

CONFIDENTIAL

NORTHERN IRELAND: HEADS OF AGREEMENT

- A constitutional understanding, based on commitment to principle of consent by both British and Irish Governments, and including changes to Articles 2 and 3 of the Irish Constitution (the territorial claim) and of British legislation as necessary.
- A Northern Ireland Assembly, elected by a system of proportional representation. Devolution of executive and legislative responsibility over at least the responsibilities of the six Northern Ireland Departments.
- A Council of these islands, including the British and Irish Governments, the Northern Ireland administration, and representatives of devolved institutions in the rest of the UK.
- A Council of Ministers [Ministerial Conference] for North/South co-operation with significant purposes and powers, able to act on issues of mutual interest. The Council to bring together those with executive responsibilities in Northern Ireland and the Irish Government, while each side remains accountable to, and acting within the mandate of, the relevant democratic institutions, North and South. All decisions to be by agreement between the two sides, North and South.
- Standing Intergovernmental machinery (between the Irish and British governments) to discuss and resolve issues of mutual interest, including in relation to Northern Ireland but not limited to that.
- Provisions to safeguard the rights of both communities in Northern Ireland and address equality and justice issues.

CONFIDENTIAL