

Country/entity	Ireland United Kingdom Northern Ireland
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Ireland Establishing the Independent Reporting Commission
Date	13 Sep 2016
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Interstate/intrastate conflict(s)

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	For the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: James Brokenshire For the Government of Ireland: Charles Flanagan

Third parties	-
Description	This short agreement sets up an Independent Reporting Commission, with a view to promoting progress towards ending paramilitary activity connected with Northern Ireland, as provided for by previous agreements, particularly the 'A Fresh Start, The Stormont Agreement and Implementation Plan'.
Agreement document	UK_IE_160913_AgreementEstablishingIndependentReportingCommission.pdf (opens in new tab) Download PDF
Groups	
Children/youth	No specific mention.
Disabled persons	No specific mention.
Elderly/age	No specific mention.
Migrant workers	No specific mention.
Racial/ethnic/national group	No specific mention.
Religious groups	No specific mention.
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 No specific mention.

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 No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral commission	No specific mention.
Political parties reform	No specific mention.
Civil society	Page 3, Article 5 In carrying out its functions as described in Article 4 of this Agreement the Commission shall consult:... (c) in Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Executive, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, statutory agencies, local councils, communities and civic society organisations.
Traditional/religious leaders	No specific mention.
Public administration	No specific mention.
Constitution	No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing	No specific mention.
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 1, Untitled preamble ...Reiterating their commitment to work collectively to achieve a society free of paramilitarism, including within the context of the Northern Ireland Executive's Strategy to End Paramilitarism (hereafter referred to as "the Executive's Strategy"), by tackling all paramilitary activity and associated criminality and supporting the rule of law, the PSNI and the criminal justice system;...
Bill of rights/similar	No specific mention.
Treaty incorporation	No specific mention.

Civil and political rights	No specific mention.
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Socio-economic rights	No specific mention.
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Rights related issues

Citizenship	No specific mention.
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Democracy	No specific mention.
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Detention procedures	No specific mention.
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Media and communication	No specific mention.
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Mobility/access	No specific mention.
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Protection measures	No specific mention.
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Other	No specific mention.
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Rights institutions

NHRI	No specific mention.
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Regional or international human rights institutions	No specific mention.
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Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law	No specific mention.
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State of emergency provisions	No specific mention.
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Judiciary and courts	No specific mention.
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Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction No specific mention.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

Water or riparian rights or access No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees

No specific mention.

Ceasefire

No specific mention.

Police

Page 1, Untitled preamble

...Reiterating their commitment to work collectively to achieve a society free of paramilitarism, including within the context of the Northern Ireland Executive's Strategy to End Paramilitarism (hereafter referred to as "the Executive's Strategy"), by tackling all paramilitary activity and associated criminality and supporting the rule of law, the PSNI and the criminal justice system;...

Page 3, Article 5

In carrying out its functions as described in Article 4 of this Agreement the Commission shall consult:...

(c) in Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Executive, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, statutory agencies, local councils, communities and civic society organisations.

Armed forces

No specific mention.

DDR

No specific mention.

Intelligence services

No specific mention.

**Parastatal/rebel
and opposition
group forces**

[Summary: The agreement in its entirety provides for establishing an Independent Reporting Commission on progress towards ending paramilitary activity connected to Northern Ireland]

Page 1, Untitled preamble

...Reiterating their commitment to work collectively to achieve a society free of paramilitarism, including within the context of the Northern Ireland Executive's Strategy to End Paramilitarism (hereafter referred to as "the Executive's Strategy"), by tackling all paramilitary activity and associated criminality and supporting the rule of law, the PSNI and the criminal justice system;...

Page 1, Untitled preamble

...Having decided to establish an independent international commission to report on progress towards ending paramilitary activity connected with Northern Ireland and to report on and inform the implementation of the Executive's Strategy;...

Page 1, Article 1

The Independent Reporting Commission (hereafter referred to as "the Commission") is hereby established by the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (hereafter "the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom") in accordance with this Agreement.

Page 2, Article 2

- (1) The Commission shall be independent in the performance of its functions.
- (2) The Commission shall have the legal capacity of a body corporate.

Page 2, Article 3

The objective of the Commission is to carry out the functions as described in Article 4 of this Agreement with a view to promoting progress towards ending paramilitary activity connected with Northern Ireland, and supporting long term peace and stability in society and stable and inclusive devolved Government in Northern Ireland.

Page 2, Article 4, (1)

- (1) In relation to the remaining threat of paramilitary activity, in particular from those paramilitary groups declared to be on ceasefire, the Commission shall:
 - (a) report on progress towards ending continuing paramilitary activity connected with Northern Ireland; and
 - (b) report on the implementation of the relevant measures of the Government of Ireland, the Government of the United Kingdom, and the Northern Ireland Executive, including the Executive's Strategy.

Page 2, Article 4, (2)

The Commission shall report annually to the Government of Ireland, the Government of the United Kingdom and the Northern Ireland Executive. The Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom may also jointly request reports on such further occasions as required. The Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom shall publish the reports of the Commission.

Page 2, Article 4, (3)

The Commission, in its reports, may make recommendations to the Northern Ireland Executive in order to inform future Programme for Government priorities and commitments through to 2021.

Page 3, Article 5

In carrying out its functions as described in Article 4 of this Agreement the Commission

Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
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Corruption	No specific mention.
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Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
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Drugs	No specific mention.
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Terrorism	No specific mention.
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Transitional justice

Transitional justice general	No specific mention.
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Amnesty/pardon	No specific mention.
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Courts	No specific mention.
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Mechanism	No specific mention.
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Prisoner release	No specific mention.
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Vetting	No specific mention.
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Victims	No specific mention.
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Missing persons	No specific mention.
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Reparations	No specific mention.
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Reconciliation	No specific mention.
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Implementation

UN signatory	No specific mention.
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Other international signatory	No specific mention.
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Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.
International mission/force/similar	No specific mention.
Enforcement mechanism	No specific mention.
Related cases	No specific mention.
Source	United Kingdom Government https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/554474/Ireland_1_2016_IRC_WEB.pdf
