

<b>Country/entity</b>	Ireland United Kingdom Northern Ireland
<b>Region</b>	Europe and Eurasia
<b>Agreement name</b>	New Decade, New Approach
<b>Date</b>	10 Jan 2020
<b>Agreement status</b>	Multiparty signed/agreed
<b>Interim arrangement</b>	Yes
<b>Agreement/conflict level</b>	Intrastate/intrastate conflict

### **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

**Parties** Government of the United Kingdom  
Government of the Republic of Ireland  
Democratic Unionist Party  
Sinn Féin  
Ulster Unionist Party  
Social Democratic and Labour Party  
The Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

**Third parties** -

**Description** Agreement to restore the devolved institutions following a long hiatus resulting from a number of outstanding issues, some of which are dealt with in the agreement, such as changes to the mutual veto mechanism, transparency in the civil service, and provisions for the Irish language.

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**Agreement document** [UK\\_IE\\_10012020\\_New\\_Decade\\_New\\_Approach.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

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## Groups

## Children/youth

Groups→Children/youth→Substantive

Page 9: Part 1: Priorities of the Reformed Executive

...

The Executive will press on with implementation of a redress scheme for victims and survivors of historical abuse, making payments as early as possible.

The Executive will publish a Childcare Strategy and identify resources to deliver extended, affordable and high quality provision of early education and care initiatives for families with children aged 3-4.

The loss of a child causes unimaginable pain for families. The Executive will establish a child funeral fund, to ease the burden on families suffering acutely.

Page 26: Annex D: Programme for Government

...

4.2. The parties' agreed approach is to build on the outcomes in the previous Programme for Government, adding a new focus on the priorities of: housing; education; childcare; infrastructure and services, climate change; ending sectarianism; and tackling paramilitarism.

Page 27: Annex D: Programme for Government

...

4.6.2. The Programme for Government could be underpinned by key supporting strategies, including the following:

...

4.6.2.10. Children and Young People's Strategy;

4.6.2.11. Childcare Strategy;

4.6.2.12. Child Poverty Strategy;

Page 40: Appendix 1 - Programme for Government

...

Education

vi. A suite of actions that will begin to address resourcing pressures in the education system and deliver quick results in terms of improved efficiency and effectiveness.

vii. Deliver an enhanced approach to careers advice, curriculum, training and apprenticeships to enhance employability.

viii. Enhanced strategic focus and supporting actions on educating our children and young people together in the classroom, in order to build a shared and integrated society.

ix. Establish an expert group to examine the links between persistent educational underachievement and socio-economic background and draw up an action plan for change that will ensure all children and young people, regardless of background, are given the best start in life.

x. The issues highlighted in the NIAO review of Special Educational Need will be addressed as a priority.

<b>Disabled persons</b>	<p>Groups→Disabled persons→Substantive  Page 27: Annex D: Programme for Government  4.6.2. The Programme for Government could be underpinned by key supporting strategies, including the following:  ...  4.6.2.6. Disability Strategy;</p> <p>Page 37: Annex E: Rights, language and identity  ...  Sign Language  5.30. A draft framework and policy proposals for legislation on sign language have been consulted on by the Department for Communities. The Parties agree to the process of drafting clauses commencing with a view to introducing a Bill to the Assembly at the early stage.</p> <p>Page 40: Appendix 1 - Programme for Government  ...  x. The issues highlighted in the NIAO review of Special Educational Need will be addressed as a priority.</p>
<b>Elderly/age</b>	<p>Groups→Elderly/age→Substantive  Page 27: Annex D: Programme for Government  ...  4.6.2. The Programme for Government could be underpinned by key supporting strategies, including the following:  ...  4.6.2.9. Active Ageing Strategy;</p>
<b>Migrant workers</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Racial/ethnic/ national group</b>	<p>Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Anti-discrimination  Page 27: Annex D: Programme for Government  ...  4.6.2. The Programme for Government could be underpinned by key supporting strategies, including the following:  ...  4.6.2.5. Racial Equality Strategy;</p>
<b>Religious groups</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Indigenous people</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Other groups</b>	No specific mention.

**Refugees/displaced persons** No specific mention.

**Social class** No specific mention.

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**Gender**

**Women, girls and gender** Page 6: Part 1: Priorities of the Restored Executive  
...  
The Executive will reconfigure hospital provision to deliver better patient outcomes, more stable services and sustainable staffing. Improvements will be made in stroke, breast assessment, urgent and emergency care and day case elective care by the end of 2020.  
...  
The Executive will provide 3 funded cycles of IVF treatment

Page 7: Part 1: Priorities of the Restored Executive  
...  
The Executive will also address:  
...  
● the report of Sir John Gillen on the handling of serious sexual offences cases, and will deliver the necessary changes in case conduct and management.

Page 9: Part 1: Priorities of the Restored Executive  
...  
The Executive will press on with implementation of a redress scheme for victims and survivors of historical abuse, making payments as early as possible.

Page 27: Annex D: Programme for Government  
...  
4.6.2. The Programme for Government could be underpinned by key supporting strategies, including the following:  
...  
4.6.2.7. Gender Strategy;  
4.6.2.8. Sexual Orientation Strategy;

**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)**

Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→New political institutions (indefinite)

Page 14: Part 2: Northern Ireland Executive Formation Agreement  
Rights, Language and Identity

...

27.The framework will be underpinned by an affirmation of the birthright of all the people of Northern Ireland to identify themselves and be accepted as Irish or British, or both, as they may so choose, while acknowledging and accommodating those within our community who define themselves as ‘other’ and those who form our ethnic and newcomer communities. It will comprise:

a. An Office of Identity and Cultural Expression to promote cultural pluralism and respect for diversity, build social cohesion and reconciliation and to celebrate and support all aspects of Northern Ireland’s rich cultural and linguistic heritage.

b. Legislation to create a Commissioner to recognise, support, protect and enhance the development of the Irish language in Northern Ireland and to provide official recognition of the status of the Irish Language in Northern Ireland. The legislation will also repeal the Administration of Justice (Language) Act (Ireland) 1737.

c. Legislation to create a further such Commissioner to enhance and develop the language, arts and literature associated with the Ulster Scots / Ulster British tradition and to provide official recognition of the status of the Ulster Scots language in Northern Ireland. The legislation will also place a legal

16  
duty on the Department of Education to encourage and facilitate the use of Ulster Scots in the education system.

d. The main function of the Irish Language Commissioner will be to protect and enhance the development of the use of the Irish language by public authorities including by providing advice and guidance, and introducing, supporting and monitoring the use of best practice language standards.

e. The main function of the further such Commissioner will be to enhance and develop the language, arts and literature associated with the Ulster Scots/ Ulster British tradition in Northern Ireland.

f. A central Translation Hub will also be established in the Department of Finance within three months of an agreement, in order to provide language translation services for the 9 Executive Departments, Arm’s Length Bodies, Local Government and Public Bodies.

g. The Assembly’s Standing Orders will also be amended to allow any person to conduct their business before the Assembly or an Assembly Committee through Irish or Ulster Scots. A simultaneous translation system will be made available in the Assembly to ensure that a person without Irish or Ulster Scots is not placed at a disadvantage.

h. This legislation - including establishing the Office and both Commissioners - will be established as new dedicated parts of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. This is the legislation which implements the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and subsequent agreements and establishes the Assembly and Executive in law. The enactment of these new Parts of the Northern Ireland Act will reflect the importance of these issues to people and society in Northern Ireland.

i. The Office of Identity will provide funding streams and schemes, including publishing and broadcasting, small grants, events and tourism, exhibition and museum curation, built heritage, cultural education and tourism projects.

**Elections**

Page 13: Part 2: Northern Ireland Executive Formation Agreement  
Sustainability of the Institutions

...

18.If a period of political tension arises in future which risks a breakdown of the institutions the agreement provides for a longer 24-week period before an Assembly election must be called. During this period Ministers will remain in office in a care-taker capacity to allow for greater continuity of decision-making. Ministers will be required to act within well-defined limits, including as set out in the Ministerial Code and in accordance with the requirement for an Executive Committee to consider any decisions that are significant and controversial or cross-cutting, and, as appropriate, the restrictions that are in place during a pre-election period. Assembly Committees will also continue to function and discharge their important duties.

**Electoral  
commission**

No specific mention.

**Political parties  
reform**

No specific mention.

**Civil society**

Page 13: Part 2: Northern Ireland Executive Formation Agreement  
Sustainability of the Institutions

...

17. The parties also agree to introduce reformed measures to put civic engagement and public consultation at the heart of policy-making, recognising the vital role that wider society plays in supporting effective and accountable Government.

Page 14 Part 2: Northern Ireland Executive Formation Agreement  
Programme for Government

...

21. In addition, the parties agree that the principles and practice of citizen and community engagement and co-design will be a key part of the development and delivery of the Programme for Government and its supporting strategies

Page 23: Annex C: Sustainability of the Institutions

...

Structured Civic Engagement

3.8. The parties recognise the value of structured and flexible engagement with civic society to assist the Government to solve complex policy issues. The Parties have agreed that the existing Compact Civic Advisory Panel should be reformed to include a renewed membership appointed within 6 months by way of a Public Appointments process.

3.9. The Parties have agreed that about 1-2 issues will be commissioned per year for civic engagement. The Panel will be invited to propose the most appropriate model of engagement for specific issues, including one Citizens' Assembly a year. The issues will be identified by the Executive. Following consideration of the assigned issues recommendations will be made to the Executive by the Panel.

Page 27: Annex D: Programme for Government

...

4.5. In addition, the parties agree that the principles and practice of citizen and community engagement and co-design will be a key part of the development and delivery of the Programme for Government and its supporting strategies. This will empower citizens to secure their own rights and wellbeing. This will complement – not replace – the right of citizens to challenge through the courts any denial of their lawful rights.

Page 29: Annex D: Programme for Government

...

4.6.10. Engagement with civic society and the principles of co-design and co-production must underpin the development of the Programme for Government, budget and strategies .

**Traditional/  
religious leaders**

No specific mention.

Page 4 Context and Responsibilities

...

2. The deal will transform public services and restore public confidence in devolved government and has been tabled at talks at Stormont House for the political parties in Northern Ireland to agree.

Page 8: Part 1: Priorities for the Restored Executive

...

There will be further reform of the NI Civil Service.

Page 11: Part 2: Northern Ireland Executive Formation Agreement

...

Transparency, accountability and the functioning of the Executive

3. Ministers and civil servants, including special advisers, each have a part to play in rebuilding the trust of citizens in the operation of a future administration. The parties reaffirm their commitment to greater transparency and improved governance arrangements that are aimed at securing and maintaining public confidence. This is particularly important in light of the public inquiry into the RHI scheme.

4. The parties have therefore agreed to an ambitious package of measures to strengthen transparency and governance arrangements in the Assembly and Executive in line with international best practice. The Executive will, as a matter of urgency, produce strengthened drafts of the ministerial, civil service and special adviser codes, to be implemented immediately.

5. The measures agreed here include:

- a. making clear the accountability of Ministers to the Assembly;
- b. strengthening Ministers' responsibility for their special advisers;
- c. publishing details of Ministers' meetings with external organisations;
- d. publishing details of gifts and hospitality received by special advisers, meetings with external organisations, and pay;
- e. strengthening requirements for record-keeping and the protections for whistleblowers;
- f. establishment of a fiscal council which would assess and report on the sustainability of the Executive's finances and spending proposals.

6. The parties also agree to establish a robust, independent enforcement mechanism to deal with breaches of the Ministerial Code and related documents.

7. The Executive will establish a dedicated sub-committee which will consider the findings of the RHI inquiry and propose further reforms, in addition to those in this agreement, to deliver the changes necessary to rebuild public confidence. The parties agree to deliver any such reforms rapidly once the inquiry has reported.

8. The full detail of these transparency and accountability measures is set out in Annex A.

Page 14: Part 2: Northern Ireland Executive Formation Agreement  
Programme for Government

...

22. The parties have agreed a two-stage approach to establishing a strategic level Programme for Government comprising the framework of 12 outcomes of societal wellbeing from the Northern Ireland Civil Service Outcomes Delivery Plan and a Priorities Plan consisting of actions for delivery during the remainder of

**Constitution**

No specific mention.

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**Power sharing**

**Political power sharing**

Power sharing→Political power sharing→Executive coalition  
Sub-state level  
Page 4 Context and Responsibilities

...

3. These talks were convened to restore the institutions created by the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and, particularly, to restore a functioning Northern Ireland Executive delivering for the people of Northern Ireland on a stable and sustainable basis.

...

The New Decade, New Approach deal represents a fair and balanced basis upon which to restore the institutions.

Page 13: Part 2: Northern Ireland Executive Formation Agreement

...

Sustainability of the Institutions

14.The parties agree that a three-year absence of devolved government cannot happen again, and have therefore agreed a package of measures to deliver more sustainable institutions that are more resilient and able to continue to function throughout periods of political difficulty.

15.The parties have agreed that the institutions should be reformed on the basis of good faith, trust, and mutual respect, and have reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of power-sharing and cross community protection contained in the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement.

16.This agreement creates new bodies, including a Party Leaders' Forum and Executive Sub-Committee on Brexit to improve collaboration and partnership and improve the sustainability of the institutions. It makes arrangements to strengthen the ability of the parties in Opposition to hold the Executive to account, including proposals to extend the period of time in which parties can form an Opposition.

17.The parties also agree to introduce reformed measures to put civic engagement and public consultation at the heart of policy-making, recognising the vital role that wider society plays in supporting effective and accountable Government.

18.If a period of political tension arises in future which risks a breakdown of the institutions the agreement provides for a longer 24-week period before an Assembly election must be called. During this period Ministers will remain in office in a care-taker capacity to allow for greater continuity of decision-making. Ministers will be required to act within well-defined limits, including as set out in the Ministerial Code and in accordance with the requirement for an Executive Committee to consider any decisions that are significant and controversial or cross-cutting, and, as appropriate, the restrictions that are in place during a pre-election period. Assembly Committees will also continue to function and discharge their important duties.

Page 14: Part 2: Northern Ireland Executive Formation Agreement

...

**Territorial power sharing** No specific mention.

**Economic power sharing** No specific mention.

**Military power sharing** No specific mention.

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## Human rights and equality

**Human rights/RoL general** Page 26: Annex D: Programme for Government  
...

4.4. The parties acknowledge the importance of promoting and protecting the rights and identity of individuals and are agreed that the Executive should seek to build a society that reflects the best international standards of human rights. The parties acknowledge the importance of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, whose remit is to ensure that government and other public bodies protect the human rights of everyone and help people understand what their rights are and what they can do if they are infringed.

**Bill of rights/similar** Page 16: Part 2: Northern Ireland Executive Formation Agreement  
Rights, Language and Identity

...

28. An Ad-Hoc Assembly Committee will be established to consider the creation of a Bill of Rights that is faithful to the stated intention of the 1998 Agreement in that it contains rights supplementary to those contained in the European Convention on Human Rights (which are currently applicable) and “that reflect the particular circumstances of Northern Ireland”; as well as reflecting the principles of mutual respect for the identity and ethos of both communities and parity of esteem

Page 37: Annex E: Rights, language and identity  
Bill of Rights

5.26. An Ad-Hoc Assembly Committee will be established to consider the creation of a Bill of Rights that is faithful to the stated intention of the 1998 Agreement in that it contains rights supplementary to those contained in the European Convention on Human Rights, which are currently applicable and “that reflect the particular circumstances of Northern Ireland”; as well as reflecting the principles of mutual respect for the identity and ethos of both communities and parity of esteem.

5.27. The Ad-Hoc Committee will be assisted in its work by a Panel of five experts appointed jointly by the First Minister and deputy First Minister.

5.28. The Panel should initially seek to advise the Ad-Hoc Committee on what constitutes our “particular circumstances” drawing upon, but not bound by, previous work on a Bill of Rights and should review and make recommendations on how the UK’s withdrawal from the EU may impact on our “particular circumstances”.

5.29. The terms of reference and timetable of the Committee will be agreed within 30 working days of the restoration of devolution. The establishment of cross party and cross community support will be critical to advancing a Bill of Rights.

Sign Language

5.30. A draft framework and policy proposals for legislation on sign language have been consulted on by the Department for Communities. The Parties agree to the process of drafting clauses commencing with a view to introducing a Bill to the Assembly at the early stage.

**Treaty  
incorporation** No specific mention.

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

**Socio-economic rights**

Human rights and equality→Socio-economic rights→Cultural life

Page 31: Annex E: Rights, language and identity

5.1. The First Minister and deputy First Minister, supported by Junior Ministers in The Executive Office, will sponsor and oversee a new framework both recognising and celebrating Northern Ireland's diversity of identities and culture and accommodating cultural difference. This framework will be underpinned by the birthright of all the people of Northern Ireland to identify themselves and be accepted as Irish or British, or both, as they may so choose, while fully acknowledging and accommodating those within our community who define themselves as 'other', and those from our ethnic communities and newcomer communities.

5.2. The guiding principles of this framework will be set out in legislation, and public authorities must in exercising their functions have due regard to the principles, namely:

5.2.1. the need to respect the freedom of all persons in Northern Ireland to choose, affirm, maintain and develop their national and cultural identity and to celebrate and express that identity in a manner which takes into account the sensitivities of those with different national or cultural identities and respects the rule of law;

5.2.2. the need to encourage and promote reconciliation, tolerance and meaningful dialogue between those of different national and cultural identities in Northern Ireland with a view to promoting parity of esteem, mutual respect, understanding and cooperation. The Office of Identity and Cultural Expression (the 'Office') provides the central point for giving effect to these principles and promoting this framework.

5.3. The strategic aims of the Office will be:

5.3.1. to promote cultural pluralism and respect for diversity, including Northern Ireland's ethnic, national, linguistic and faith communities;

5.3.2. build social cohesion and reconciliation so that everyone has a sense of belonging;

5.3.3. build capacity and resilience on how we address our unresolved cultural identity issues; and

5.3.4. celebrate and support all aspects of Northern Ireland's rich cultural and linguistic heritage, recognising the equal validity and importance of all identities and traditions.

5.4. The Office will be established as a statutory body, to which the First Minister and deputy First Minister, acting jointly, will appoint a Director.

5.5. In giving effect to the guiding principles the Office will undertake the following functions:

5.5.1. provide guidance to public authorities;

5.5.2. monitor compliance with the duty to have due regard to the principles;

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**Rights related issues**

**Citizenship**            No specific mention.

**Democracy**            No specific mention.

**Detention  
procedures**            No specific mention.

**Media and communication**

Rights related issues→Media and communication→Other  
Page 16: Part 2: Northern Ireland Executive  
Formation Agreement

..

i. The Office of Identity will provide funding streams and schemes, including publishing and broadcasting, small grants, events and tourism, exhibition and museum curation, built heritage, cultural education and tourism projects.

Page 32:Annex E: Rights, language and identity

...

5.5.9. provide grant aid (capital and revenue) to projects and programmes consistent with its aims set out in paragraph 5.3. The Office will have funding streams and schemes including publishing and broadcasting, small grants, events and tourism, exhibition and museum curation, built heritage, cultural education and tourism projects;

Page 49:Annex A: UK Government Commitments to Northern Ireland

Promoting Northern Ireland’s culture, heritage and society

...

23. Support discussions with NI Screen to explore how the remit of the Ulster Scots Broadcasting Fund (USBF) and Irish Language Broadcasting Fund (ILBF) can be broadened, and will increase funding for the USBF and ILBF to reflect any broadened remit

Page 53: Annex A: UK Government Financial and Economic Commitments to Northern Ireland

...

Addressing Northern Ireland’s unique circumstances

The Government will make funding available for a range of projects aimed at supporting community and reconciliation initiatives to remove barriers, bring the people of Northern

Ireland together and build a safer, more secure society in Northern Ireland. This could include areas such as:

...

- Support for languages and broadcasting.

**Mobility/access**

No specific mention.

**Protection measures**

No specific mention.

**Other**

Page 14: Part 2: Northern Ireland Executive Formation Agreement

...

23. By April 2020, informed by a detailed stakeholder engagement process, the Executive will publish a new strategic level outcomes-based Programme for Government aligned to a multi-year budget with a sustained approach to public finances and prioritised investment in infrastructure and public services. The new Programme will be aimed at delivering lasting changes and improvements in key priority areas and will include measures aimed at: removing paramilitarism, ending sectarianism, transforming health and social care, reforming education, ensuring households have access to good quality, affordable and sustainable homes, addressing climate change, creating good jobs and protecting workers' rights.

Page 44: Appendix 2 - Programme for Government

...

**Workers' Rights**

x. There will be an enhanced focus within the Programme for Government on creating good jobs and protecting workers rights. The parties agree that access to good jobs, where workers have a voice that provides a level of autonomy, a decent income, security of tenure, satisfying work in the right quantities and decent working conditions, should be integral to public policy given how this contributes to better health and wellbeing by tackling inequalities, building self-efficacy and combating poverty.

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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** Justice sector reform→Criminal justice and emergency law→Criminal Justice System reform

Page 7: Part 1: Priorities of the Restored Executive

...

The Executive will also address:

- the findings in recently published reports from Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland, and
- the report of Sir John Gillen on the handling of serious sexual offences cases, and will deliver the necessary changes in case conduct and management.

**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**

Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development

Page 6:Part 1: Priorities of the Restored Executive

...

The parties have agreed on a way forward for a restored Executive to begin the urgent task of strengthening public services and to tackle immediate challenges in key areas such

as growing the economy, health, education and housing. A restored Executive brings with

it urgently needed local political oversight and decision-making. The Executive will bring positive changes in areas that impact greatly on people's lives such as the economy,

overcrowded hospitals, struggling schools, housing stress, welfare concerns and mental health. There will be a multi-year Programme for Government, underpinned by a multi-year budget and legislative programme

The parties have agreed that the immediate priorities for the restored Executive should be:

> Transforming our health service with a long-term funding strategy. The Executive will:

- immediately settle the ongoing pay dispute;
- introduce a new action plan on waiting times; and
- deliver reforms on health and social care as set out in the Bengoa, Delivering Together and Power to People reports.

...

The Executive will publish a Mental Health Action Plan within 2 months; a Mental Health Strategy by December 2020; a successor strategy and action plan to the Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs Phase 2 within 3 months; and a new strategy and implementation plan on cancer by December 2020.

Page 9: Part 1: Priorities of the Restored Executive

...

> Delivering a fair and compassionate society that supports working families and the most vulnerable. The Executive will develop and implement an Anti-poverty Strategy.

...

By introducing legislation to reclassify housing associations, the Executive will enable housing associations to continue building new social housing and intermediate housing, including the Co-ownership Housing Scheme after March 2020. Housing will be included as a specific priority in the Programme for Government. The Executive will also enhance investment and agree a target for new social and affordable home starts and tackle the maintenance backlog for Northern Ireland Housing Executive properties

Page 14:Part 2: Northern Ireland Executive Formation Agreement

23. By April 2020, informed by a detailed stakeholder engagement process, the Executive will publish a new strategic level outcomes-based Programme for Government aligned to a multi-year budget with a sustained approach to public finances and prioritised investment in infrastructure and public services. The new Programme will be aimed at delivering lasting changes and improvements in key priority areas and will include measures aimed at: removing paramilitarism, ending sectarianism, transforming health and social care, reforming education, ensuring households have access to good quality, affordable and sustainable homes, addressing climate change, creating good jobs and protecting workers' rights

**National economic plan** Page 6: Part 1: Priorities of the Restored Executive

...

The parties have agreed on a way forward for a restored Executive to begin the urgent task of strengthening public services and to tackle immediate challenges in key areas such as growing the economy, health, education and housing. A restored Executive brings with it urgently needed local political oversight and decision-making. The Executive will bring positive changes in areas that impact greatly on people's lives such as the economy, overcrowded hospitals, struggling schools, housing stress, welfare concerns and mental health. There will be a multi-year Programme for Government, underpinned by a multi-year budget and legislative programme.

Page 8: Part 1: Priorities of the Restored Executive

...

> Investing for the future to ensure Northern Ireland is equipped to harness opportunities and drive sustainable productivity, including opportunities for future trade as we leave the EU. The economic context has changed considerably in the past three years. A top priority of the Executive will be to develop a regionally-balanced economy with opportunities for all.

The Executive will invest strategically in ensuring that NI has the right mix of skills for a thriving economy.

To boost the economy, the Executive will drive the delivery of essential infrastructure projects, including York Street Interchange, in order to build a Northern Ireland that is equipped for a prosperous shared future.

The Executive will make it a priority to realise the economic potential offered by City Deals for the Belfast Region and Derry/Londonderry, including through match capital funding for infrastructure, regeneration and tourism projects. The Executive will work with the UK Government to develop and deliver the Growth Deals for Mid South West Northern Ireland and Causeway Coast and Glens

The Executive will invest urgently in wastewater infrastructure which is at or nearing capacity in many places across Northern Ireland, including in Belfast, limiting growth.

The Executive will bring more big events like The Open Championship to Northern Ireland - playing to our strengths and boosting our economy. The Executive will also take forward the reform of licensing laws.

...

In support of both economic and educational objectives, the Executive will develop an enhanced approach to careers advice, curriculum, training and apprenticeships to enhance employability and support economic growth.

**Natural resources** No specific mention.

**International funds** No specific mention.

## Business

Page 8: Part 1: Priorities of the Restored Executive

...

> Investing for the future to ensure Northern Ireland is equipped to harness opportunities and drive sustainable productivity, including opportunities for future trade as we leave the

EU. The economic context has changed considerably in the past three years. A top priority of the Executive will be to develop a regionally-balanced economy with opportunities for all.

Page 46:Annex A: UK Government Commitments to Northern Ireland

...

Strengthening the economy

4. Enhance the assistance from business-supporting UK Government departments in NI, including DIT, working in partnership with Northern Ireland agencies, including InvestNI. This will include supporting the delivery of the Northern Ireland International Trade plan, establishing a new Trade Advisory Board, appointment of Northern Ireland Trade Ambassadors, and developing a Trade Accelerator Plan and a “Made in NI” campaign.

5. Host an annual meeting of the Board of Trade in Northern Ireland and organise joint Northern Ireland Executive and UK Government trade missions.

6. Promote Northern Ireland as a global cyber security hub, building on its blend of world-class talent, leading forensic science expertise and tech research excellence to achieve 5,000 cyber security professionals in Northern Ireland by 2030.

7. Scope the establishment of a Northern Ireland hub in London - complementing the Invest Northern Ireland London Hub - to provide an increased opportunity for Northern Ireland stakeholder engagement in London. In tandem, explore the creation of a UK Government hub in Northern Ireland to increase the visibility and accessibility of UK Government departments in Northern Ireland.

Page 47:Annex A: UK Government Commitments to Northern Ireland

Strengthening the Economy

...

Future relationship with the European Union

8. The UK Government recognises the importance for Northern Ireland of the negotiations with the European Union on a new trading relationship, and on the implementation of the Protocol to the Withdrawal Agreement on Northern Ireland and Ireland. We have already committed to ensuring that there is a New Deal for Northern Ireland as we leave the European Union, maximising trade opportunities and investment. The Government is determined to get the right deal for Northern Ireland and the whole of the United Kingdom, and would welcome close engagement with a restored Executive on Northern Ireland’s priorities in the next phase.

9. In recognition of this, the Government will ensure that representatives from the Northern Ireland Executive are invited to be part of the UK delegation in any meetings of the UK-EU Specialised or Joint Committees discussing Northern Ireland specific matters which are also being attended by the Irish Government as part of the

**Taxation**

Socio-economic reconstruction→Taxation→Reform of taxation

Page 9: Part 1: Priorities of the Restored Executive

...

The Executive will examine options to remove historical debt from the NI Housing Executive and exclude it from having to pay Corporation Tax, and set a long-term trajectory for the rental charges for NI Housing Executive homes which is sustainable and is affordable to tenants.

Page 39: Appendix 1 - Programme for Government

...

iii. The Executive will examine options to remove historical debt from the NIHE and exclude it from having to pay Corporation Tax.

**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

Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Tangible

Page 49: Annex A: UK Government Commitments to Northern Ireland

...

Promoting Northern Ireland's culture, heritage and society

22. Work alongside the restored Executive, to mark the centenary of Northern Ireland in 2021 in a spirit of mutual respect, inclusiveness and reconciliation in line with the principles for remembering. This approach to the centenary will provide an opportunity to reflect on the past as well as to build for the future, within NI, across the UK, across the island of Ireland and internationally. We will make available funding to support a number of projects to mark the centenary. This will include facilitating national recognition and international awareness of this significant anniversary, as well as exploring projects such as a Shared History Fund, the restoration of Craigavon House and the Great Ulster Forest.

Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Intangible

Page 15: Part 2: Northern Ireland Executive Formation Agreement

Rights, language and identity

25. The parties affirm the need to respect the freedom of all persons in Northern Ireland to choose, affirm, maintain and develop their national and cultural identity and to celebrate and express that identity in a manner which takes into account the sensitivities of those with different national or cultural identities and respects the rule of law. They also affirm the need to encourage and promote reconciliation, tolerance and meaningful dialogue between those of different national and cultural identities in Northern Ireland with a view to promoting parity of esteem, mutual respect, understanding and cooperation. These principles will be reflected in legislation.

26. The First Minister and deputy First Minister, supported by Junior Ministers in The Executive Office, will sponsor and oversee a new framework both recognising and celebrating Northern Ireland's diversity of identities and culture, and accommodating cultural difference.

27. The framework will be underpinned by an affirmation of the birthright of all the people of Northern Ireland to identify themselves and be accepted as Irish or British, or both, as they may so choose, while acknowledging and accommodating those within our community who define themselves as 'other' and those who form our ethnic and newcomer communities. It will comprise:

a. An Office of Identity and Cultural Expression to promote cultural pluralism and respect for diversity, build social cohesion and reconciliation and to celebrate and support all aspects of Northern Ireland's rich cultural and linguistic heritage.

b. Legislation to create a Commissioner to recognise, support, protect and enhance the development of the Irish language in Northern Ireland and to provide official recognition of the status of the Irish Language in Northern Ireland. The legislation will also repeal the Administration of Justice (Language) Act (Ireland) 1737.

c. Legislation to create a further such Commissioner to enhance and develop the language, arts and literature associated with the Ulster Scots / Ulster British tradition and to provide official recognition of the status of the Ulster Scots language in Northern Ireland. The legislation will also place a legal duty on the Department of Education to encourage and facilitate the use of Ulster Scots in the education system.

d. The main function of the Irish Language Commissioner will be to protect and enhance the development of the use of the Irish language by public authorities including by providing advice and guidance, and introducing

## Environment

Page 8: Part 1: Priorities of the Restored Executive

...

The Executive will tackle climate change head on with a strategy to address the immediate and longer term impacts of climate change.

The Executive will introduce legislation and targets for reducing carbon emissions in line with the Paris Climate Change Accord.

Page 14: Part 2: Northern Ireland Executive Formation Agreement Programme for Government

...

23. By April 2020, informed by a detailed stakeholder engagement process, the Executive will publish a new strategic level outcomes-based Programme for Government aligned to a multi-year budget with a sustained approach to public finances and prioritised investment in infrastructure and public services. The new Programme will be aimed at delivering lasting changes and improvements in key priority areas and will include measures aimed at: removing paramilitarism, ending sectarianism, transforming health and social care, reforming education, ensuring households have access to good quality, affordable and sustainable homes, addressing climate change, creating good jobs and protecting workers' rights

Page 26: Annex D: Programme for Government

...

4.2. The parties' agreed approach is to build on the outcomes in the previous Programme for Government, adding a new focus on the priorities of: housing; education; childcare; infrastructure and services, climate change; ending sectarianism; and tackling paramilitarism.

Page 43: Appendix 2 - Programme for Government

...

Climate Change

ix. The parties recognise the need for a coordinated and strategic approach to the challenge of climate change within the Programme for Government. Actions and interventions will be required across a wide range of areas in order to address both the immediate and longer term impacts of climate change in a fair and just way. To this end:

- The Executive's strategies to reduce carbon emissions will be reviewed in light of the Paris Climate Change Accord and the climate crisis.
- A new Energy Strategy will set ambitious targets and actions for a fair and just transition to a zero carbon society.
- The Executive should bring forward a Climate Change Act to give environmental targets a strong legal underpinning.
- The Executive will establish an Independent Environmental Protection Agency to oversee this work and ensure targets are met.
- The Economic Strategy will support clean and inclusive growth and create jobs as part of a Green New Deal.

**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 7: Part 1: Priorities of the Restored Executive  
...  
The Executive will increase police numbers to 7,500. The Executive will deliver committal reform to help speed up the criminal justice system, benefiting victims and witnesses

Page 41: Appendix 1 - Programme for Government  
...  
Policing  
xxi. A renewed focus will be put on strengthening approaches and supporting mechanisms for policing in the community. This will be complemented with an increase in resources, both human and financial, for the neighbouring policing teams.



**Armed forces**

Page 49: Annex A: UK Government Commitments to Northern Ireland  
Delivering on our Commitments

...

Our commitments to veterans

18. Introduce UK-wide legislation to further incorporate the Armed Forces Covenant into law and support full implementation of the Armed Forces Covenant.

19. Appoint a Northern Ireland Veterans' Commissioner to act as an independent point of contact to support and enhance outcomes for veterans in Northern Ireland.

20. Initiate a review of the Aftercare Service in Northern Ireland (ACS) which will consider whether the remit of the ACS should be widened to cover all HM Forces veterans living in Northern Ireland with service-related injuries and conditions.

21. Ensure that the work of the War Memorials Trust who protect and conserve war memorials across the UK is better promoted and understood in Northern Ireland.

Page 53: Annex A: UK Government Financial and Economic Commitments to Northern Ireland

...

Addressing Northern Ireland's unique circumstances

The Government will make funding available for a range of projects aimed at supporting community and reconciliation initiatives to remove barriers, bring the people of Northern

Ireland together and build a safer, more secure society in Northern Ireland. This could include areas such as:

...

- Supporting the armed forces and veterans, including funding for a new Veteran's Commissioner

**DDR**

No specific mention.

**Intelligence services**

No specific mention.

**Parastatal/rebel  
and opposition  
group forces**

Page 9: Part 1: Priorities of the Restored Executive

...

The parties reaffirm their commitment to tackling paramilitarism. Ending the harm done by paramilitarism will be a priority in the new Programme for Government.

Page 14: Part 2: Northern Ireland Executive

Formation Agreement

Programme for Government

...

23. By April 2020, informed by a detailed stakeholder engagement process, the Executive will publish a new strategic level outcomes-based Programme for Government aligned to a multi-year budget with a sustained approach to public finances and prioritised investment in infrastructure and public services. The new Programme will be aimed at delivering lasting changes and improvements in key priority areas and will include measures aimed at: removing paramilitarism, ending sectarianism, transforming health and social care, reforming education, ensuring households have access to good quality, affordable and sustainable homes, addressing climate change, creating good jobs and protecting workers' rights.

Page 26: 4. Annex D: Programme for Government

...

4.2. The parties' agreed approach is to build on the outcomes in the previous Programme for Government, adding a new focus on the priorities of: housing; education; childcare; infrastructure and services, climate change; ending sectarianism; and tackling paramilitarism.

Page 40: Appendix 1 - Programme for Government

...

Tackling paramilitarism

xv. A targeted and specific focus across government to tackle paramilitarism.

Page 42: Appendix 2 - Programme for Government

Ending paramilitarism

i. The parties reaffirm their commitment to tackling paramilitarism. Ending the harm done by paramilitarism will be made a strategic priority in the revised Programme for Government outcomes.

Page 48: Annex A: UK Government Commitments to

Northern Ireland

The Fresh Start Agreement

17. Continue to ensure that PSNI and others are appropriately resourced to deal with terrorism and paramilitary activity, provide funding to ensure the work of the Programme to Tackle Paramilitary Activity, Criminality and Organised Crime can continue and redouble efforts to address commitments arising from the Fresh Start Panel Report on the Disbandment of Paramilitary Groups in Northern Ireland.

Page 53: Annex A: UK Government Financial and Economic

Commitments to Northern Ireland

Addressing Northern Ireland's unique circumstances

The Government will make funding available for a range of projects aimed at supporting community and reconciliation initiatives to remove barriers, bring the people of

**Withdrawal of  
foreign forces**

No specific mention.

...

Transparency, accountability and the functioning of the Executive

3. Ministers and civil servants, including special advisers, each have a part to play in rebuilding the trust of citizens in the operation of a future administration. The parties reaffirm their commitment to greater transparency and improved governance arrangements that are aimed at securing and maintaining public confidence. This is particularly important in light of the public inquiry into the RHI scheme.

4. The parties have therefore agreed to an ambitious package of measures to strengthen transparency and governance arrangements in the Assembly and Executive in line with international best practice. The Executive will, as a matter of urgency, produce strengthened drafts of the ministerial, civil service and special adviser codes, to be implemented immediately.

5. The measures agreed here include:

- a. making clear the accountability of Ministers to the Assembly;
- b. strengthening Ministers' responsibility for their special advisers;
- c. publishing details of Ministers' meetings with external organisations;
- d. publishing details of gifts and hospitality received by special advisers, meetings with external organisations, and pay;
- e. strengthening requirements for record-keeping and the protections for whistleblowers;
- f. establishment of a fiscal council which would assess and report on the sustainability of the Executive's finances and spending proposals.

6. The parties also agree to establish a robust, independent enforcement mechanism to deal with breaches of the Ministerial Code and related documents.

7. The Executive will establish a dedicated sub-committee which will consider the findings of the RHI inquiry and propose further reforms, in addition to those in this agreement, to deliver the changes necessary to rebuild public confidence. The parties agree to deliver any such reforms rapidly once the inquiry has reported.

8. The full detail of these transparency and accountability measures is set out in Annex A.

Page 17: Annex A: Transparency, accountability and the functioning of the Executive

1.1. The parties have agreed the following measures. The Executive will, as a matter of urgency, produce strengthened drafts of the relevant codes to be implemented immediately.

1.1.1. Making clear the accountability of Ministers to the Assembly and the need for statutory committees to be provided with the information they require to allow them to discharge their role.

1.1.2. Strengthening the requirements for the declaration and handling of interests by Ministers with full declaration of interests on appointment to be regularly updated and for relevant interests to be published.

1.1.3. Ministers to be responsible for the management, conduct and discipline of their special advisers (to also be included in the Special Adviser Code of Conduct).

**Crime/organised crime** Page 48: Annex A: UK Government Commitments to Northern Ireland  
Delivering on our Commitments  
...  
The Fresh Start Agreement  
17. Continue to ensure that PSNI and others are appropriately resourced to deal with terrorism and paramilitary activity, provide funding to ensure the work of the Programme to Tackle Paramilitary Activity, Criminality and Organised Crime can continue and redouble efforts to address commitments arising from the Fresh Start Panel Report on the Disbandment of Paramilitary Groups in Northern Ireland.

**Drugs** Page 2: Part 1: Priorities of the Restored Executive  
...  
The Executive will publish a Mental Health Action Plan within 2 months; a Mental Health Strategy by December 2020; a successor strategy and action plan to the Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs Phase 2 within 3 months; and a new strategy and implementation plan on cancer by December 2020

Page 29: Annex D: Programme for Government  
...  
4.6.11. The parties agree that an Assembly Committee should be established to monitor progress against each of the Programme for Government outcomes and to consider potential measures for achieving improvement. A dedicated Programme for Government monitoring and reporting website will be developed which will allow for full and transparent public reporting.

**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.

<b>Mechanism</b>	<p>Page 48: Annex A: UK Government Commitments to Northern Ireland  Delivering on our Commitments</p> <p>...</p> <p>The Stormont House Agreement</p> <p>16. As part of the Government’s wider legislative agenda, the Government will, within 100 days, publish and introduce legislation in the UK Parliament to implement the Stormont House Agreement, to address Northern Ireland legacy issues. The Government will now start an intensive process with the Northern Ireland parties, and the Irish Government as appropriate, to maintain a broad-based consensus on these issues, recognising that any such UK Parliament legislation should have the consent of the NI Assembly.</p>
<b>Prisoner release</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Vetting</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Victims</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Missing persons</b>	No specific mention.

**Reparations**

Transitional justice→Reparations→Material reparations

Page 7: Part 1: Priorities of the Restored Executive

...

The Executive will establish an expert group to examine and propose an action plan to address links between persistent educational underachievement and socio-economic background, including the long-standing issues facing working-class, Protestant boys.

## Reconciliation

Page 7: Part 1: Priorities of the Restored Executive

...

To help build a shared and integrated society, the Executive will support educating children and young people of different backgrounds together in the classroom

Page 9: Part 1: Priorities of the Restored Executive

...

There will be a focus within the Programme for Government on ending sectarianism and robust supporting strategies and actions will be put in place

Page 14: Part 2: Northern Ireland Executive Formation Agreement  
Programme for Government

...

23. By April 2020, informed by a detailed stakeholder engagement process, the Executive will publish a new strategic level outcomes-based Programme for Government aligned to a multi-year budget with a sustained approach to public finances and prioritised investment in infrastructure and public services. The new Programme will be aimed at delivering lasting changes and improvements in key priority areas and will include measures aimed at: removing paramilitarism, ending sectarianism, transforming health and social care, reforming education, ensuring households have access to good quality, affordable and sustainable homes, addressing climate change, creating good jobs and protecting workers' rights

24. In moving to a better, more prosperous and shared future the parties recognise the need to address the legacy of the past. To that end, the parties are committed to working together and to doing everything possible to heal wounds and eliminate the issues that divide us

Rights, language and identity

25. The parties affirm the need to respect the freedom of all persons in Northern Ireland to choose, affirm, maintain and develop their national and cultural identity and to celebrate and express that identity in a manner which takes into account the sensitivities of those with different national or cultural identities and respects the rule of law. They also affirm the need to encourage and promote reconciliation, tolerance and meaningful dialogue between those of different national and cultural identities in Northern Ireland with a view to promoting parity of esteem, mutual respect, understanding and cooperation. These principles will be reflected in legislation.

Page 31: Annex E: Rights, language and identity

...

5.2.2. the need to encourage and promote reconciliation, tolerance and meaningful dialogue between those of different national and cultural identities in Northern Ireland with a view to promoting parity of esteem, mutual respect, understanding and cooperation. The Office of Identity and Cultural Expression (the 'Office') provides the central point for giving effect to these principles and promoting this framework

Page 34: Annex E: Rights, language and identity

...

5.10. With specific reference to paragraph 5.8.1 above, guidance issued by Ministers should emphasise the importance of the Commissioner producing



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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**

Page 14: Part 2: Northern Ireland Executive Formation Agreement  
Rights, Language and Identity

...

- h. This legislation - including establishing the Office and both Commissioners - will be established as new dedicated parts of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. This is the legislation which implements the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and subsequent agreements and establishes the Assembly and Executive in law. The enactment of these new Parts of the Northern Ireland Act will reflect the importance of these issues to people and society in Northern Ireland.
- i. The Office of Identity will provide funding streams and schemes, including publishing and broadcasting, small grants, events and tourism, exhibition and museum curation, built heritage, cultural education and tourism projects.

Page 38: Annex F: Agreement Review and Monitoring

- 6.1. The parties are very conscious that the integrity and credibility of this Agreement is dependent on its effective and expeditious implementation. Accordingly, progress in implementing the provisions of this Agreement must be actively reviewed and monitored alongside or in coordination with arrangements to monitor the implementation of previous Agreements
- 6.2. There will be a need for Implementation Review Meetings which will include the Northern Ireland Executive's party leaders. There will be quarterly meetings, with the first meeting held before the end of January 2020 at which an Implementation Programme and Timetable will be agreed. The UK Government and the Irish Government will be involved as appropriate in accordance with the three stranded approach.
- 6.3. Quarterly updates on progress on the implementation of the Agreement will be published

Page 54: Conditions of the UK Government Financial Commitments in  
Support of a Restored Northern Ireland Executive

This funding package is accompanied by a number of conditions designed to ensure that UK Government funding contributes to increasing overall fiscal and budgetary sustainability in Northern Ireland's public finances. The funding is dependent on the functioning of the institutions and all funding provided in this financial package will be withdrawn if the institutions collapse.

Conditions to promote budgetary, fiscal and political stability:

- An independent Fiscal Council will be established in Northern Ireland by July 2020. As per the Fresh Start Agreement, the membership and terms of reference of this Council will be agreed with the UK Government. It would:
  - prepare an annual assessment of the Executive's revenue streams and spending proposals and how these allow the Executive to balance their budget; and
  - prepare a further annual report on the sustainability of the Executive's public finances, including the implications of spending policy and the effectiveness of long-term efficiency measures; and
  - have its membership and terms of reference agreed with the UK Government.

**Related cases** No specific mention.

**Source** [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/856998/2020-01-08\\_a\\_new\\_decade\\_\\_a\\_new\\_approach.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/856998/2020-01-08_a_new_decade__a_new_approach.pdf)

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