

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

<b>Stage</b>	Implementation/renegotiation
<b>Conflict nature</b>	Government/territory
<b>Peace process</b>	Northern Ireland peace process
<b>Parties</b>	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'.

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**Agreement document** [UK\\_IE\\_160913\\_AgreementEstablishingIndependentReportingCommission.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

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**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.

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## Gender

**Women, girls and gender** No specific mention.

**Men and boys** No specific mention.

**LGBTI** No specific mention.

**Family** No specific mention.

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## 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.

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## Governance

**Political institutions (new or reformed)** No specific mention.

**Elections** No specific mention.

<b>Electoral commission</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Political parties reform</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Civil society</b>	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.
<b>Traditional/religious leaders</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Public administration</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Constitution</b>	No specific mention.

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**Power sharing**

<b>Political power sharing</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Territorial power sharing</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Economic power sharing</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Military power sharing</b>	No specific mention.

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**Human rights and equality**

<b>Human rights/RoL general</b>	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;...
<b>Bill of rights/similar</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Treaty incorporation</b>	No specific mention.

**Civil and political rights** No specific mention.

**Socio-economic rights** No specific mention.

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### **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.

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### **Rights institutions**

**NHRI** No specific mention.

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

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### **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.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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## **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.

**Corruption** No specific mention.

**Crime/organised crime** No specific mention.

**Drugs** No specific mention.

**Terrorism** No specific mention.

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### **Transitional justice**

**Transitional justice general** No specific mention.

**Amnesty/pardon** No specific mention.

**Courts** No specific mention.

**Mechanism** No specific mention.

**Prisoner release** No specific mention.

**Vetting** No specific mention.

**Victims** No specific mention.

**Missing persons** No specific mention.

**Reparations** No specific mention.

**Reconciliation** No specific mention.

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### **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** United Kingdom Government  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/554474/Ireland\\_1\\_2016\\_IRC\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/554474/Ireland_1_2016_IRC_WEB.pdf)

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