

North/South Cooperation - Joint Paper by the British and Irish Governments

1. This paper is in response to the participants' request to the two Governments to produce a paper on the nature, form and extent of the current levels of cooperation between Departments, North and South and the scope for further cooperation.
2. The attached Annex 1 summarises the relevant areas in very broad terms. It lists the current level of contact and cooperation at official and Ministerial level between Departments and Agencies, North and South, some of which has been continuing for some years. Interaction operates both at the strategic policy level, involving Departments in Belfast and Dublin, including a range of matters under the auspices of the Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Conference and at a more local level in border areas where joint approaches are adopted to common problems. Some is formally structured, other contact is ad hoc and informal.
3. In addition, the paper contains at Annex 2 an illustrative list of matters which could be the subject of further cooperation, without prejudice to the form, content and extent of such cooperation.
4. The Governments hope that this paper will help facilitate further discussion among participants. We are willing to bring forward other papers, put together presentations or provide clarification on any particular topics or issues which participants wish.

British Government

Irish Government

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