, and with the existing development agencies, North and South. It has a focus on promoting North/South trade and business co-operation by building enterprise capability and competitiveness. InterTradelreland aims to add value to the work being carried out by the existing development agencies.
- 4.4.5 InterTradelreland also has objectives to enhance enterprise competitiveness in a North/South context in areas such as skills availability, telecoms, information technology and electronic commerce by encouraging information share, joint marketing initiatives, joint research and development and other ventures as well as maximising the potential of e-business across the island.
- 4.4.6 The Board of InterTradelreland is chaired by Dr Martin Naughton and the vice-Chair is Mr Harold Ennis. The Chief Executive of InterTradelreland is Mr Liam Nellis. The Board members are set out in Annex 6.

Establishment/Administration

- 4.4.7 In the first year of operation substantial effort went into establishing the Body on a firm footing. The Body moved to temporary on-site accommodation in Newry pending completion of its permanent offices in 2001. The recruitment of the Body's permanent staff was also commenced and is continuing in order to achieve a projected staffing complement of up to 42.
- 4.4.8 The Body also made progress on producing a Draft Equality Scheme on fair employment required under Northern Ireland legislation.
- 4.4.9 In November the Body launched its new corporate image, including brand name and logo at a four-city roadshow.
- 4.4.10 The Body was tasked by the Council, meeting in Plenary format in September, with considering proposals on enhancing competitiveness of the two economies on the island, North and South.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 4.4.11 InterTradelreland had a successful first year of operations. Key achievements of the Body, operating under the direction of NSMC, included the following:

Equity/Venture Capital:

InterTradelreland, as tasked, put forward recommendations to the NSMC on the development of a North/South equity-funding programme in the context of the existing range of equity fund provision throughout the island. The proposals focused on the promotion of role models of

family businesses using venture capital; creation of an all-island register of non-executive directors; developing awareness and understanding of venture capital issues among key influencers via an innovative media strategy; development of new all-island seed corn products aimed at improving the commercial prospects for specific types of projects; and addressing the risk capital for early stage investments. The Council approved these recommendations and specific proposals are now being drawn up by InterTradelreland.

North/South Placement

Programmes: InterTradelreland also put forward recommendations to the NSMC on developing a North/South placement programme which seeks to transfer knowledge and expertise from universities and colleges to SMEs by supporting the employment of degree or diploma holders. These recommendations were also accepted by the Council and work is ongoing to establish this initiative.

Road Show Events: In November, InterTradelreland held four Road Shows in Dublin, Belfast, the Shannon Region and the North-West. At these events, the new corporate identity was launched and significant linkages created with the business community.

A survey of the businesses at each event was carried out, and as a result a report has been produced which will be used to prioritise the strategic approach of InterTradelreland to the immediate needs of business and industry in terms of all-island trade.

Testing & Analytical Services and Standards, Accreditation and Certification: The Body was tasked with bringing forward for NSMC consideration proposals on (i) the North/South dimensions of providing testing and analytical services for industry on a commercial basis and (ii) the implementation of standards development, certification services and accreditation services on an all-island basis. The Body considered these issues but, given the developed nature of services in these areas, did not recommend any specific action to be taken. This was accepted by NSMC.

4.4.12 Other Achievements:

InterTradelreland was involved in a number of other important initiatives throughout the year which impact on all-island trade issues. These included:

- developing a discussion paper on all-island sub-supply possibilities;
- developing a discussion paper on Higher Education Industry Linkages;
- hosting an all-island e-commerce workshop on E-Business/E-Commerce Initiatives: a consultancy report has been commissioned to open up areas for development in this regard;
- developing a discussion report on cross-border trade issues;
- the development of more accurate systems to measure and assess cross-border trade, both goods and services, in conjunction with HM Customs and Excise, the Central Statistics Office in Dublin, and the Northern Ireland Economic Research Centre;

- scoping existing North/South activities and analysing outcomes;
- advances in relationship building through making contact with all the economic development agencies and interested players on the island. The body has continued to develop these relationships on an ongoing basis, and
- developing nine sectoral reports identifying opportunities, North and South, in the retail sector.

SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES SECTOR

SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

4.5.1 The Council meets in the Special EU Programmes Sector in order to take decisions on policies and action to be implemented by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). Details in regard to the Ministers attending the meetings of the Council in this Sector are contained in Annex 2.

4.5.2 The SEUPB has significant managerial, including grant-making and oversight functions in relation to the new Community Initiatives under the post-1999 European Structural Funds and the new Peace Programme. The Body also has responsibility for monitoring and promoting the implementation of North/South co-operative actions through the medium of the Common Chapter in the National Development Plan for Ireland and the Northern Ireland Structural Funds Plan.

4.5.3 The NSMC met in this sectoral format on two occasions in 2000. At these meetings, the Council gave direction to the work of the Special EU Programmes Body. A report on the activities of the Body follows.

SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

FUNCTIONS/OBJECTIVES

4.5.4 The SEUPB has significant managerial, including grant-making and oversight functions in relation to the new Community Initiatives under the post-1999 European Structural Funds, Interreg III, Leader +, Urban II, Equal and the new Peace Programme. Until the conclusion of the current Community Initiatives, it also has managerial and oversight functions in respect of the Interreg and Peace Initiatives. The Body also has responsibility for monitoring and promoting the implementation of North/South co-operative actions through the medium of the Common Chapter in the National Development Plan for Ireland and the Northern Ireland Structural Funds Plan.

ESTABLISHMENT/ADMINISTRATION

4.5.5 During 2000, the SEUPB developed the internal policies and procedures required to run a public body. The Body finalised its Corporate and Business Plans and complied with its statutory duty, under Northern Ireland legislation, to prepare a draft Equality Scheme.

4.5.6 An average of 19 staff have worked with the Body in the year 2000. The majority of these are based in the Belfast HQ. In

addition the SEUPB also opened offices in Monaghan and Omagh, Co Tyrone. The Monaghan office will have responsibility for the INTERREG programme while the Omagh office will oversee delivery of aspects of the Peace II Programme and manage the new local delivery arrangements of that Programme.

4.5.7 The SEUPB does not have a Board of Directors. The Chief Executive is Mr John McKinney. The start-up arrangements for the Body were facilitated initially by Mr Ralph Walker and subsequently by Mr Philip Angus, who served as Interim Chief Executives prior to the appointment of Mr McKinney.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

4.5.8 The timing of the establishment of the SEUPB coincided with the commencement of the new round of European Structural Funds 2000-2006. This meant that the Body was involved from the very start in the development of the Programmes, giving it a crucial role in determining the shape and delivery of these Programmes. The SEUPB was pro-active in instituting a publicity campaign primarily for the Structural Funds Programmes but which also served to publicise the existence of the Body and establish its identity and presence among the general public.

4.5.9 A significant amount of activity by the Body has been directed at the development of the new Peace Programme and the INTERREG III Community Initiative. In partnership, the Body and the two Finance Departments, North and South, have developed the Peace II Programme for 2000-2004 and the INTERREG III A Community

Initiative. During 2000, the SEUPB contributed to negotiations with the European Commission on these Programmes and the Community Support Frameworks for the new round of Structural Funds in Ireland and Northern Ireland. In addition, the Body contributed to the drafting of other Community Initiatives, viz. Equal, Urban II and Leader+, which are delivered both in the South and in Northern Ireland. Following on from the decision of the NSMC in November 2000, the SEUPB submitted draft proposals in relation to these Community Initiatives to the European Commission. The Body will be involved in negotiations with the European Commission as these Programmes are developed during 2001.

- 4.5.10 Of particular importance has been the input of the SEUPB to the development of North/South co-operative actions across all of the EU Programmes and in the context of the "Common Chapter" of the Northern Ireland Structural Funds Plan and the National Development Plan for Ireland. During 2000, the Chief Executive of the SEUPB represented the Body on the Monitoring Committees for each of the Operational Programmes, North and South. The Monitoring Committees are responsible for managing the delivery and operation of the Operational Programmes.

LANGUAGE SECTOR

THE NORTH/SOUTH LANGUAGE BODY AN FORAS TEANGA THA BOORD O LEID

- 4.6.1 The Council meets in the Language Sector in order to take decisions on policies and action to be implemented by the North/South Language Body and its two agencies - Foras na Gaeilge and Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch. Details in regard to the Ministers attending the meetings of the Council this Sector are contained in Annex 2.
- 4.6.2 The Language Body is a single Body reporting to the NSMC, but composed of two separate and largely autonomous agencies: the Irish Language Agency, Foras na Gaeilge, and the Ulster-Scots Agency, Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch.
- 4.6.3 Foras na Gaeilge, which took over the functions of Bord na Gaeilge, has responsibility for the promotion of the Irish language on an all-island basis. Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch has responsibility for the promotion of greater awareness and use of Ullans and of Ulster- Scots cultural issues, both within Northern Ireland and throughout the island. The Chairperson of Foras na Gaeilge, Mrs Maighr ad U  Mh irt n, and the Chairperson of Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch, Lord Laird of Artigarvan, are joint Chairpersons of the Language Body. The Board Members are set out in Annex 6.
- 4.6.4 There were two meetings in the NSMC Language Sector to end year 2000. At these meetings, the Council gave direction to the

work of Foras na Gaeilge and Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch. Reports on the activities of these Agencies follows.

FORAS NA GAEILGE

Feidhmeanna/Cuspóirí

- 4.6.5 4.6.5 Is í an cuspóir atá ag Foras na Gaeilge, an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn fud fad oileán na hÉireann. Chomh maith le cúraimí Bhord na Gaeilge, tugadh réimse leathan feidhmeanna don Fhoras chun chur lena éifeacht i gcur chun cinn na Gaeilge, mar shamplaie i gcúrsaí oideachais, foclóireachta agus téarmaíochta. Na feidhmeanna a bhí ag an nGúm maidir le foilsitheoireacht, tugadh don Fhoras iad fosta.
- 4.6.6 Sí Maighréad Uí Mháirtín, Cathaoirleach Fhoras na Gaeilge agus tá 15 baill eile ar Bhord stiúrtha an Fhorais. Tá liosta na mball in Aguisín 6. Is é Micheál Ó Gruagáin Príomhfheidhmeannach Eatramhach an Fhorais. Feidhmíonn Foras na Gaeilge mar chomhpháirtí leis Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch i gcomhdhéanamh an Fhoras Teanga.

Bunadh/Riarú

- 4.6.7 Bunaíodh an Foras ar an 2 Nollaig, 1999. Tionóladh sé chruinniú de Fhoras na Gaeilge sa tréimhse atá i gceist. Ina theannta sin, tionóladh cruinniú de Bhord an Fhoras Teanga ina iomláine den chéad uair ar 22ú Feabhra, 2000.

4.6.8 I lár na bliana 2000, cheap an Foras comhairleoirí - Farrell, Grant, Sparks - chun tabhairt faoin athstruchtúró an Fhorais agus plean stráitéiseach agus corparáideach a mholadh do Bhord an Fhorais. Tá dul chun cinn suntasach déanta ina leith seo.

4.6.9 Tá obair mhór atógála déanta ar an gCeannáras ag 7 Cearnóg Mhuirfean, Baile Átha Cliath agus le cabhair ón Roinn Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóilíochta táthar ag súil le seilbh a ghlacadh ar oifig shealadach oiriúnach i mBéal Feirste.

4.6.10 Ghlac Foras na Gaeilge chuige thart ar 45 ball foirne ó Bhord na Gaeilge agus ón Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta agus dá réir sin bhí foireann agus clár oibre substaintiúil aige ó lá a bhunaithe.

Gníomhaíochtaí

4.6.11 4.6.11 Bhí toradh fiúntach ar fheidhmiú an Fhorais sa chéad bhliain, go háirithe trí chabhair a thabhairt do thionscadail fhiúntacha Ghaeilge, agus d'eagrais Ghaeilge, trí nua a bhunadh agus trí ghníomhaíochtaí an Fhorais féin. Bhí na nithe seo a leanas i measc na bpríomhrudaí a cuireadh i gcrích sa bhliain 2000:

- Tugadh bunmhaoiniú do 15 eagrais agus maoiníodh breis is 50 mórthionscadal agus 360 Miontionscadal. Caitheadh thart ar €IR 5 Milliún ar an gcúram seo;

- Sa réimse cumarsáide bhí mór-fheachtas fógraíochta ag an bhForas ar na meáin chraolacháin ar fad -Thuaidh is Theas -agus rinne breis is 2,000 duine teagmháil dhíreach leis an bhForas dá bharr;
- Rinneadh conradh nua leis an nuachtán Foinse agus tugadh cabhair bhreise do LÁ agus d'irisí Ghaeilge chomh maith;
- Tosaíodh ar phleanáil chun an soláthar téacsleabhar agus áiseanna teagaisc Gaeilge a fhorbairt agus rinneadh an bhun-phleanáil ar mhórthionscadalcúig bliana chun foclóir nua Béarla/Gaeilge a chur ar fáil;
- Cuireadh moltaí polasaí chun cinn i gcúrsaí oideachais, Gaeltachta agus ealaíon;
- Cothaíodh caidreamh dearfach leis an Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht, Gaeltachta agus Oileán, leis an Roinn Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóilíochta, leis an Boord o Ulster-Scotch, le Comhrúnaíocht na Comhairle Aireachta Thuaidh/Theas, leis na Forais eile Thuaidh/Theas agus le raon leathan d'eagrais oifigiúla eile;
- Anois t páirtíochtaí tairbheacha ag feidhmiú anois idir an Fhoras, údarais áitiúla, eagrais sa réimse craolacháin, Iomairt Cholm Cille, Aan Roinn Comhshaoil agus an Rialtais Áitiúil agus le na heagrais San earnáil ghnó.

FORAS NA GAEILGE FUNCTIONS/OBJECTIVES

- 4.6.12 Foras na Gaeilge has the objective of promoting the Irish language on an all-island basis. As well as taking over the functions of Bord

na Gaeilge, a wide range of functions were give to the Agency to add to its effectiveness in the promotion of Irish, for example, in the area of education, dictionaries and terminology. It also took over the functions of An Gúm in relation to publications.

- 4.6.13 Mrs Maighréad Uí Mháirtín is Chairperson of Foras na Gaeilge and there are 15 other members on the Board. A list of the membership is given in Annex 6. Mr Micheál Ó Gruagáin is the Interim Chief Executive of the Agency. Foras na Gaeilge operates as a joint agency with the Ulster Scots Agency in the make-up of the North/South Language Body.

ESTABLISHMENT/ADMINISTRATION

- 4.6.14 Foras na Gaeilge was established on 2 December, 1999. The Board held six meetings in the period under review. The full Board of the North/South Language Body met for the first time on 22nd Feb 2000 .

- 4.6.15 In mid year 2000, the Foras na Gaeilge appointed consultants - Farrell, Grant, Sparks - to undertake a restructuring of the Agency and to propose a strategic and corporate plan to the Board of the Agency. Substantial progress has been made in this regard.

- 4.6.16 Major reconstruction work was undertaken at the Agency's headquarters at 7 Merrion Square, Dublin and, with the assistance of the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure it is hoped to take possession of suitable temporary premises in Belfast.

4.6.17 Foras na Gaeilge took on 45 staff members from Bord na Gaeilge and from the Department of Education and Science and therefore the Agency had substantial staff and work programmes on hand upon establishment.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

4.6.18 Foras na Gaeilge operated successfully in its first year, especially through assisting worthwhile Irish language projects, Irish language organisations and by establishing new partnerships and also through the Agency's own actions. The following were among the main achievements of the year:

- Core funding for 15 organisations was provided and funding was also provided for more than 50 major projects and 360 minor projects. A total of around Stg £5 million or IR £6.5m was spent on these activities;
- In the area of communications the Agency ran a major advertising campaign on all broadcast media - North and South - and more than 2,000 people contacted the Foras directly arising out of the campaign;
- The Agency entered into a new contract with the newspaper Foinse and additional assistance was given to LA and also to other Irish language magazines;
- Planning was commenced in order to increase the supply of Irish language textbooks and other teaching resources and preparatory planning for a major five year project to produce a new English/Irish Dictionary was also carried out;

- Policy proposals in relation to education, the Gaeltacht and the arts were brought forward;
- Positive relationships were developed with the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, the Ulster-Scots Agency, the Joint Secretariat of the North/South Ministerial Council, the other North/South Bodies and with a wide range of other official organisations;
- Beneficial partnerships now operate between Foras na Gaeilge and local authorities, organisations in the broadcasting area, the Columba Initiative, the Department of the Environment and Local Government and with organisations in the business sector.

THA BOORD O ULSTER-SCOTCH

FUNCTIONS/OBJECTIVES

4.6.19 Tha gien ettle at faa's in laa tae Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch bes 'tha forderin o mair forstannin an uise o tha Ulster-Scotch leid an o Ulster-Scotch fowkgate daeins baith ben Norlin Airlann an athort tha islann'.

4.6.20 Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch haes tha Laird Laird o Artygarvan fur Preses and it haes 7 ither memmers frobye. A leit o aa memmers o tha Boord is gien in Annex 6.

4.6.21 Tha Boord haes its Heich Offis sat up in Bilfawst an is fur settin up an unner offis in Dinnygal. Tha Boord haes taen on fower agentrie warkers – nae mair nor a braird acause o bein at a stairt-up. Hooaniver, tha Boord is ettlin on takin mair warkers on fur tae be fit tae dae aa at's pit oot in tha Boord's heich Ploy. Tha Boord brocht on its Heich Sel-Picturin thayeir anaa.

Tha fu Boord o tha Niarth/Sooth Council o Mannysters gat thegither fur thair furst forgaitherin on 22t Febrie 2000. Owre tha towmond tha Boord sut in Dinnygal fur thair furst time, an taen it as an apenin fur haudin a festive boord an gien biddins tae nearhaun representers an heidyins frae tha kirks, councils an tha braider kintra. Tha Boord forgaitherin (an its ploy o settin up an offis in Dinnygal) gat a brave when o coverage in tha paipers an it wes thocht weel o as a guid apener fur tha Boord in this pairt o tha kintra whaur Ulster-Scotch bes bag.

4.6.22 In the yeir 2000, the Agency taen fundin o £0.67 million for tae cuiver programme costs, sellaries o wirkars, an runin costs. Fur tha towmond o 2000 tha Boord gat siller bakkin o £0.67 million fur tha coasts o daeins, warkers an rennin.

4.6.23 WARK ON PITTIN THEGETHER
THA Heich Ploy begoud in May. Efter a bag twa-roadit speirin wi tha Boord memmers an agentrie warkers, tha Heich Poly wes gien tha bakkin o tha Boord in Sectemmer 2000. Syne the Ploy wes gien tha bakkin o tha Noarth-Sooth Council o Mannysters in November 2000. A muckle apen speirin anent tha Heich Ploy was syne pit oot

athort tha hale islann, an gaed on tae efter tha New Yeir.

Fur tae gie tha muckle apen speirin a stay, an fur makin siccar aaboadie roon tha warl cud hae wittens o tha ploy, a wabsteid – www.ulsterscotsagency.com wus biggit fur tae haud tha Heich Ploy, owreset intil thrie leids.

Amang tha ither bag new dargs daen wi tha Boord in 2000 wus:

- Tha stairt o taaks wi tha Varsitie o Ulster anent settin up tha Schuil o Ulster-Scotch Lear at tha steid o Magee College in pairtnerie wi tha Boord, an
- Tha stairto taaks wi tha Ulster FowkMuseum anent haein tha Museum tak on a muckle survey o tha Ulster-Scotch leid, whaur it gets taakit, an hoo braid an strang it bes yit. This projeck is fur takin in forbye a text o scrievit Ulster-Scotch an pittin thegither a twa-roadit dictionary wi Inglis.

THE ULSTER-SCOTS AGENCY

FUNCTIONS/OBJECTIVES

4.6.24 The remit of the Ulster-Scots Agency is "the promotion of greater awareness and the use of Ullans and of Ulster-Scots cultural issues, both within Northern Ireland and throughout the island".

4.6.25 Lord Laird of Artigarvan is the Chairman of the Ulster-Scots Agency and there are 7 other members on the Board. The membership of the Board is given in ANNEX 6.

ESTABLISHMENT/ADMINISTRATION

4.6.26 The Agency has established its main office in Belfast and will have a subsidiary office in Donegal. The Agency employs four members of staff - reflecting the fact that the Agency is in a start-up phase. However, it is planned to recruit further members of staff in order to deliver the programme of work which is set out in the Agency's draft corporate plan. The Agency also developed its corporate identity during the year.

4.6.27 The full Board of the North/South Language Body met for the first time on 22nd February 2000. During the year the Agency also held its first Donegal Board meeting and used the opportunity to host a dinner and invite local church, political and community representatives from the wider community. The Board meeting (and the intention to establish an office in Donegal) gained considerable local media coverage and the event was generally thought to be an excellent 'ice-breaker' for the Agency in this vital Ulster-Scots area.

4.6.28 In the year 2000, the Agency received funding of £0.67 million to cover programme costs, staff salaries and running costs.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

4.6.29 Work began on the formulation of the Corporate Plan in May. Following extensive consultation and research by the Board Members and Agency Staff the Corporate Plan was adopted by the Board of the Agency in September 2000. The Plan was then approved by the North/South Ministerial Council

in November 2000. A comprehensive public consultation process in relation to the draft plan was then put in train on an all island basis which continued well into the New Year.

4.6.30 As an aid to the public consultation process and to ensure that an international audience also had access to the plan, a web site - www.ulsterscotsagency.com - was constructed to carry the three language versions of the plan.

4.6.31 Other major initiatives carried out by the Agency in 2000 included:

- The opening of preliminary negotiations with the University of Ulster to establish the Institute of Ulster-Scots studies at the Magee Campus in partnership with the Agency, and
- The initiation of negotiations with the Ulster Museum with a view to having the Museum manage a major survey of the extent and health of the Ulster-Scots tongue. This project will also include the production of a text base for written Ulster-Scots and the compilation of a two-way dictionary with English.

AQUACULTURE AND MARINE SECTOR FOYLE, CARLINGFORD AND IRISH LIGHTS COMMISSION

4.7.1 The Council meets in the Aquaculture and Marine Sector in order to take decisions on policies and action to be implemented by the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission (FCILC). Details in regard to the Ministers attending the meetings of the

Council this Sector are contained in Annex 2.

- 4.7.2 The Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission exercises its functions through two agencies. The functions of the Commission in relation to the Foyle and Carlingford Areas are exercised through an agency known as the Loughs Agency. The Loughs Agency is now operational and has replaced the Foyle Fisheries Commission. It is also intended that the FCILC will be the General Lighthouse Authority for the island of Ireland. This function currently rests with the Commissioners of Irish Lights which has accountability to the UK Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions, as Trustee of the General Lighthouse Fund. However, it has been agreed that British and Irish legislation will be brought forward, as soon as possible, to transfer the Commissioners of Irish Lights functions to the FCILC. These functions will be exercised through an agency of the FCILC known as the Lights Agency.

- 4.7.3 Three meetings of the North/South Ministerial Council in its Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission format were held in 2000. At these meetings, the Council gave direction to the work of the Loughs Agency. A report on the activities of the Agency follows.

LOUGHS AGENCY

FUNCTIONS/OBJECTIVES

- 4.7.4 The Loughs Agency was given responsibility for the functions of the Foyle Fisheries Commission on 2 December 1999. These

functions, "the conservation, protection and improvement of the fisheries of the Foyle Area" were extended to the Carlingford Area. In addition the Agency is required to promote the development of Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough for commercial and recreational purposes in the area of marine fishery and aquaculture matters, including the development of marine tourism and the licensing of aquaculture.

- 4.7.5 Fundamental to the Agency undertaking this full range of responsibilities is the amendment of the primary legislation under which the Foyle Fisheries Commission operated. The necessary amendments to this legislation - the Foyle Fisheries Act 1952 and the Foyle Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1952 - are currently being prepared by the Department of Marine and Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

ESTABLISHMENT/ADMINISTRATION

- 4.7.6 The Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission has a board of 12 members appointed by the NSMC; the Commission is chaired by Mr Peter Savage and the Vice-Chair is Lord Cooke of Islandreagh. The Board of FCILC met on 4 occasions during 2000. The Chief Executive of the Loughs Agency is Mr Derick Anderson. The members of the Board are set out in Annex 6.

- 4.7.7 The staffing structure for the Loughs Agency and its Estimates were approved by the Board of the FCILC and NSMC in the course of the year. From a basic staff complement of 21 in 1999 another 16 staff were employed by the Loughs Agency in 2000.

For the year 2001 an additional 8 staff are projected to bring a full staff complement for the Agency of 45.

- 4.7.8 During the year new Headquarters were established at Prehen on the Foyle. The new premises will also contain interpretative and education facilities.
- 4.7.9 Codes of practice for both Commission Members and the staff were introduced as were the Corporate Plan, equal opportunities policy, harassment policy and Draft Equality Scheme.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 4.7.10 During the year customers in both the Foyle and Carlingford Areas were approached directly or through public advertisement for their opinions on how effective consultation could be achieved. Following on from this, consultants were employed to ensure an independent selection of representatives for an advisory forum of all the directly involved interests, and also for smaller focus groups to address more specific areas of interest, concern or contention.
- 4.7.11 Field staff undertook over 7000 hours' work in 2000 in relation to the detection and prevention of pollution. Protection of the Fisheries of the Foyle and Carlingford areas also required significant attention. The River Foyle between Strabane, Lifford and Lough Foyle required 8,500 hours, mostly during the summer period when adult salmon migrate into the system. The Agency was supported by the Fisheries Conservancy Board for Northern Ireland and the Eastern Regional Fisheries Board in the South in relation to the Carlingford Area until Agency

staff could be recruited and deployed.

- 4.7.12 The Agency completed a new salmon counting and trapping facility on the River Finn at Killygordon through the assistance of the EU Tourism Angling Measure and the International Fund for Ireland. A new fish pass at Ballyarten Weir on the River Faughan was completed under the EU Special Programme for Peace and Reconciliation.

THE LIGHTS AGENCY

- 4.7.13 As mentioned in paragraph 4.7.2, it is intended that the FCILC will be the General Lighthouse Authority for the island of Ireland. This function currently rests with the Commissioners of Irish Lights. These functions will be exercised through an agency of the FCILC known as the Lights Agency.
- 4.7.14 The Commissioners of Irish Lights (CIL) are governed by Part XI of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894 which vested the management of all lighthouses, beacons and buoys in Britain and Ireland in three bodies known as the General Lighthouse Authorities (GLAs). CIL is the Lighthouse Authority responsible for providing and maintaining aids to navigation throughout the 32 counties of Ireland and its adjacent seas and islands. The services provided by CIL and the other two lighthouse authorities are financed from the General Lighthouse Fund which is administered by the U.K. Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR). This Fund derives its income principally from light dues levied on commercial

shipping at ports in the U.K. and Ireland. The 1894 Act has been repealed in the UK but the provisions of Part XI have been contained in the Merchant Shipping Act, 1995.

- 4.7.15 There are specific provisions in the British-Irish Agreement Act, 1999 and the North-South Co-operation (Implementation Bodies) (Northern Ireland) Order, 1999 which acknowledge the need to put in place special arrangements for the Lights Agency in view of the unique East-West dimension and legislative and funding arrangements existing for CIL.
- 4.7.16 Discussions have been held between the British and Irish Governments and the relevant Northern Ireland Departments to address the considerable legislative, corporate and financial complexities involved. These discussions are ongoing.
- 4.7.17 The necessary Irish legislation (the British-Irish Agreement Act, 1999) was enacted in 1999 but commencement of the sections relevant to the Lights Agency has been held over, pending agreement on the arrangements to be made. DETR have advised that it will be some considerable time yet before the UK amending legislation is in place to enable the dissolution of CIL and the transfer of its functions to the FCILC. Both sides are agreed that the necessary amending legislation must be brought forward as soon as possible in line with the British-Irish Agreement of 8 March, 1999 on Implementation Bodies.

TRANSPORT SECTOR

- 4.8.1 The aspects of North/South co-operation in Transport that were agreed for initial consideration by the North/South Ministerial Council were strategic transport planning and road and rail safety.
- 4.8.2 There was one meeting of the NSMC in its Transport Sectoral format in 2000. Details in regard to the attendance at this meeting are contained in Annex 2.
- 4.8.3 Included among the decisions agreed by the NSMC at that meeting were:
- that a detailed work programme would be prepared in relation to strategic transport planning, based on a number of identified opportunities for co-operation including a review of strategies for the development of cross-border national/arterial roads; a review of the scope for further development of cross-border rail and bus services; and the identification of opportunities for practical co-operation on the implementation of specific transport projects and exchange of information and experience on urban transport, public private partnerships and rural/local transport provision;
 - that joint road safety campaigns would continue to be promoted by the Department of the Environment and the National Safety Council with one such campaign envisaged annually;
 - that research would be undertaken by the relevant authorities on both sides of the border on road accident matters in certain border areas;
 - that the scope for developing

mutual recognition of endorsements for road traffic offences be explored, and

- that a detailed work programme on Rail Safety would be prepared, based on identified opportunities for cooperation, including a review of the scope for complementarity between the future regulatory arrangements in both jurisdictions, practical implementation of railway safety arrangements in respect of cross-border rail services and consultation on relevant EU legislative proposals.

AGRICULTURE SECTOR

4.9.1 The aspects of North/South co-operation in Agriculture that were agreed for initial consideration by the North/South Ministerial Council were Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) issues, animal and plant health policy and research, and rural development. Details in regard to the Ministers attending the meetings of the Council in this Sector are contained in Annex 2.

4.9.2 The Council met on two occasions in this Sector in the year 2000.

4.9.3 The programme of work put in place in this Sector by the Council in its first year includes:

- the identification of areas in relation to animal and plant health research and development which have the greatest potential for further research collaboration and co-operation as well as a timetable for future work;

- the formalisation of liaison arrangements at official level on animal health matters including the establishment of a Strategic Steering Group which will co-

ordinate animal health policy on the island and make regular reports on co-operation on animal health matters together with recommendations for policy and/or operational decisions to the NSMC. Policy Working Groups are also to be established which will initially explore 8 different areas of animal health which apply to the whole island. These groups will be stood down or new ones formed, as required;

- the endorsement of a programme of work for the Steering Committee on Cross-Border Rural Development which forms the basis for a cross-border strategy for rural development within the Structural Funds timeframe 2000-2006;
- the maintenance of continued co-operation during the implementation phase of the EU's scheme of Less Favoured Area Payments.

4.9.4 The Council also agreed on the need for close interaction in the context of the forthcoming World Trade Organisation Round, EU Enlargement and reviews of the Common Agricultural Policy under Agenda 2000. Ministers agreed that these were extremely important issues for the future of the agri-sector on the whole island and agreed to liaise closely as negotiations progress, with the objective of ensuring that outcomes impact fairly and avoid trade distortions between North and South.

EDUCATION SECTOR

- 4.10.1 The aspects of North/South co-operation in Education that were agreed for initial consideration by the North/South Ministerial Council were education for children with special needs; educational underachievement; teacher qualifications and school, youth and teacher exchanges. Details in regard to the Ministers attending the meetings of the Council this Sector are contained in Annex 2.
- 4.10.2 Two meetings of the North/South Ministerial Council in its Educational Sectoral Format were held up to year-end 2000.
- 4.10.3 A meeting of the Council in the Education Sector, arranged for 24 November 2000, did not take place, because no Northern Ireland Ministers were nominated to attend.
- 4.10.4 At its two meetings the Council in this format considered and agreed:
- proposals on special educational needs and to devote particular priority to research in the areas of autism and dyslexia;
 - proposals on educational underachievement, particularly in the areas of pupil attendance/retention, literacy/numeracy and child protection;
 - proposals on teacher qualifications, and on school, youth and teacher exchanges;
 - an indicative range of cross-border related actions which might be supported in response to the new PEACE II Operational Programme on education and youth services sectors.
- 4.10.5 The Council agreed that a joint conference would be organised within the framework of the European Year of Languages 2001 to address issues of common interest in the area of language learning.
- 4.10.6 The Council agreed that, following on the success of the "Doors - Celebrating Lifelong Learning" project (a successful joint venture which involved live performance by young people, North and South) the initiative would be repeated. Approved too was a study by the Centre for Cross-Border Studies in Armagh on school, youth and teacher exchanges.
- 4.10.7 Arising from the decisions of the Council, Joint Working Groups of Officials from the two Education Departments were established:
- (i) to draw up concrete proposals for action on the following areas prioritised by the Council, that is:
- Special Education Needs Provision
Educational Underachievement (three groups, covering pupil attendance/retention; literacy/numeracy; child protection)
Teacher Qualifications (including superannuation issues)
School, Youth and Teacher Exchanges;
- (ii) to set out recommendations for putting into place delivery measures and projected timescales for addressing and reporting on these tasks; and
- (iii) to support conferences, study groups and study visits aimed at sharing expertise and building more effective networks of education professionals, North and South.

HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY SECTORS HEALTH CO-OPERATION

4.11.1 The Council in the Health and Food Safety Sectors considers matters for co-operation in Health as well considering matters related to the Food Safety Promotion Board. Details in regard to the Ministers attending the meetings of the Council in these Sectors are contained in Annex 2.

4.11.2 A meeting of the Council in the Health and Food Safety Sectors, arranged for 24 November 2000, did not take place, because no Northern Ireland Ministers were nominated to attend.

4.11.3 In relation to co-operation on health matters the North/South Ministerial Council was tasked with taking forward co-operation between North and South, on an initial basis, on accident and emergency planning, emergency services, co-operation on high technology equipment, cancer research and health promotion.

4.11.4 The Council met twice in the Health and Food Safety Sectors to end year December, 2000. At these meetings, the Council considered the potential for co-operation in each of the five identified areas. It was recognised that there were considerable benefits to be gained by the population in both parts of the island, North and South. The Council agreed to:

- the establishment of Joint Working Groups of officials of the two Departments of Health to bring forward concrete proposals for action on five areas, cancer research (in tandem with US

National Cancer Institute), health promotion, co-operation on high technology, accident and emergency services and major emergencies. During the year officials have met and identified a range of potential opportunities to be developed within each of the identified areas in relation to accident and emergency services and major emergencies.

- the working group on cancer research was asked to enhance further collaboration in the area of research with a view to developing a model for an all-island clinical trials structure linked to a larger international clinical trials network
- as Ireland North and South share many similarities in health status, the Working Group on health promotion was charged with identifying a programme of work for promoting health and preventing ill-health in both jurisdictions. The two Departments of Health collaborated on a highly successful folic acid media campaign in November which featured on both UTV and RTE. Other areas of co-operation identified for the future are a joint approach to targeting anti-smoking messages to young people, workplace health promotion initiatives, professional training and the possibility of performing a feasibility study on the benefits of a longitudinal study of heart health. The Folic Acid Campaign will also continue in 2001.

4.11.5 At the second Sectoral meeting, the Council was also provided with a presentation by Dr Jane Wilde from the Institute of Public Health on her organisation's activities. The Council paid

tribute to the important contribution being made to the Public Health sector on the island by the Institute, which is an all-island body established by the Ministers of Health, North and South, in 1998, and which works in close collaboration with the NSMC in this Sectoral Format.

ENVIRONMENT SECTOR

4.12.1 The aspects of North/South co-operation in Environment that were agreed for initial consideration by the North/South Ministerial Council were research into environmental protection, water quality management and waste management in a cross-border context. Details in regard to the Ministers attending the meetings of the Council this Sector are contained in Annex 2.

4.12.2 The Council met on two occasions in this Sector in 2000. The main decisions taken by the Council at these meetings included:

- the identification of environmental research and water quality management as initial priorities for co-operation and the approval of action on taking them forward. (On environmental research, this includes the establishment of a joint register of current research projects and identifying new technologies for monitoring. On water quality, this includes the taking forward of activity by a newly established North/South Working Party on water quality matters in relation to the Erne and Foyle catchments and the implementation of a proposed EU Water Framework Directive);
- agreement that the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) and the Environment and Heritage Service (EHS) would invite tenders for a jointly funded contract to develop a website of current environmental research;
- agreement that the joint report "New Technologies for Monitoring" would be placed on the relevant agency websites;
- agreement that co-operation on new technologies for monitoring be pursued, in the first instance, in relation to the aquatic environment with specific concentration on (a) chemical monitoring of surface waters (b) biological monitoring of surface waters and (c) fish stocks;
- agreement that a database development and co-operation programme should be taken forward on a progressive basis by the EPA and the EHS with particular emphasis on (a) examination of the options for completing the Corine land cover project 2000 on an all island basis (b) development and integration of a number of key databases (e.g. river water quality, air quality, groundwater, register of environmental data sources);
- agreement that a joint internet portal would be developed providing access and information on environmentally related data;
- agreement that a scoping study, including an inventory of relevant environmental management practices and controls currently applied to agriculture, North and South, would be undertaken with a view to the development of co-operation arrangements in respect of (a) nutrient management planning in agriculture and (b)

controls on cross border management/movement of slurries, particularly in the context of the EU Directive on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control.

TOURISM SECTOR

4.13.1 The NSMC, in the Tourism Sector, was tasked with the establishment of a publicly-owned limited company by Bord Fáilte Éireann and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board to promote the island of Ireland overseas as a tourist destination. The establishment of this new company, known as Tourism Ireland Ltd, was formally approved by the first NSMC meeting in the Tourism Sector on 27 October 2000. Details in regard to the Ministers attending the meetings of the Council in this Sector are contained in Annex 2.

4.13.2 The new Company, Tourism Ireland Limited, will promote the island of Ireland overseas as a tourist destination. It will operate under the overall policy direction of the NSMC.

4.13.3 The objectives for the Company, which have been agreed by the NSMC, are as follows:

- to plan and deliver international tourism marketing programmes, including programmes in partnership with the industry North and South;
- to publish and disseminate in overseas markets, information of a balanced and comprehensive nature on the island of Ireland as a tourist destination which must reflect the diverse traditions, forms of cultural expression and identities within the island;

- to carry out market research, to provide information and other appropriate assistance to help the industry develop the international marketing expertise;
- to co-operate with, consult, and assist other bodies or associations in carrying out such activities;
- to carry out surveys and collect relevant statistics and information;
- to subsume the activities currently carried out by the Overseas Tourism Marketing Initiative Ltd. (OMTI) and to acquire its business assets and undertakings;
- to carry out overseas marketing and promotion activity for Bord Fáilte Éireann and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board;
- to establish such committees and advisory groups as are thought fit to exercise such advisory or executive powers as may be thought proper, and to delegate any of its functions to any such committee; and
- to do such things that are necessary or desirable for the carrying out of the objects of the Company and its relevant business activities, including the establishment of overseas offices.

4.13.4 The Company will have a marketing budget of approx. IRE22 million ST EQUIVALENT per annum to carry out these activities. The company, which will have its headquarters in Dublin, will also have a regional office in Coleraine.

- 4.13.5 The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the new company have been filed in the Companies Registration Office in Dublin and the new company was formally incorporated on 11 December 2000.
- 4.13.6 On 19 December 2000, a twelve member Board of Directors was appointed to the Company by the NSMC. The Board is chaired by Mr Andrew Coppel, Group Chief Executive of Queens Moat Houses plc, and the Vice-Chairperson is Ms Ann Riordan formerly of Microsoft Ireland. The membership of the Board is given in Annex 6.
- 4.13.7 The Board is taking forward the set-up arrangements for the new Company in consultation with Bord Fáilte Éireann and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board with a view to having it fully operational for the 2002 Tourism Season.



CHAPTER 5
THE JOINT SECRETARIAT

BACKGROUND

5.1 Strand Two of the Agreement specified that the North/South Ministerial Council was to be supported by a standing Joint Secretariat, staffed by members of the Northern Ireland Civil Service and the Irish Government Civil Service. The Southern side of the Joint Secretariat operates under the aegis of the Department of Foreign Affairs, while the Northern side operates under the aegis of the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister.

STAFFING

5.2 The Memorandum of Understanding on Procedure agreed by the Council at the Inaugural Plenary meeting in Armagh on 13 December, 1999 dealt, inter alia, with the Joint Secretariat of the Council. Under the terms of the Memorandum, it was agreed that the Joint Secretariat would be located in Armagh headed by Joint Secretaries, one appointed by each Administration. Each side was also required to nominate a deputy Joint Secretary and other administrative and clerical support staff. Officials from both sides of the Secretariat work alongside one another in shared office accommodation in Armagh. Dick Mackenzie is the Northern Joint Secretary, and he took up his post in September 2000. Tim O'Connor is the Southern Joint Secretary, and he has been in the post since December 1999. The two Deputy Joint Secretaries are Helen Browne (South) and Derek Wheeler (North). An organisation chart is included in ANNEX 4.

FUNCTIONS

5.3 Under the terms of the Memorandum, the functions of the Joint Secretariat include:

- arranging the schedule of Council meetings in different formats;
- securing prior political/Ministerial agreement to agendas for meetings of the Council;
- preparing or commissioning papers for meetings of the Council, including in relation to its work programme;
- drafting joint communiqués and records of decisions of the Council;
- communicating decisions of the Council and monitoring their implementation;
- drafting an annual report on the proceedings of the Council;
- acting as a channel of communication with Implementation Bodies and facilitating their development;
- liaising, where appropriate through the designated Department or Office in either jurisdiction with the Secretariat of the British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference, with the Secretariat of the British Irish Council and with the North/South joint parliamentary forum and independent consultative forum when established;
- carrying out such other tasks as the Council may direct.

FUNDING

- 5.4 The costs of meetings of the North/South Ministerial Council are borne by the host administration, with travel and subsistence costs for Ministers and officials being borne by their administrations - see Annex 3.
- 5.5 Staff costs associated with the Joint Secretariat are met by their parent administrations. All other costs associated with the Joint Secretariat or the Council are divided equally between the two administrations.





ANNEX 1
ATTENDANCE AT PLENARY MEETINGS

NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS IN PLENARY FORMAT

DECEMBER 1999 - DECEMBER 2000

Monday 13 December 1999 - Inaugural Plenary Meeting,
 The Palace Demesne, Armagh

| Ministers Attending | |
|--|--|
| Northern Ireland Administration | Irish Government |
| Rt Hon David Trimble MP MLA (First Minister) (Joint Chair) | Mr Bertie Ahern TD (Taoiseach) |
| Mr Seamus Mallon MP MLA (Deputy First Minister) (Joint Chair) | Ms Mary Harney TD (Tánaiste & Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment) |
| Ms Bairbre de Brún MLA (Minister of Health, Social Services & Public Safety) | Dr Michael Woods TD (Minister for the Marine & Natural Resources) |
| Mr Mark Durkan MLA (Minister of Finance & Personnel) | Mrs Mary O'Rourke TD (Minister for Public Enterprise) |
| Sir Reg Empey MLA (Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment) | Mr David Andrews TD (Minister for Foreign Affairs) |
| Dr Sean Farren MLA (Minister of Higher and Further Education, Training & Employment) | Mr Joe Walsh TD (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Rural Development) |
| Mr Sam Foster MLA (Minister of the Environment) | Mr Brian Cowen TD (Minister for Health and Children) |
| Mr Michael McGimpsey MLA (Minister of Culture, Arts & Leisure) | Mr Charlie McCreevy TD (Minister for Finance) |
| Mr Martin McGuinness MP MLA (Minister of Education) | Mr Noel Dempsey TD (Minister for the Environment & Local Government) |
| Mrs Bríd Rodgers MLA (Minister of Agriculture & Rural Development) | Mr John O'Donoghue TD (Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform) |
| | Mr Michael Smith TD (Minister for Defence) |
| | Mr Dermot Ahern TD (Minister for Social Community & Family Affairs) |
| | Dr Jim McDaid TD (Minister for Tourism, Sport & Recreation) |
| | Ms Síle De Valera TD (Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & The Islands) |
| | Mr Micheál Martin TD (Minister for Education and Science) |

NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS IN PLENARY FORMAT

DECEMBER 1999 - DECEMBER 2000

Tuesday 26 September 2000 - 2nd Plenary Meeting,
Dublin Castle

| Ministers Attending | |
|--|--|
| Northern Ireland Administration | Irish Government |
| Rt Hon David Trimble MP MLA (First Minister) | Mr Bertie Ahern TD (Taoiseach) (Chair) |
| Mr Seamus Mallon MP MLA (Deputy First Minister) (Joint Chair) | Ms Mary Harney TD (Tánaiste & Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment) |
| Ms Bairbre de Brún MLA (Minister of Health, Social Services & Public Safety) | Dr Michael Woods TD (Minister for Education and Science) |
| Mr Mark Durkan MLA (Minister of Finance & Personnel) | Mrs Mary O'Rourke TD (Minister for Public Enterprise) |
| Sir Reg Empey MLA (Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment) | Mr Joe Walsh TD (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Rural Development) |
| Dr Sean Farren MLA (Minister of Higher and Further Education, Training & Employment) | Mr Brian Cowen TD (Minister for Foreign Affairs) |
| Mr Sam Foster MLA (Minister of the Environment) | Mr Noel Dempsey TD (Minister for the Environment & Local Government) |
| Mr Michael McGimpsey MLA (Minister of Culture, Arts & Leisure) | Mr Dermot Ahern TD (Minister for Social Community & Family Affairs) |
| Mr Martin McGuinness MP MLA (Minister of Education) | Ms Síle De Valera TD (Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & The Islands) |
| Mrs Bríd Rodgers MLA (Minister of Agriculture & Rural Development) | Mr John O'Donoghue TD (Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform) |
| | Mr Micheál Martin TD (Minister for Health and Children) |
| | Mr Frank Fahey TD (Minister for the Marine & Natural Resources) |
| | Mr Éamon Ó Cuiv (Minister of State of the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands) |
| | Ms Liz O'Donnell (Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs) |





ANNEX 2
ATTENDANCE AT SECTORAL MEETINGS

ATTENDANCE AT NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS: JANUARY- DECEMBER 2000

| Date | Sector | Venue | Northern Ireland Administration | Irish Government |
|------------------------|--|-------------------|--|---|
| Monday 24 January 2000 | Trade and Business Development | Newry | Sir Reg Empey, MLA, Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (Chair) Dr Sean Farren, MLA, Minister of Higher and Further Education, Training & Employment | Ms Mary Harney TD, Tánaiste & Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment |
| Thursday 3 February | Education | Dublin Castle | Mr Martin McGuinness, MP, MLA, Minister of Education Mr Dermot Nesbitt, MLA, Junior Minister | Dr Michael Woods TD, Minister for Education and Science (Chair) |
| Friday 4 February | Food Safety & Health Co-operation | Belfast | Ms Bairbre de Brún, MLA, Minister of Health, Social Services & Public Safety (Chair) Sir Reg Empey, MLA, Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment | Mr Micheál Martin TD, Minister for Health and Children |
| Wednesday 9 February | Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission | Derry/Londonderry | Mrs Brid Rodgers, MLA, Minister of Agriculture & Rural Development (Chair) Mr Dermot Nesbitt, MLA | Mr Frank Fahey TD, Minister for the Marine & Natural Resources |
| Friday 16 June | Special EU Programmes | Dublin | Mr Mark Durkan, MLA, Minister of Finance & Personnel Mr Sam Foster, MLA, Minister of the Environment | Mr Charlie McCreevy TD, Minister for Finance (Chair) |

| Date | Sector | Venue | Northern Ireland Executive | Irish Government |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|---|--|
| Wednesday 21 June | Waterways | Belfast | Mr Michael McGimpsey, MLA, Minister of Culture, Arts & Leisure (Chair) Ms Bairbre de Brún, MLA, Minister of Health, Social Services & Public Safety | Ms Síle De Valera TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & The Islands |
| Wednesday 21 June | Language | Belfast | Mr Michael McGimpsey, MLA, Minister of Culture, Arts & Leisure (Chair) Ms Bairbre de Brún, MLA, Minister of Health, Social Services & Public Safety | Mr Éamon Ó Cuív TD, Minister of State of the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands |
| Monday 26 June | Agriculture | Dublin | Mrs Bríd Rodgers, MLA, Minister of Agriculture & Rural Development Mr Dermot Nesbitt, MLA | Mr Joe Walsh TD, Minister for Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (Chair) |
| Wednesday 28 June | Environment | Belfast | Mr Sam Foster, MLA, Minister of the Environment (Chair) Ms Bairbre de Brún, MLA, Minister of Health, Social Services & Public Safety | Mr Noel Dempsey TD, Minister for the Environment & Local Government |
| Friday 30 June | Trade & Business | Lucan, Co. Dublin | Sir Reg Empey, MLA Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment Dr Sean Farren, MLA, Minister of Higher and Further Education, Training & Employment Mr Martin McGuinness, MP, MLA, Minister of Education (Chair) Sir Reg Empey, MLA, Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment | Ms Mary Harney, TD, Tánaiste & Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Chair) |
| Monday 3 July 2000 | Education | Cultra, Co. Down | | Dr Michael Woods TD, Minister for Education and Science |

ATTENDANCE AT NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS: JANUARY - DECEMBER 2000

| Date | Sector | Venue | Northern Ireland Administration | Irish Government |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|--|---|
| Tuesday 4 July | Health/Food Safety | Dublin | Ms Bairbre de Brún, MLA, Minister of Health, Social Services & Public Safety Mr Dermot Nesbitt, MLA | Mr Micheál Martin TD, Minister for Health and Children (Chair) Dr Tom Moffatt TD, Minister of State at the Department of Health and Children |
| Wednesday 5 July | FCILC | Dublin | Mrs Brid Rodgers, MLA, Minister of Agriculture & Rural Development Mr Michael McGimpsey, MLA, Minister of Culture, Arts & Leisure | Mr Frank Fahey TD, Minister for the Marine & Natural Resources (Chair) |
| Monday 23 October | Environment | Navan, Co Meath | Mr Sam Foster, MLA, Minister of the Environment Mrs Brid Rodgers, MLA | Mr Noel Dempsey TD, Minister for the Environment & Local Government (Chair) |
| Friday 27 October | Trade and Business Development | Belfast | Sir Reg Empey, MLA, Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (Chair) Dr Sean Farren, MLA, Minister of Higher and Further Education, Training and Employment | Ms Mary Harney, TD, Tánaiste & Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment |
| Friday 27 October | Tourism | Belfast | Sir Reg Empey, MLA, Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (Chair) Dr Sean Farren, MLA, Minister of Higher and Further Education, Training & Employment | Dr James McDavid TD, Minister for Tourism, Sport & Recreation |

| Date | Sector | Venue | Northern Ireland Executive | Irish Government |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|---|---|
| Friday 10 November | FCILC | Newcastle, Co. Down. | Mrs Brid Rodgers, MLA, Minister of Agriculture & Rural Development (Chair) Mr Dermot Nesbitt, MLA | Mr Frank Fahey TD, Minister for the Marine & Natural Resources |
| Wednesday 15 November | Special EU Programmes | Omagh, Co. Tyrone | Mr Mark Durkan, MLA, Minister of Finance & Personnel (Chair) Mr Dermot Nesbitt, MLA | Mr Charlie McCreedy TD, Minister for Finance |
| Friday 17 November | Agriculture | Greenmount Agricultural College, Antrim | Mrs Brid Rodgers, MLA, Minister of Agriculture & Rural Development (Chair) Mr Sam Foster, MLA, Minister of the Environment | Mr Joe Walsh TD, Minister for Agriculture, Food and Rural Development |
| Monday 5 December | Language | Dublin | Mr Michael McGimpsey, MLA, Minister of Culture, Arts & Leisure Dr Sean Farren, MLA, Minister of Higher and Further Education, Training & Employment | Mr Éamon Ó Cuív TD, Minister of State of the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (Chair) |
| Tuesday 19 December | Transport | Belfast | Mr David Trimble, MP, MLA, First Minister Mr Seamus Mallon, MP, MLA, Deputy First Minister (Joint Chairs) Mr Sam Foster, MLA, Minister of the Environment | Mrs Mary O'Rourke TD, Minister for Public Enterprise Mrs Mary O'Rourke TD, Minister for Public Enterprise Mr Noel Dempsey TD, Minister for the Environment & Local Government |





ANNEX 3
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

2 DECEMBER 1999 31 DECEMBER 2000

Payments and Budget (North & South)

Total payments for the initial financial period (2 December 1999 - 31 Dec 2000) amounted to IRE1,268,000/Stg£980,000 and a breakdown of the main expenditure areas is set out below.

The capital expenditure figures for the financial period include the cost of new and refurbished offices for staff.

NSMC Expenditure - 2 December 1999 - 31 December 2000

| | IRE '000 | Stg£ '000 | Euro '000 |
|--|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Current | | | |
| [Staff Salaries (North) | 665 | 514 | 844] |
| Administration (incl rent, stationery, phones etc) | 197 | 152 | 250 |
| NSMC Meetings (incl travel & subsistence) | 134 | 104 | 170 |
| Consultancy | <u>8</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>10</u> |
| Sub-Total | 1,004 | 776 | 1,274 |
| Capital | | | |
| Capital Expenditure (incl accom & equipt) | <u>264</u> | <u>204</u> | <u>335</u> |
| Total | 1,268 | 980 | 1,609 |



ANNEX 4
JOINT SECRETARIAT
ORGANISATION CHART

NSMC JOINT SECRETARIAT ORGANISATION CHART

NORTH

SOUTH

JOINT SECRETARIES

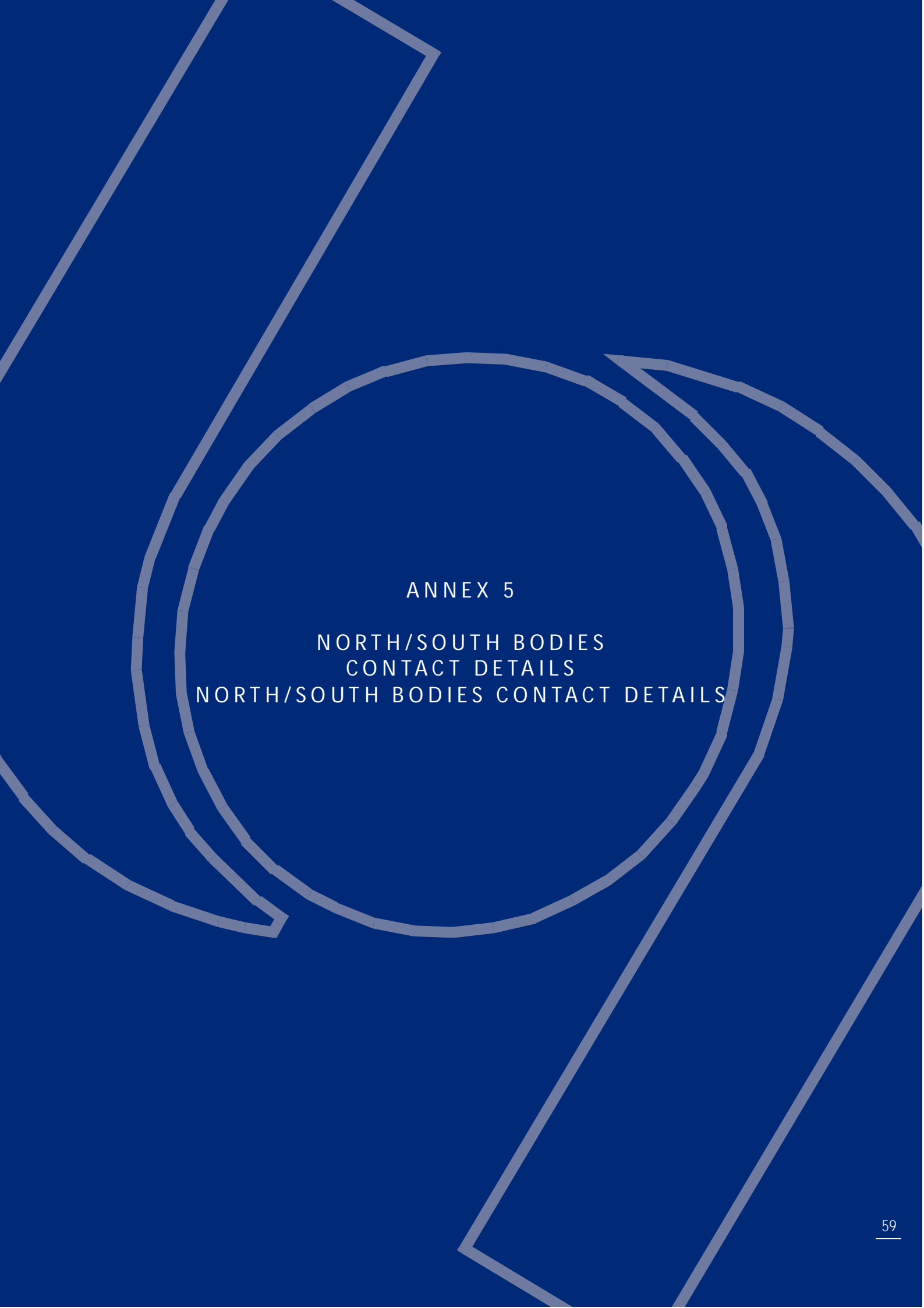
DEPUTY JOINT SECRETARIES

SECTORAL MANAGERS

SECTORAL OFFICERS

SECTORAL SUPPORT AND ADMINISTRATION

NSMC ANNUAL REPORT



ANNEX 5
NORTH/SOUTH BODIES
CONTACT DETAILS
NORTH/SOUTH BODIES CONTACT DETAILS

NORTH/SOUTH BODIES CONTACT DETAILS

WATERWAYS IRELAND

Headquarters:

20 Darling Street
Enniskillen
Co. Fermanagh
BT74 7EW
Tel. (028) 6632 3004
Fax (028) 66346237
Email: barbara.mcdougal@waterways-ireland.org

Northern Region:

Main Street
Carrick on Shannon
Co. Leitrim
Tel/Fax: (078) 50898

Western Region:

Market Square
Scarriff
Co. Clare
Tel: (061) 922033
Fax: (061) 922036

Eastern Region:

17/19 Lower Hatch Street
Dublin 2
Tel: (01) 6472557
Fax: (01) 6787778
Email: bjohnston@ealga.ie

FOOD SAFETY PROMOTION BOARD

7 Eastgate Avenue
Eastgate
Little Island
Cork
Tel: (021) 2304100
Fax: (021) 2304111
E-mail: info@fspb.org

INTERTRADEIRELAND - The Trade and Business Development Body

InterTradeIreland
Old Gasworks Business Park
Kilmorey Street
Newry
Co. Down BT34 2DE
Tel: (028) 30834100
Fax: (028) 30834155
E-mail: info@tbdb.org
Website: www.intertradeireland.com

SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

The addresses of the SEUPB are:

Commercial Union House
1-3 Donegall Square South
BELFAST BT1 5LN

Tel (028) 9054 8848
Fax (028) 90548939
e.mail: info@seupb.org

European Union House
13 Kevlin Road
OMAGH
Co. Tyrone
BT78 1LB

Tel (028) 82255750
Fax (028) 8224 8427
e.mail: seupb@freeserve.co.uk

European Union House
Castle Meadow Court
Dublin Road
MONAGHAN

Tel (047) 77003
Fax (047) 71258
e.mail interreg@seupb.ie

THE NORTH/SOUTH LANGUAGE BODY

FORAS NA GAEILGE

Foras na Gaeilge
7 Cearnóg Mhuirfean
Baile Átha Cliath 2
Tel: (01) 639 8400
Fax: (01) 639 8401
e-mail: eolas@bnag.ie
website: www.bnag.ie

TOURISM IRELAND LTD

Tourism Ireland Ltd
C/o Executive Suites
Harcourt Centre
Block 3
Harcourt Road
Dublin 2

Tel: (01) 418 2208 / (01) 418 2224
Fax: (01) 418 2248
E-mail: tourismireland@ireland.com

THA BOORD O ULSTER-SCOTCH

Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch:
Franklin House
10-12 Brunswick Street
Belfast BT2 7GE
Tel: (028) 90231113
Fax: (028) 90231898
e-mail:
info@ulsterscotsagency.org.uk

FOYLE, CARLINGFORD AND IRISH LIGHTS COMMISSION

Loughs Agency:

22 Victoria Road
Waterside
Derry/Londonderry BT47 2AB
Tel: (028) 7134 2100
Fax: (028) 7134 2720
E-mail: loughs@loughs-agency.org

Teach Eolais,

Old Quay Lane
Carlingford
Co. Louth
Tel: (042) 9373454





ANNEX 6
NORTH/SOUTH BODIES
BOARD MEMBERS

FOOD AND SAFETY PROMOTION BOARD ADVISORY BOARD

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr Don Anderson | Councillor Bertie Kerr (Chairperson) |
| Mr Leslie Craig | Mr Damien O'Dwyer |
| Ms Carmel Foley | Dr Danny O'Hare |
| Mr Ronan Garvey | Mr Ann Speed |
| Professor Mike Gibney (Vice Chairperson) | Professor Sean Strain |
| Professor Cecily Kelleher | Mr Michael John Walker |

THE TRADE AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BODY BOARD MEMBERS

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| The Duke of Abercorn | Mr Carl McCann |
| Ms Mary Ainscough | Mr Feargal McCormack |
| Ms Mary Breslin | Dr Inez McCormack |
| Dr Harold Ennis (Vice Chairperson) | Mr Kieran McGowan |
| Mr Barry Fitzsimmons | Dr Martin Naughton (Chairperson) |
| Ms Jackie Harrison | Mr Robbie Smyth |

NORTH/SOUTH LANGUAGE BODY FORAS NA GAELIGE BOARD MEMBERS

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Mrs Maighr ad U  Mh irt n (Chairperson of Foras na Gaeilge/Joint Chairperson of An Foras Teanga) | Ms Jacqueline N  Fheargusa |
| | Ms Br d N  N ill |
| Mr Liam Corey | Mr Maelsheachlainn   Caolla  |
| Ms Anne Craig | Mr Lochlann   Cath in |
| Mr Gordon McCoy | Mr Liam   Cuinneag in |
| Mr Patrick McGlone | Mr P draig   Duibhir |
| Mr Aod n Mac P il n | Mr Gear id   hEara ¹ |
| Mr Gear id MacSiacais | Mr S amus   Tonnaigh |
| Ms Treasa N  Ailp n | |

THA BOORD   ULSTER-SCOTCH BOARD MEMBERS

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Lord Laird of Artigarvan (Chairperson of Tha Boord   Ulster- Scotch/Joint Chairperson of North/South Language Body) Dr P draig de Bh l | Mr John Erskine |
| | Ms Lyn Franks |
| | Dr Linda Lunney |
| Mr James Devenney | Mr John McIntyre |
| | Dr Philip Robinson |

THE FOYLE, CARLINGFORD AND IRISH LIGHTS COMMISSION BOARD MEMBERS

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Mr Jack Allen | Ms Siobhan Logue |
| Mr Keith Anderson | Mr Joseph Martin |
| Mr Dick Blakiston-Houston | Mr Arthur Morgan |
| Lord Cooke of Islandreagh (Vice Chairperson) | Mr Peter Savage (Chairperson) |
| Mr Francis Feely | Ms Sheila Tyrrell |
| Dr Patrick J Griffin | Mr Andrew Ward |

¹ Cheap an Chomhairle Gear id   hEara i gcomharbacht ar an Chomhairleoir Cionnaith   S illeabh in ar 5 Nollaig, 2000. The NSMC appointed Gear id   hEara to replace Cllr Cionnaith   S illeabh in on 5 December, 2000.

TOURISM IRELAND LIMITED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| BOARD POSITION | NAME |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Chairperson | Mr Andrew Coppel |
| Vice-Chairperson | Ms Ann Riordan |
| Board Member | Mr Roy Bailie |
| Board Member | Mr John Dully |
| Board Member | Mr Dennis Galway |
| Board Member | Mr Howard Hastings |
| Board Member | Mr Tony Kelly |
| Board Member | Mr David McAuley |
| Board Member | Mr Felix Mooney |
| Board Member | Mr Noel McGinley |
| Board Member | Mr John Power |
| Board Member | Mr Charles Sinnott |



ANNEX 7
DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

CENTRAL DEPARTMENTS

Office of the First Minister and Deputy
First Minister
Parliament Buildings,
Upper Newtownards Road
Belfast
BT4 3ST

Tel: (028) 90 528420
Fax: (028) 90 528427

Northern Ireland Division
Department of the Taoiseach
Government Buildings
Upper Merrion Street
Dublin 2

Tel: (01) 662 4888
Fax: (01) 662 1972

North/South Section
Anglo/Irish Division
Department of Foreign Affairs*
80 St. Stephen's Green
Dublin 2

Tel: (01) 478 0822
Fax: (01) 478 5949

* Co-ordinating role on Southern side

INLAND WATERWAYS SECTOR

Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure
3rd Floor Interpoint
20-24 York Street
BELFAST
BT15 1AQ

Tel: (028) 9025 8825
Fax: (028) 9025 8906
E-Mail: decal@dcalni.gov.uk
Website: www.decalni.gov.uk

Department of Arts,
Heritage, Gaeltacht and the
Islands,

Dún Aimhirgin,
43-49 Mespil Road,
Dublin 4

Tel: (01) 647 3000
Fax: (01) 647 3051
E-Mail: eolas@ealga.ie
Website: www.irlgov.ie/ealga

HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY SECTORS

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

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

Department of Health and Children
Hawkins House
Dublin 2

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

TRADE AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SECTOR

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

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

Department of Higher and Further
Education, Training and Employment
Adelaide House
39-49 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8FD

Tel: (028) 90257777
Fax: (028) 90257778
E-Mail: alison.white@dhfeteni.gov.uk
Website: Under Construction

Department of Enterprise, Trade and
Employment
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Telephone: (01) 631 2121
Fax: (01) 631 2827
E-Mail:
Website: www.entemp.ie

SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES SECTOR

Department of Finance and Personnel
Rathgael House
BANGOR
Co Down
BT19 7NA

Tel: (028) 9127 9279
Fax: (028) 9185 8109
E-mail: dfpni@nicos.gov.uk
Website: www.dfpni.gov.uk

Department of Finance
Government Buildings
Merrion Street Upper
Dublin 2

Tel: (01) 676 7571
Fax: (01) 678 9936
E-mail:
Website: www.irlgov.ie/finance

LANGUAGE SECTOR

Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure
3rd Floor Interpoint
20-24 York Street
BELFAST
BT15 1AQ

Tel: (028) 9025 8825
Fax: (028) 9025 8906
E-Mail: decal@dcalni.gov.uk
Website: www.decalni.gov.uk

An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta,
Gaeltachta agus Oileán
Dún Aimirgin
43-49 Bóthar Mespil
Baile Átha Cliath 4

Tel: 01) 647 3000
Fax: (01) 647 3051
E-Mail: eolas@ealga.ie
Website: www.irlgov.ie/ealga

FOYLE, CARLINGFORD AND IRISH LIGHTS COMMISSION SECTOR

Department of Agriculture and Rural
Development
Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
BELFAST
BT4 3SB

Tel: (028) 9052 4999
Fax: (028) 9052 5015
E-Mail: library@dardni.gov.uk
Website: www.dardni.gov.uk

Department of the Marine and Natural Resources

Leeson Lane
Dublin 2

Tel: (01) 619 9200
Fax: (01) 661 8214
E-Mail: contact@marine.irlgov.ie
Website: www.irlgov.ie/marine

TRANSPORT SECTOR

Department of Environment

Clarence Court
10 - 18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT1 2GB

Tel: (028) 9054 0540
Fax: (028) 9054 0021
E-mail: cmb@doeni.gov.uk
Website: Under Construction

Department for Regional Development

Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8GB

Tel: (028) 9054 1166
Fax: (028) 9052 0092
E-Mail:
Website:

Department of the Environment and
Local Government
Custom House
Dublin 1

Tel: (01) 888 2000
Fax: (01) 888 2888
E.mail: press_office@environ.irlgov.ie
Website: www.environ.ie

Department of Public Enterprise

Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Tele: (01) 670 7444
Fax: (01) 670 9633
E-Mail:
Website:

AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
BELFAST
BT4 3SB

Tele: (028) 9052 4999
Fax: (028) 9052 5015
E-Mail: library@dardni.gov.uk
Website: www.dardni.gov.uk

Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

Agriculture House
Kildare Street
Dublin2

Tel: (01) 607 2000
Fax: (01) 661 6263
E-Mail: mary.doyle@daff.irlgov.ie
Website: www.irlgov.ie/daff

EDUCATION SECTOR

Department of Education
Rathgael House
Balloo Road
BANGOR
BT19 7PR

Tel: (028) 9127 9279
Fax: (028) 9127 9100
E-Mail: deni@nics.gov.uk
Website: Under Construction

Department of Education and Science
Marlborough Street
Dublin 1

Tele: (01) 873 4700
Fax: (01) 878 7932
E-Mail:
Website: www.irlgov.ie/educ

ENVIRONMENT SECTOR

Department of the Environment
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street BELFAST
BT1 2GB

Tel: (028) 9054 0540
Fax: (028) 9054 0021
E.mail: cmb@doeni.gov.uk
Website: Under Construction

Department of the Environment and
Local Government
Custom House
Dublin 1

Tel: (01) 888 2000
Fax: (01) 888 2888
E.mail: press_office@environ.irlgov.ie
Website: www.environ.ie

TOURISM SECTOR

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

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

Department of Tourism, Sport and
Recreation
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Telephone: (01) 631 3800
Fax: (01) 661 1201
E-Mail: web_master@tourism-sport.irlgov.ie
Website: www.irlgov.ie/tourism-sport

