

## CONFIDENTIAL

**NORTHERN IRELAND: HEADS OF AGREEMENT: BRITISH DRAFT**

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Replacement of the Anglo-Irish Agreement with a new British/Irish Agreement to establish closer co-operation and enhanced relationships, embracing:

A Council of these islands, to deal with the totality of relationships, including the British and Irish Governments, the Northern Ireland administration, and representatives of devolved institution in the rest of the UK;

a Council for North/South Co-operation, to bring together those with executive responsibilities in Northern Ireland and the Irish Government. Each side to remain accountable to, and act within the mandate of, the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Irish Parliament, respectively. All decisions to be by agreement between the two sides, North and South;

standing Intergovernmental machinery (between the Irish and British Governments) covering issues of mutual interest.

4. Provisions to safeguard the rights of both communities in Northern Ireland and address equality and justice issues.

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