

Country/entity	Ireland United Kingdom Northern Ireland
Region	Europe and Eurasia
Agreement name	Joint Statement by the British and Irish Governments and Propositions on Heads of Agreement (Lancaster House)
Date	12 Jan 1998
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Interstate/intrastate conflict(s)
Stage	Pre-negotiation/process
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Northern Ireland peace process
Parties	British and Irish Governments
Third parties	-
Description	The Joint Statement presents the paper 'Propositions on Heads of Agreement', which sets out propositions for debate and discussion, and presents various elements which taken together presents the outline of an acceptable agreement.

Agreement document [UK_980112_Joint Statement and Propositions of Heads of Agreement \(Lancaster House\).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	Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Rhetorical Page 3-4, Propositions on Heads of Agreement ...Provisions to safeguard the rights of both communities in Northern Ireland, through arrangements for the comprehensive protection of fundamental human, civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights, including a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland supplementing the provisions of the European Convention and to achieve full respect for the principles of treatment and freedom from discrimination, and the cultural identity and ethos of both communities. Appropriate steps to ensure an equivalent level of protection in the Republic.
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** Page 1-2, Joint Statement, 5.
The two governments do not have a problem in clarifying certain matters, for example:
...the new British/Irish Agreement will embrace both the intergovernmental Council and
the North/South Ministerial Council, which will operate independently in their
designated areas of responsibility. And with acknowledging that matters not directly
referred to in the paper will be dealt with where it makes sense, for example: Issues
where harmonising or cross-border action is appropriate will be dealt with on that
basis...

Page 3, Propositions on Heads of Agreement

...A new British-Irish agreement to replace the existing Anglo-Irish Agreement and help
establish close co-operation and enhance relationships, embracing;

- An intergovernmental council to deal with the totality of relationships, to include
representatives of the British and Irish governments, the Northern Ireland administration
and the devolved institutions in Scotland and Wales, with meetings twice a year at
summit level.

- A North-South ministerial council to bring together those with executive responsibilities
in Northern Ireland and the Irish Government in particular areas. Each side will consult,
co-operate and take decisions on matters of mutual interest within the mandate of, and
accountable to, the Northern Ireland assembly and the Oireachtas respectively. All
decisions will be by agreement between the two sides, North and South.

- Suitable implementation bodies and mechanisms for policies agreed by the North
South

council in meaningful areas and at an all island level.

- Standing intergovernmental machinery between the Irish and British governments,
covering issues of mutual interest, including non-devolved issues for Northern Ireland,
when representatives of the Northern Ireland administration would be involved...

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed)	Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→General references Page 4, Propositions on Heads of Agreement ...Democratically elected institutions in Northern Ireland, to include a Northern Ireland Assembly, elected by a system of proportional representation, exercising devolved executive and legislative responsibility over at least the responsibilities of the six Northern Ireland Departments, and with provisions to ensure that all sections of the community can participate and work together successfully in the operation of these institutions and that all sections of the community are protected...
Elections	Page 4, Propositions on Heads of Agreement ...Democratically elected institutions in Northern Ireland, to include a Northern Ireland Assembly, elected by a system of proportional representation, exercising devolved executive and legislative responsibility over at least the responsibilities of the six Northern Ireland Departments, and with provisions to ensure that all sections of the community can participate and work together successfully in the operation of these institutions and that all sections of the community are protected...
Electoral commission	No specific mention.
Political parties reform	No specific mention.
Civil society	No specific mention.
Traditional/religious leaders	No specific mention.
Public administration	No specific mention.
Constitution	Governance→Constitution→Constitutional reform/making Page 1-2, Joint Statement, 5. The two governments do not have a problem clarifying certain matters, for example: Constitutional change will include changes to Article 2 and 3 of the Irish Constitution and to Section 75 of the Government of Ireland Act 1920;... Page 3, Propositions on Heads of Agreement Balanced constitutional change, based on commitment to the principle of consent in all its aspects by both British and Irish governments, to include both changes to the Irish Constitution and to British constitutional legislation...

Power sharing

Political power sharing

Power sharing→Political power sharing→General
Sub-state level
Page, 1, para 2

Democratically elected institutions in Northern Ireland, to include a Northern Ireland Assembly, elected by a system of proportional representation, exercising devolved executive and legislative responsibility over at least the responsibilities of the six Northern Ireland Departments, and with provisions to ensure that all sections of the community can participate and work together successfully in the operation of these institutions and that all sections of the community are protected.

Page 4, Propositions on Heads of Agreement

...Democratically elected institutions in Northern Ireland, to include a Northern Ireland Assembly, elected by a system of proportional representation, exercising devolved executive and legislative responsibility over at least the responsibilities of the six Northern Ireland Departments, and with provisions to ensure that all sections of the community can participate and work together successfully in the operation of these institutions and that all sections of the community are protected...

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

No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar Page 3-4, Propositions on Heads of Agreement

...Provisions to safeguard the rights of both communities in Northern Ireland, through arrangements for the comprehensive protection of fundamental human, civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights, including a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland supplementing the provisions of the European Convention and to achieve full respect for the principles of treatment and freedom from discrimination, and the cultural identity and ethos of both communities. Appropriate steps to ensure an equivalent level of protection in the Republic.

Treaty incorporation Page 3-4, Propositions on Heads of Agreement
...Provisions to safeguard the rights of both communities in Northern Ireland, through arrangements for the comprehensive protection of fundamental human, civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights, including a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland supplementing the provisions of the European Convention and to achieve full respect for the principles of treatment and freedom from discrimination, and the cultural identity and ethos of both communities. Appropriate steps to ensure an equivalent level of protection in the Republic.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication No specific mention.

Mobility/access No specific mention.

Protection measures No specific mention.

Other No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

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 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 Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Promotion
Page 3-4, Propositions on Heads of Agreement
...Provisions to safeguard the rights of both communities in Northern Ireland, through arrangements for the comprehensive protection of fundamental human, civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights, including a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland supplementing the provisions of the European Convention and to achieve full respect for the principles of treatment and freedom from discrimination, and the cultural identity and ethos of both communities. Appropriate steps to ensure an equivalent level of protection in the Republic.

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 4, Propositions on Heads of Agreement
...Effective and practical measures to establish and consolidate an acceptable peaceful society, dealing with issues such as prisoners, security in all its aspects, policing and decommissioning of weapons.

Armed forces No specific mention.

DDR Security sector→DDR→Demilitarisation provisions
Page 4, Propositions on Heads of Agreement
...Effective and practical measures to establish and consolidate an acceptable peaceful society, dealing with issues such as prisoners, security in all its aspects, policing and decommissioning of weapons.

Intelligence services No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces No specific mention.

Withdrawal of foreign forces No specific mention.

Corruption No specific mention.

Crime/organised crime No specific mention.

Drugs No specific mention.

Terrorism No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release Page 4, Propositions on Heads of Agreement
...Effective and practical measures to establish and consolidate an acceptable peaceful society, dealing with issues such as prisoners, security in all its aspects, policing and decommissioning of weapons.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims Page 2, Joint Statement, 5.
...The governments wish to make clear that the position and sensitivities of the victims of violence are fully acknowledged and will continue to be taken into account where appropriate.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

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.
Related cases	No specific mention.
Source	CAIN Web Service https://cain.ulster.ac.uk/events/peace/docs/bi12198.htm
