

LATEST NO 10 CONFIDENTIAL  
DRAFT

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we share. NIO  
John Holes  
24/12

# NORTHERN IRELAND: HEADS OF AGREEMENT

- No change in the constitutional status of Northern Ireland without the consent of the people of Northern Ireland;
- A Northern Ireland Assembly to administer the 6 Northern Ireland departments; elected by a system of proportional representation.
- Assembly to have administrative and legislative powers, extent of both to be defined;
- A Council of these islands, including the British and Irish Governments, the Northern Ireland administration, and representatives of devolved institutions in England, Scotland and Wales;
- The Assembly and the Irish Government to appoint representatives to a Council for North-South Co-operation with significant purposes and powers, able to act on issues of mutual interest;
- The Council's powers will be exercisable only if both the Assembly and Irish Government representatives agree;
- Standing Intergovernmental machinery (between the Irish and British Governments) to discuss and resolve issues of mutual practical interest, including in relation to Northern Ireland but not limited to that;
- Constitutional change, based on commitment to the consent principle by both the British and Irish Governments, and including changes to Articles 2 and 3 of the Irish Constitution (the territorial claim) and to British legislation as necessary;
- Provisions to safeguard the rights of both communities in Northern Ireland and address equality and justice issues.