Country/entity	Ireland United Kingdom Northern Ireland
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	A Fresh Start: The Stormont Agreement and Implementation Plan
Date	17 Nov 2015
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Northern Ireland Conflict (1968 - 1998)

Commonly referred to as 'the Troubles', the most recent conflict over the territory of Northern Ireland can be framed as beginning in 1968 and ending with the Belfast Agreement (also known as the Good Friday Agreement) in 1998. While the genesis of the conflict was closely related to pressures for the state to reform with relation to discrimination against the (minority) Catholic population, the core issue of the conflict as it proceeded was the constitutional status of Northern Ireland, which was contested between the unionist/loyalist (mostly Protestant) majority, who wanted the territory to remain as part of the United Kingdom, and the nationalist/republican (mostly Catholic) minority, whose goal was to unite the six provincial counties with the Republic of Ireland. The thirty years prior to the Belfast or Good Friday Agreement were marked by inter-communal violence, active paramilitary groups, and the deployment of the British army in the province. Mediation by international actors, and dialogue between the British and Irish governments, and between the IRA and its representatives and the British Government eventually resulted in a ceasefire respected by the majority of combatants. Talks led to the Belfast or Good Friday Agreement which established a power-sharing system of governance between nationalist and unionist communities.
Close
Northern Ireland Conflict (1968 - 1998)

Stage	Implementation/renegotiation
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Northern Ireland peace process

Parties	Participants listed as: the UK and Irish Governments, and the five main Northern Ireland parties Ministerial introduction signed by: First Minister Peter Robinson; deputy First Minister Martin Guinness Foreword signed by the Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP Secretary of State for Northern Ireland; Foreword signed by Mr Charles Flanagan TD Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Third parties	-
Description	This agreement addresses outstanding issues from the Stormont House Agreement (SHA) of 23 December 2014: the legacy and impact of paramilitary activity, and implementation of the SHA. It also sets out the financial and welfare reform programme for the Northern Ireland executive, and implementation of issues from the SHA on flags, parades, The Past, and institutional reform.

Agreement document	UK_IE_151117 Stormont Agreement and Implementation Plan.pdf (opens in new tab) | Download PDF

Groups

Children/youth

Groups→Children/youth→Substantive
Page 39, SECTION "F" Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Outstanding Commitments, 72, Next Steps
Existing delivery mechanisms are in place and work continues under the auspices of the Ministerial Panel and Programme Board. The Executive has allocated £10m for Together: Building a United Community initiatives and a further £3m for the United Youth Programme.

Page 58, SECTION "F" Appendix F5, Structure of the Nine New Departments, NINE DEPARTMENTAL MODEL, Education
… A range of children's services, policy responsibility for Children and Young People but excluding child protection which remains in DHSSPS…

Page 17, SECTION "A" Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, Tackling Paramilitarism, Criminality and Organised Crime, 3.9
The Executive will implement additional measures aimed at tackling the impact of criminality and paramilitarism in Northern Ireland, to include: Community Engagement and Prevention
- Cross-departmental programme to prevent vulnerable young people being drawn into paramilitary activity...

Page 31, SECTION "E" Irish Government Financial Support, The Ulster Canal, 3.4
As part of the Mid Term Review of the Capital Plan, the Irish Government will work also with the Northern Ireland Executive to seek agreement on a funding plan for the Atlantic Youth Trust initiative. This proposal involves a new sail training vessel to facilitate youth development, mentoring, and training on an all-island basis.

Disabled persons

No specific mention.

Elderly/age

No specific mention.

Migrant workers

No specific mention.

Racial/ethnic/ national group	Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Substantive Page 17, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, A Strategy to End Paramilitarism, 4.2 The Executive shall:... - report on how efforts to tackle paramilitarism will be linked to wider cross-departmental and statutory agency work programmes aimed at reducing community division and the causes of sectarianism and racism in NI. Page 38, SECTION “F” Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Outstanding Commitments, 68 The UK Government and the Irish Government, recalling commitments from previous Agreements, and recognising the importance of understanding, tolerance and respect in relation to linguistic diversity, endorse the need for respect for and recognition of the Irish language in Northern Ireland, consistent with the Council of Europe Charter on Regional or Minority Languages.
Religious groups	Groups→Religious groups→Substantive Page 17, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, A Strategy to End Paramilitarism, 4.2 The Executive shall:... - report on how efforts to tackle paramilitarism will be linked to wider cross-departmental and statutory agency work programmes aimed at reducing community division and the causes of sectarianism and racism in NI.
Indigenous people	No specific mention.
Other groups	No specific mention.
Refugees/displaced persons	No specific mention.
Social class	No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender	Page 17, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, Tackling Paramilitarism, Criminality and Organised Crime, 3.9 The Executive will implement additional measures aimed at tackling the impact of criminality and paramilitarism in Northern Ireland, to include: Community Engagement and Prevention... - Development of a programme to increase the participation and influence of women in community development... Page 38, SECTION “F” Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Outstanding Commitments, 69 Noting that there is not at present consensus on a Bill of Rights, the parties commit to serving the people of Northern Ireland equally, and to act in accordance with the obligations on government to promote equality and respect and to prevent discrimination; to promote a culture of tolerance, mutual respect and mutual understanding at every level of society, including initiatives to facilitate and encourage shared and integrated education and housing, social inclusion, and in particular community development and the advancement of women in public life; and to promote the interests of the whole community towards the goals of reconciliation and economic renewal. Page 59, Section "F", Nine Departmental Model: The Executive Office OFMDFM less: ... • Policy responsibility for Gender and Sexual Orientation Page 60, Section "F", Nine Departmental Model: Communities Functions from OFMDFM: ... • Policy responsibility for gender and sexual orientation
Men and boys	No specific mention.
LGBTI	No specific mention.
Family	No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general)	No specific mention.
State configuration	No specific mention.
Self determination	No specific mention.

Referendum	No specific mention.
State symbols	No specific mention.
Independence/ secession	No specific mention.
Accession/ unification	No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision

Page 15, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, 3.1
A tri-lateral cross-border Ministerial meeting will take place in December 2015, involving the UK Government, the Irish Government and the NI Executive. It will agree new measures to enhance law enforcement co-operation aimed at tackling organised crime and criminality, including that linked to paramilitarism.

Page 15-16, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, 3.2
In a concerted and enhanced effort to tackle cross-jurisdictional organised crime and to bring to justice those involved in it, a Joint Agency Task Force will be established under this Agreement. The Task Force will be led by senior officers from the PSNI, An Garda Síochána, the Revenue Commissioners and HM Revenue and Customs. The Task Force will report on its work in accordance with the statutory arrangements in place for the law enforcement agencies. The Task Force will include:
- a Strategic Oversight Group (comprised of representatives from the relevant law enforcement agencies at senior management level) that will identify strategic priorities for combating cross-jurisdictional organised crime. The Oversight Group will provide a report on the work of the Task Force to the six-monthly Ministerial meetings under the Intergovernmental Agreement on cooperation on criminal justice matters; and
- an Operations Co-ordination Group (comprised of senior operational management personnel from the relevant law enforcement agencies) that will co- ordinate joint operations and direct relevant resources in that context.

Page 31, SECTION “E” Irish Government Financial Support, The Ulster Canal, 3.3
The Northern Ireland Executive and the Irish Government agree to undertake a review with a view to identifying options for jointly developing future phases of the Ulster Canal restoration project, for consideration by the North South Ministerial Council in June 2016.

Page 39, SECTION “F” Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Outstanding Commitments, 70
On the St Andrews Agreement Review, the NSMC (meeting in Institutional format) will agree before the end of February 2015 a report on new sectoral priorities for North-South cooperation, identified during Ministerial discussions since November 2013. A report on new sectoral priorities will be a standing item for future meetings of the NSMC meeting in Institutional format.

Page 39, SECTION “F” Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Outstanding Commitments, 70, Next Steps
At the NSMC Institutional meeting on 25 February 2015 it was agreed that a meeting would take place to consider strategic approaches for the development of the North West region. The meeting date is to be confirmed.

Page 39, SECTION “F” Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Outstanding Commitments, 71
In early 2015, a meeting of relevant Ministers from North and South will take place in the North West to consider strategic approaches to the development of the region as envisaged in the North West Gateway Initiative. Further meetings may also take place.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed)	Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→New political institutions (indefinite) Page 19, SECTION “B” NI Executive Financial Reforms and Context, Reform and Efficiency, 1.3 Departmental Restructuring and Reduction in the Number of MLAs: Reducing from 12 to nine departments cuts the number of ministers, special advisers, permanent secretaries and central management and support functions. From May 2016, this will provide better co-ordinated and more efficient services. A Bill to reduce the number of MLAs to five per constituency will be introduced into the Assembly and will have effect from the first Assembly election after the May 2016 election. Page 35, SECTION “F” Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Institutional Reform, 56 The number of Assembly members should be reduced to five members per constituency, or such other reduction as may be agreed, in time for the 2021 Assembly election, and the Assembly will legislate accordingly. Page 35, SECTION “F” Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Institutional Reform, 56, Next Steps A Bill to reduce the number of MLAs to five members per constituency will be introduced to the Assembly no later than the end of November 2015. The Bill will have effect from the first Assembly election after the May 2016 election. A copy of that draft Bill is attached at Appendix F2. Page 35, SECTION “F” Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Institutional Reform, 59 Arrangements will be put in place by the Assembly by March 2015 to enable those parties which would be entitled to ministerial positions in the Executive, but choose not to take them up, to be recognised as an official opposition and to facilitate their work. These measures will include: a. Provision for financial and research assistance (from within existing Assembly budgets keeping these changes cost neutral); and b. Designated speaking rights including the opportunity to ask questions and table business sufficient to permit the parties to discharge their opposition duties. Page 35-36, SECTION “F” Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Institutional Reform, 59, Next Steps A Statement of Proposed Entitlements for an Official Opposition will be introduced as part of the arrangements to enable those parties entitled to Executive ministerial positions but choose not to do so, to be recognised as an official opposition. The Speaker will be asked to arrange for the amendments to Standing Orders and relative administrative procedures. These amendments will make no change to the process for selecting and appointing Chairs and deputy Chairs of Statutory and Standing Committees. The Statement of Proposed Entitlements is attached at Appendix F4. Page 36, SECTION “F” Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Institutional Reform, 60 A reduction in the number of departments from twelve to nine should be made in time for the 2016 Assembly election, with the new allocation of departmental functions to be agreed by the parties. Page 36, SECTION “F” Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Institutional Reform, 60, Next Steps A statement was made to the Assembly on 2 March 2015 which reported the decisions reached by the Executive on the names and functions of future departments. The Executive has since agreed the draft Departments Bill which will be introduced to the

Elections	Page 35, SECTION “F” Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Institutional Reform, 56, Next Steps A Bill to reduce the number of MLAs to five members per constituency will be introduced to the Assembly no later than the end of November 2015. The Bill will have effect from the first Assembly election after the May 2016 election. A copy of that draft Bill is attached at Appendix F2.
Electoral commission	No specific mention.
Political parties reform	No specific mention.

Civil society	Page 17-18, SECTION "A" Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, Monitoring and Implementation, 5.1 A four member international body including persons of international standing will be established by the UK and Irish Governments. The UK Government and the Irish Government will nominate one member each and the Executive shall nominate two members. The body will:...consult the UK Government and relevant law enforcement agencies, the Irish Government and relevant law enforcement agencies and, in Northern Ireland, the Executive, PSNI, statutory agencies, local councils, communities and civic society organisations. Page 38, SECTION "F" Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Outstanding Commitments, 67 It is important that civic voices are heard and civic views are considered in relation to key social, cultural and economic issues. A new engagement model could be achieved, by June 2015, through the establishment of a compact civic advisory panel which would meet regularly to consider key social, cultural and economic issues and to advise the NI Executive. The Chair would be appointed by the OFMDFM. Every effort would be made to minimise the administrative costs of such a body. Page 38, SECTION "F" Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Outstanding Commitments, 67, Next Steps A panel of six people will be established by the Executive. It will be tasked by the Executive to consider specific strategic issues relevant to the Programme for Government and report to the Executive. It may also propose subjects that it wishes to consider and seek Executive agreement to do so. The Panel will seek the views of a wide range of representatives and stakeholders from civic society. Panel members, including the Chair will be identified and appointed by OFMDFM. Terms of Reference for the Compact Civic Advisory Panel are attached at Appendix F7. [Summary: SECTION "F" Appendix F6, Draft Guidelines on Good Practice in Public Consultation- Engagement provides a draft text on stakeholder engagement in the development of policy proposals, including eight steps to good practice in public consultation-engagement] Page 67, Appendix F7, Compact Civic Advisory Panel – Terms of Reference The Compact Civic Advisory Panel will be tasked by the Executive to proactively engage with civic society to develop strategic thinking, strategies and plans on issues that will help shape Northern Ireland's future. It will do this by looking beyond immediate horizons to some of the challenges and opportunities to be faced in the future. The Panel will look at issues identified by the Executive or proposed by the Panel and agreed with the Executive. Its modus operandi will be research and proactive engagement with a wide range of stakeholders and civic representatives who have interests and expertise in the subject area. On completion of its work on a particular subject the Panel will prepare and submit a report to the Executive that will include a number of recommendations. It will be assisted in this task by a secondee from the NICS who will act as Secretariat to the Panel. It is anticipated that the Panel will consider two issues per year.
Traditional/ religious leaders	No specific mention.

Public administration	No specific mention.
Constitution	No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing

Power sharing→Political power sharing→Executive coalition
Sub-state level
Page 36, SECTION “F” Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Institutional Reform, 61
After the Assembly meets following an election and before the FM-DFM are selected and the d’Hondt process runs, representatives of the parties who are entitled to take up places in the Executive and who confirm their intention to do so will meet to resolve the draft Programme for Government. Changes to Westminster legislation (as soon as time permits) could extend the time available from seven days to fourteen days. The draft Programme would, once the Executive was formed be passed to the Assembly for approval.

Page 36, SECTION “F” Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Institutional Reform, 61, Next Steps
A Programme for Government framework adopting a more outcomes-based approach will be developed. Initial workshops will take place during the autumn with a view to having the framework prepared by the end of April 2016. The necessary changes to Westminster legislation will be brought forward as soon as there is a suitable legislative vehicle.
Power sharing→Political power sharing→Form of 'veto' or communal majority
Sub-state level
Page 35, SECTION “F” Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Institutional Reform, 57
The threshold for Petitions of Concern should remain at 30 members.

Page 35, SECTION “F” Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Institutional Reform, 58
Changes will be made to the operation of the Petition of Concern mechanism through a protocol agreed between the parties.

Page 35, SECTION “F” Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Institutional Reform, 58, Next Steps
A Protocol governing the use of the Petition of Concern mechanism in the Assembly will be referred to the Speaker within a month of the date of this Agreement. The protocol is attached at Appendix F3.

Page 53, SECTION “F” Appendix F3, Protocol on the Use of the Petition of Concern, 1
This document sets out the terms of a protocol governing the use of the Petition of Concern mechanism in the NI Assembly, which has been agreed by the undersigned parties.

Page 53, SECTION “F” Appendix F3, Protocol on the Use of the Petition of Concern, 2
We recognise that this Protocol does not remove or mitigate the statutory entitlement conferred on Members of the Legislative Assembly in relation to petitioning the Assembly, but agree that it will only fulfil its intended purpose if adhered to by all signatory parties and operated in the spirit intended.

Page 53, SECTION “F” Appendix F3, Protocol on the Use of the Petition of Concern, 3
While the signatory parties acknowledge the voluntary nature of their commitment, they will honour their obligations under this protocol in good faith at all times.

Page 53, SECTION “F” Appendix F3, Protocol on the Use of the Petition of Concern, 4
The signatory parties have agreed to the following principles which will apply to their use of the Petition of Concern mechanism:
(i) that Petitions of Concern should only be tabled in exceptional circumstances;

Territorial power sharing	No specific mention.
Economic power sharing	No specific mention.
Military power sharing	No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general	Page 14, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, Statement of Principles 2.3 We have entered into the most far-reaching commitments ever taken here to uphold the rule of law and bring about the end of paramilitarism. Page 15, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, Statement of Principles, 2.5 All the parties to this Agreement remain fully dedicated to each and all of these principles and further commit to:... - support the rule of law unequivocally in word and deed and support all efforts to uphold it;... Page 34, SECTION “F” Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition, Parades, 19 a. regulation of parades and related protests should be based on the following approach: i) respect for the rule of law;…
Bill of rights/similar	No specific mention.
Treaty incorporation	Page 38, SECTION “F” Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Outstanding Commitments, 68 The UK Government and the Irish Government, recalling commitments from previous Agreements, and recognising the importance of understanding, tolerance and respect in relation to linguistic diversity, endorse the need for respect for and recognition of the Irish language in Northern Ireland, consistent with the Council of Europe Charter on Regional or Minority Languages.
Civil and political rights	No specific mention.
Socio-economic rights	No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship	No specific mention.
Democracy	Page 14, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, Introduction, 1.1 Building on the political Agreements reached in the past, the progress made to date - and to ensure it continues - we reiterate the primacy and centrality of peace and the political process to the continued transformation of our society, through democracy, inclusion, reconciliation, equality of opportunity for all and the absence of violence. Page 14, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, Introduction, 1.2 The Executive and the UK and Irish Governments recommit to:... giving full effect to the principles of peace and democracy set out in previous Agreements including the growth of mutual respect and equality of treatment that forms the basis of a united and stable society;...maximising for citizens the political cohesion of our society, political inclusivity and participative democracy;... Page 14, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, Statement of Principles 2.4 Building on the Mitchell Principles that affirmed all the main parties were committed to democratic and exclusively peaceful means of resolving political issues the Executive agreed to a Ministerial Code and Pledge of Office that incorporated: a commitment to non-violence; support for law and order; and support for the PSNI and the criminal justice system. Page 15, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, Statement of Principles, 2.5 All the parties to this Agreement remain fully dedicated to each and all of these principles and further commit to:... - accept no authority, direction or control on our political activities other than our democratic mandate alongside our own personal and party judgment.
Detention procedures	No specific mention.
Media and communication	Rights related issues→Media and communication→Media roles Page 17, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, A Strategy to End Paramilitarism, 4.2 The Executive shall:... - undertake a public awareness campaign to raise public understanding of the harm done by paramilitarism and organised crime and the steps that everyone can take to contribute to the prevention of crime and progress towards the end of paramilitarism in Northern Ireland;...
Mobility/access	No specific mention.

Protection measures	No specific mention.
Other	Page 34, SECTION “F” Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition, Parades, 19 The legislation will focus on the rights and responsibilities of those involved in, or affected by, parades and related protests, with proper regard for fundamental rights protected by the ECHR. The aim will be to balance the competing rights of those involved, but also to recognise the responsibilities they owe to others. The system will have regard to the following:

Rights institutions

NHRI	No specific mention.
Regional or international human rights institutions	No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law	Justice sector reform→Criminal justice and emergency law→Criminal Justice System reform Page 16, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, Tackling Paramilitarism, Criminality and Organised Crime, 3.7 The Executive will implement additional measures aimed at tackling the impact of criminality and paramilitarism in Northern Ireland, to include: Criminal Justice - Further measures to speed up criminal justice and support victims to give evidence. - Measures to improve forensic capabilities to enable evidence to be secured more effectively.
State of emergency provisions	No specific mention.
Judiciary and courts	No specific mention.
Prisons and detention	No specific mention.
Traditional Laws	No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction

Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development
Page 38, SECTION “F” Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Outstanding Commitments, 69
Noting that there is not at present consensus on a Bill of Rights, the parties commit to serving the people of Northern Ireland equally, and to act in accordance with the obligations on government to promote equality and respect and to prevent discrimination; to promote a culture of tolerance, mutual respect and mutual understanding at every level of society, including initiatives to facilitate and encourage shared and integrated education and housing, social inclusion, and in particular community development and the advancement of women in public life; and to promote the interests of the whole community towards the goals of reconciliation and economic renewal.

Page 39, SECTION “F” Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Outstanding Commitments, 71
In early 2015, a meeting of relevant Ministers from North and South will take place in the North West to consider strategic approaches to the development of the region as envisaged in the North West Gateway Initiative. Further meetings may also take place.
Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Infrastructure and reconstruction
[Summary: Section "C" NI Executive Welfare and Tax Credit Top-Ups provides for extensive reform of the welfare system as initially introduced by the UK government in Westminster]

Page 30, SECTION “E” Irish Government Financial Support, 1.1
Predicated on a stable political environment in Northern Ireland, with all of the institutions and cross-border agencies operating to full effect, the Irish Government remains committed to investing in infrastructure to support North-South co-operation to help unlock the full potential of the island economy. Targeted investment in cross-border economic infrastructure will be key to the continued growth of the island's indigenous enterprise base and to driving and sustaining overseas investment levels. This is crucial for job creation and all-island prosperity and to ensure that the socio-economic dividend made possible by the Belfast/Good Friday and subsequent Agreements is fully realised.

Page 30, SECTION “E” Irish Government Financial Support, 1.2
This commitment is set out in "Building on Recovery", the Irish Government's Capital Plan for 2016-2021.

Page 30, SECTION “E” Irish Government Financial Support, 1.3
The Irish Government reaffirms its support for the EU PEACE and INTERREG programmes, which includes substantial funding negotiated during the Irish Presidency of the European Union. It will continue to work closely with the Northern Ireland Executive to ensure that funding opportunities are maximised under these EU programmes. Almost half a billion euro will be available from EU sources during the period 2016 to 2021.

Page 30, SECTION “E” Irish Government Financial Support, 1.4
The Capital Plan states that there will be renewed focus on investing in a number of the key transport corridors, including ongoing review of the scope for building on the current commitment to the A5 road project, which is of major strategic importance to the North-West and the Dublin-Belfast railline, critical to the development of the Dublin-Belfast corridor and which is currently in receipt of an €18 million upgrade package.

National economic plan

Page 26-27, SECTION “D” UK Government Financial Support, Budget Controls, 4.1
The UK Government welcomes the Executive’s plans to establish an Independent Fiscal Council for Northern Ireland. The Council will:
- prepare an annual assessment of the Executive’s revenue streams and spending proposals and how these allow the Executive to balance their budget; and
- prepare a further annual report on the sustainability of the Executive’s public finances, including the implications of spending policy and the effectiveness of long-term efficiency measures.

Page 27, SECTION “D” UK Government Financial Support, Budget Controls, 4.2
The UK Government will legislate, with Assembly consent, to ensure that the Assembly cannot consider spending plans which exceed the Block Grant allocated by the Treasury or the NIE’s borrowing limits, where planned spending relies on those funding sources.

Page 27, SECTION “D” UK Government Financial Support, In-Year Pressures, 5.1
The UK Government will release those additional in-year budgetary flexibilities as set out in the SHA to support the Executive in ensuring public services continue to be delivered whilst wider reforms are being pursued.

Page 27, SECTION “D” UK Government Financial Support, In-Year Pressures, 5.2
The Northern Ireland Executive will complete a monitoring round by the end of November 2015, setting out clearly the action being taken to balance its 2015-16 position. The UK Government welcomes the Executive’s commitment to balance the budget this year through the monitoring round, and the UK Government has made a commitment of support from the Reserve should it be necessary.

Page 27-28, SECTION “D” UK Government Financial Support, Stormont House Agreement Flexibilities and Support, 7.1
Subject to:
- the conditions set out in the SHA financial annex on the need for UK Government agreement where specified for specific projects; and
- confirmation by the Executive as part of this supplementary agreement that the flexibility and support offered is sufficient to deliver a balanced budget for 2015- 16 by the end of November 2015 and the publication of a balanced budget for 2016-17 in the Assembly by the end of January 2016;
the UK Government will agree to the release of the support and flexibility outlined in the SHA financial annex as it relates to the 2015-16 and 2016-17 budgets. The detailed plan for incorporating this support into budgets should be agreed with HM Treasury in advance of the publication of the 2016-17 NI Executive budget.

Natural resources

No specific mention.

International funds

Page 32, SECTION “E” Irish Government Financial Support, Next Steps, 6.1
A group of senior officials from the Northern Ireland Executive and the Irish Government will meet regularly to maintain a strategic overview of economic and infrastructural investment, with regard to the projects set out in this Section. They will also consider opportunities for sourcing further investment for all-island infrastructure projects for mutual benefit, including through PPPs, EU funding and other non- Exchequer sources.

Business

Page 20, SECTION “B” NI Executive Financial Reforms and Context, NI Executive’s position on Corporation Tax
1.16 As a means of rebalancing the economy and addressing the social and economic challenges facing Northern Ireland, the Executive is committed to an affordable and more competitive Corporation Tax rate.

Page 20, SECTION “B” NI Executive Financial Reforms and Context, NI Executive’s position on Corporation Tax
1.17 In this context the Executive attaches importance, on the basis of fairness and proportionality, to Northern Ireland bearing the full costs and receiving the full benefits of the devolution of Corporation Tax consistent with the Azores criteria.

Taxation

Socio-economic reconstruction→Taxation→Power to tax
Page 21, SECTION “B” NI Executive Financial Reforms and Context, NI Executive’s position on Corporation Tax, 1.17
In this context the Executive attaches importance, on the basis of fairness and proportionality, to Northern Ireland bearing the full costs and receiving the full benefits of the devolution of Corporation Tax consistent with the Azores criteria.

Page 21, SECTION “B” NI Executive Financial Reforms and Context, NI Executive’s position on Corporation Tax, 1.19
On this basis: The NI Executive commits to a commencement date of April 2018, and a Northern Ireland rate of 12.5%.
Socio-economic reconstruction→Taxation→Reform of taxation
Page 15-16, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, 3.2
In a concerted and enhanced effort to tackle cross-jurisdictional organised crime and to bring to justice those involved in it, a Joint Agency Task Force will be established under this Agreement. The Task Force will be led by senior officers from the PSNI, An Garda Síochána, the Revenue Commissioners and HM Revenue and Customs...

Page 21, SECTION “B” NI Executive Financial Reforms and Context, NI Executive’s position on Corporation Tax, 1.16
As a means of rebalancing the economy and addressing the social and economic challenges facing Northern Ireland, the Executive is committed to an affordable and more competitive Corporation Tax rate.

Page 22, SECTION “C” NI Executive Welfare and Tax Credit Top-Ups,Executive Welfare and Tax Credits Enhancements, 1.4
Within the welfare funding set out above, it has been agreed that the social sector size criteria – the so called bedroom tax – will not apply, as agreed by the Executive.

Page 23, SECTION “C” NI Executive Welfare and Tax Credit Top-Ups, Legislative Process, 2.5 The welfare and tax credit top-ups will be taken forward by the Assembly.

Page 23, SECTION “C” NI Executive Welfare and Tax Credit Top-Ups, Advice Centre Support
3.1 The Executive, in preparing its budget for next year, will provide additional funding for independent advice services in recognition of the complexity of welfare and tax credit changes.

Page 27, SECTION “D” UK Government Financial Support, Corporation Tax, 6.1
The UK Government recognises the Executive’s commitment to introduce a devolved Corporation Tax rate to Northern Ireland of 12.5% from April 2018. The UK Government remains committed to the devolution of Corporation Tax powers, subject to the conditions set out in the SHA.

Page 27, SECTION “D” UK Government Financial Support, Corporation Tax, 6.2
The UK Government will undertake an ex-post review of the costs of the devolution of Corporation Tax four years after the implementation of a devolved rate by the Executive. This review will consider the extent of behavioural costs (but not second round effects) and will make further adjustments to the Northern Ireland Block Grant as supported by new evidence.

Banks	No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights	No specific mention.
Pastoralist/ nomadism rights	No specific mention.

Cultural heritage

Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Tangible
Page 34, SECTION “F” Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition, Parades, 19
The legislation will focus on the rights and responsibilities of those involved in, or affected by, parades and related protests, with proper regard for fundamental rights protected by the ECHR. The aim will be to balance the competing rights of those involved, but also to recognise the responsibilities they owe to others. The system will have regard to the following:
a. regulation of parades and related protests should be based on the following approach: i) respect for the rule of law; ii) respect for those who parade; iii) respect for those who protest; and iv) respect for those who live and work in areas in which parades and protests take place;
b. encouraging and facilitating direct, meaningful and sustained local dialogue should be at the heart of any new regulatory system for parades and protests;
c. transparency, proportionality, openness and fairness; and
d. independent adjudication will remain a necessary part of the regulatory process, but should be a last resort.

Page 34, SECTION “F” Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition, Parades, 20
There will be a full public consultation on any agreed legislation.
Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Intangible
Page 38, SECTION “F” Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Outstanding Commitments, 68
The UK Government and the Irish Government, recalling commitments from previous Agreements, and recognising the importance of understanding, tolerance and respect in relation to linguistic diversity, endorse the need for respect for and recognition of the Irish language in Northern Ireland, consistent with the Council of Europe Charter on Regional or Minority Languages.
Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Promotion
Page 33, SECTION “F” Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition, 15
A Commission on Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition will be established by June 2015 as the basis for further addressing these issues, to report within 18 months of its being established. The Commission shall consist of 15 members, seven of which will be nominees appointed by the leaders of the parties in the Executive. These will comprise two members for each of the two largest parties and one for each of the three next-largest parties in the Northern Ireland Executive, all as measured by their number of seats in the Northern Ireland Assembly. The remaining eight members of the Commission will be drawn from outside of government. The report and recommendations will be agreed by a majority of the overall Commission, including at least five of the seven members appointed by party leaders. Its remit will focus on flags and emblems and, as required, broader issues of identity, culture and tradition, and seek to identify maximum consensus on their application. In its work, it will be guided by the principles of the existing Agreements including parity of esteem. As the Commission’s work may touch on expressions of sovereignty and identity, it may consult the UK and Irish Governments.

Page 33, SECTION “F” Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition, 15, Next Steps
The advertisement and information pack to enable the recruitment of the eight non-political members of the Commission will be placed by OFMDFM in December 2015. Details of the Commission’s work programme, the job description, a person specification, remuneration rate, terms of appointment and expected time commitment are included at Appendix F1. Political nominations from the five largest parties will be

Environment	Page 30, SECTION “E” Irish Government Financial Support, 1.5 The Capital Plan also confirms that there will continue to be a significant cross-border dimension to the flood relief investment programme, and also in the energy and communications sectors, which already have high levels of cross-border integration. The Irish Government will also continue to explore capital investment in health projects and services that benefit the border region.
Water or riparian rights or access	No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees	No specific mention.
Ceasefire	No specific mention.
Police	Page 14-15, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, Statement of Principles 2.4 Building on the Mitchell Principles that affirmed all the main parties were committed to democratic and exclusively peaceful means of resolving political issues the Executive agreed to a Ministerial Code and Pledge of Office that incorporated:...and support for the PSNI and the criminal justice system. Page 16, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, Tackling Paramilitarism, Criminality and Organised Crime, 3.4 The UK Government, in support of the front-line efforts of the PSNI, the Executive and the Minister for Justice, will give high priority to tackling paramilitary-related crime in Northern Ireland. Page 28, SECTION "D" UK Government Financial Support, Tackling Continued Paramilitary Activity, 8.1 The UK Government confirms that it will provide additional security funding of £160m over the next five years to support the PSNI to address the continuing ‘SEVERE’ National Security threat, as well as provide greater capability to tackle continued paramilitary activity and criminality. Page 29, SECTION "D" UK Government Financial Support, Tackling Continued Paramilitary Activity, 8.4 The UK Government will ensure in the Spending Review that UK Government agencies are appropriately resourced to ensure that the concerted UK / PSNI policing and criminal justice response to paramilitarism and criminal activity is delivered.
Armed forces	No specific mention.

DDR	Security sector→DDR→Demilitarisation provisions Page 17, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, Tackling Paramilitarism, Criminality and Organised Crime, 3.10 The Executive will implement additional measures aimed at tackling the impact of criminality and paramilitarism in Northern Ireland, to include:... Support for Transition - Initiatives to help moves away from paramilitary structures and activity. - The reintegration of people previously involved in the Troubles taking into account the report of the Review Panel on employers’ guidance on recruiting.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces

Page 14, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, Statement of Principles 2.1
Our goal is the primacy of the democratic political process in Northern Ireland and the ending of paramilitarism. This Agreement represents a resolute commitment to complete this process once and for all.

Page 14, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, Statement of Principles 2.2
We have entered into the most far-reaching commitments ever taken here to uphold the rule of law and bring about the end of paramilitarism.

Page 15, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, Statement of Principles, 2.5
All the parties to this Agreement remain fully dedicated to each and all of these principles and further commit to:
- work collectively to achieve a society free of paramilitarism;...
- challenge all paramilitary activity and associated criminality;
- call for, and work together to achieve, the disbandment of all paramilitary organisations and their structures;
- challenge paramilitary attempts to control communities;
- support those who are determined to make the transition away from paramilitarism;...

Page 15, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, 3.1
A tri-lateral cross-border Ministerial meeting will take place in December 2015, involving the UK Government, the Irish Government and the NI Executive. It will agree new measures to enhance law enforcement co-operation aimed at tackling organised crime and criminality, including that linked to paramilitarism.

Page 16, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, Tackling Paramilitarism, Criminality and Organised Crime, 3.4
The UK Government, in support of the front-line efforts of the PSNI, the Executive and the Minister for Justice, will give high priority to tackling paramilitary-related crime in Northern Ireland.

Page 17, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, Tackling Paramilitarism, Criminality and Organised Crime, 3.9
The Executive will implement additional measures aimed at tackling the impact of criminality and paramilitarism in Northern Ireland, to include: Community Engagement and Prevention
- Cross-departmental programme to prevent vulnerable young people being drawn into paramilitary activity...

Page 17, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, A Strategy to End Paramilitarism, 4.1
A three person panel will be appointed by the Executive by the end of December with the task of bringing back to the Executive for agreement and action a report before the end of May 2016 with recommendations for a strategy to disband paramilitary groups.

Page 17, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, A Strategy to End Paramilitarism, 4.2
The Executive shall:
- carry out research into the social costs and implications of paramilitarism and further steps that the Executive can take to promote a more integrated cohesive and lawful society;
- undertake a public awareness campaign to raise public understanding of the harm

Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	Page 15, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, 3.1 A tri-lateral cross-border Ministerial meeting will take place in December 2015, involving the UK Government, the Irish Government and the NI Executive. It will agree new measures to enhance law enforcement co-operation aimed at tackling organised crime and criminality, including that linked to paramilitarism. Page 15-16, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, 3.2 In a concerted and enhanced effort to tackle cross-jurisdictional organised crime and to bring to justice those involved in it, a Joint Agency Task Force will be established under this Agreement. The Task Force will be led by senior officers from the PSNI, An Garda Síochána, the Revenue Commissioners and HM Revenue and Customs. The Task Force will report on its work in accordance with the statutory arrangements in place for the law enforcement agencies. The Task Force will include: - a Strategic Oversight Group (comprised of representatives from the relevant law enforcement agencies at senior management level) that will identify strategic priorities for combating cross-jurisdictional organised crime. The Oversight Group will provide a report on the work of the Task Force to the six-monthly Ministerial meetings under the Intergovernmental Agreement on cooperation on criminal justice matters; and - an Operations Co-ordination Group (comprised of senior operational management personnel from the relevant law enforcement agencies) that will co- ordinate joint operations and direct relevant resources in that context. Page 16, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, Tackling Paramilitarism, Criminality and Organised Crime, 3.5 The Irish Government will maintain and intensify its focus on combating paramilitary activity and organised criminality, whatever its aims and origins, and will continue to work in close cooperation with the Executive in this regard. Page 16, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, Tackling Paramilitarism, Criminality and Organised Crime, 3.7 The Executive will implement additional measures aimed at tackling the impact of criminality and paramilitarism in Northern Ireland, to include: Proceeds of Crime - Support for agencies to enhance specialist capabilities, such as forensic accounting. Page 17, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, A Strategy to End Paramilitarism, 4.2 The Executive shall:... - undertake a public awareness campaign to raise public understanding of the harm done by paramilitarism and organised crime and the steps that everyone can take to contribute to the prevention of crime and progress towards the end of paramilitarism in Northern Ireland;...

Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general	Page 24, SECTION “D” UK Government Financial Support, 1.1 In the SHA the UK Government agreed to provide support. This included:... - up to £150m over 5 years to help fund the bodies to deal with the past. This support remains subject to the conditions set out in the financial annex to the SHA, and funding for bodies to deal with the past is subject to agreement on their establishment. Page 28, SECTION “D” UK Government Financial Support, Stormont House Agreement Flexibilities and Support, 7.2 The UK Government will provide a number of further flexibilities:... - any underspend of new legacy funding in 2015-16 may be carried forward to 2020-21 (but funding for bodies to deal with the past is subject to agreement on their establishment). Page 34-35, SECTION “F” Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, The Past (paragraphs 21-55 of the SHA) The parties to this Agreement reaffirm their commitment to the full and fair implementation of the SHA provisions on the past. A large measure of agreement has been found on the detail of many of the issues addressed by the SHA. Some of these remain a work in progress. While progress has been made on most aspects of the legacy of the past, we have been unable to agree a way forward on some of the key issues. There remains a need to resolve the outstanding issues and the UK Government and Irish Government will reflect on the options for a process to enable this.
Amnesty/pardon	No specific mention.
Courts	No specific mention.
Mechanism	No specific mention.
Prisoner release	No specific mention.
Vetting	No specific mention.

Victims	Page 16, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, Tackling Paramilitarism, Criminality and Organised Crime, 3.7 The Executive will implement additional measures aimed at tackling the impact of criminality and paramilitarism in Northern Ireland, to include: Criminal Justice - Further measures to speed up criminal justice and support victims to give evidence. - Measures to improve forensic capabilities to enable evidence to be secured more effectively.
Missing persons	No specific mention.
Reparations	No specific mention.
Reconciliation	Page 14, SECTION “A” Ending Paramilitarism and Tackling Organised Crime, Introduction, 1.1 Building on the political Agreements reached in the past, the progress made to date - and to ensure it continues - we reiterate the primacy and centrality of peace and the political process to the continued transformation of our society, through democracy, inclusion, reconciliation, equality of opportunity for all and the absence of violence. Page 29, SECTION “D” Shared Future, UK Government Financial Support, 9.1 The UK Government will provide an additional £60m over five years in support of the Executive’s delivery of confidence and relationship building measures within and between communities, contributing to the conditions that will allow the removal of peace walls and the creation of a shared future. Page 38, SECTION “F” Implementation of other aspects of the Stormont House Agreement, Outstanding Commitments, 69 Noting that there is not at present consensus on a Bill of Rights, the parties commit to serving the people of Northern Ireland equally, and to act in accordance with the obligations on government to promote equality and respect and to prevent discrimination; to promote a culture of tolerance, mutual respect and mutual understanding at every level of society, including initiatives to facilitate and encourage shared and integrated education and housing, social inclusion, and in particular community development and the advancement of women in public life; and to promote the interests of the whole community towards the goals of reconciliation and economic renewal.

Implementation

UN signatory	No specific mention.
Other international signatory	No specific mention.
Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.

International mission/force/ similar	No specific mention.
Enforcement mechanism	No specific mention.
