

Agreement on Joint Working

In the context of the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union, the Joint Ministerial Committee (Plenary) agreed to review the existing framework for intergovernmental relations. This agreement describes initial conclusions from that review, comprising a set of principles intended to guide those relations in the future.

The governments agree that devolution is an established part of the UK's current constitutional arrangements. The governments are committed to ensuring effective joint working according to the following principles:

- A. Maintaining positive and constructive relations, based on mutual respect for the responsibilities of governments across the UK and their shared role in the governance of the UK
- B. Building and maintaining trust, based on effective communication
- C. Sharing information and respecting confidentiality
- D. Promoting understanding of, and accountability for, their inter-governmental activity
- E. Resolving disputes according to a clear and agreed process

This statement of principles builds on and sits alongside the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the governments and will inform its future development.

As and when a Northern Ireland Executive is re-established, it will be invited to endorse this agreement.

[to be signed by heads of governments]