

Corporate report

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

Summary business plan

Published 13 June 2019

Our summary business plan sets out our objectives and how we will achieve them.

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland: The Rt. Hon Karen Bradley MP

Permanent Secretary: Sir Jonathan Stephens KCB

The Northern Ireland Office supports the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in promoting the best interests of Northern Ireland within a stronger United Kingdom. It ensures Northern Ireland interests are fully and effectively represented at Westminster and the heart of Government, and the Government's responsibilities are fully and effectively represented in Northern Ireland.

Our key purpose is to make politics work by working alongside a restored Northern Ireland Executive to:

- Secure, sustain and support effective, inclusive devolved government in Northern Ireland.

- Ensure a more secure Northern Ireland.
- Deliver a growing and strengthening economy.
- Ensure a stronger society by supporting initiatives designed to build better community relations and a genuinely shared future.
- Support the United Kingdom's effective exit from the European Union and ensure that Northern Ireland's interests are represented during the negotiations for withdrawal and in the post-Exit settlement.

The UK government is delivering a stronger Northern Ireland within a stronger United Kingdom across a wide range of areas.

Our Objectives

In support of the government's commitments, we will:

1. Make politics work

How we will achieve this:

Work with the Northern Ireland political parties and, consistent with the three-stranded approach, the Irish Government to restore the devolved institutions.

Work with a restored Northern Ireland Executive and partners, including the Irish Government as appropriate, to support the full and faithful implementation of the provisions of political Agreements including the Fresh Start and Stormont House Agreements.

Deliver the UK Government's responsibilities under the historic Stormont House Agreement to enable devolution to function more effectively; to deal with the legacy of the past; and to make progress on divisive issues such as flags and parading.

Work with Whitehall partners to ensure that, as appropriate, Government policy takes account of Northern Ireland constitutional and devolution issues and that a restored Executive has visibility and understanding of UK wide policy decisions.

2. Ensure a more secure society

How we will achieve this:

Deliver a strategic, effective response to Northern Ireland related terrorism, giving the strongest possible support to the brave men and women of the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

Work with key partners, including the Police Service of Northern Ireland, other Government Departments and devolved government, to drive down the threat from Northern Ireland related terrorism and ensure appropriate protection for those at risk. Provide additional security funding of £160 million to support Police Service of Northern Ireland.

Support the devolved institutions in their strategy to end paramilitarism, through close cooperation with strategic security partners and the Irish Government.

Ensure that partners have the strongest possible support to tackle the threat and that effective policies and legislation are in place. Provide in-year funding from the additional £25 million that has been made available to tackle continuing paramilitary activity in accordance with the Fresh Start Agreement.

3. Develop a growing economy

How we will achieve this:

Work with an Executive on a stable and sustainable budget to put Northern Ireland's finances on a secure footing for the long-term.

Work with a restored Executive to ensure that proposals are brought forward, and as appropriate implemented, to rebalance the

Northern Ireland economy, build a more united and stronger society and secure the transformation of public services.

Ensure the delivery of the financial measures in the political Agreements.

Work with HM Treasury and HM Revenue & Customs to implement the power to set a devolved rate of Corporation Tax, if a restored Executive demonstrates its finances are on a sustainable footing.

Work towards a comprehensive and ambitious set of City Deals across Northern Ireland.

Work with Whitehall partners to ensure the views of a restored Executive and economic stakeholders in Northern Ireland are taken in to account when economic policy is being made in Westminster, including in discussions around the UK Government's approach post-Exit.

Work with Department for Exiting the European Union and others to maintain an open and frictionless border for people and goods between Northern Ireland and Ireland, avoiding any physical infrastructure or related checks or controls, while also continuing to ensure unfettered access for Northern Ireland's businesses to the whole of the UK internal market.

Work closely with a restored Northern Ireland Executive and Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy to ensure the continuation of a single electricity market covering Northern Ireland and Ireland post-Exit.

4. Build a stronger society

How we will achieve this:

Work with a restored Northern Ireland Executive and partners to support reconciliation and the Executive's objective of building a shared future for all, while acknowledging the past.

Work to increase engagement and build trust across society and ensure that Government funding supports progress on the Executive's ['Together: Building a United Community \(TBUK\)' Strategy](#) and in delivering a shared future.

Prepare legislation to establish the legacy institutions set out in the Stormont House Agreement. To work with a restored Northern Ireland Executive, political parties, victims groups and the Irish Government to achieve sufficient consensus to introduce legislation.

Support our sponsored bodies to deliver their statutory functions and responsibilities.

5. Make the Northern Ireland Office fit for the future

How we will achieve this:

Ensure that the Northern Ireland Office embraces change and lives within its means, and maximises the value of its people and resources.

Deliver the efficiency savings identified as part of the Spending Review to ensure that the department operates within its annually funded baseline and can deliver Ministerial priorities.

Make the Northern Ireland Office fit for the future and able to deliver existing and new priorities by having the right structure and people in place.

Continue to champion diversity and inclusion by embedding fairness, equality and diversity in all we do.

Our Corporate Performance

People survey engagement score:

Year	Engagement score
2018	70%
2017	72%
2016	67%

Source: [Civil Service People Survey](#) / Release schedule: annually

Our finances:

- Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL): £28.94 million
- Resource DEL (including depreciation): £28.69 million
- Capital DEL: £0.25 million

Control totals included in this document are in line with those presented in the Main Supply Estimates 2019/20 and are currently subject to Parliamentary approval. Any changes arising from the Parliamentary approval process will be reflected in due course.

Source: Main Supply Estimates 2019/20

Our people

As at 31 December 2018, the Northern Ireland Office had 172 full-time equivalent employees, including 42 employees seconded from the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

Source: [ONS public sector employment data](#) / Release schedule: quarterly