

CCBS – LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

03/02/2017 - 10/02/2017



Northern Ireland
Assembly

The Northern Ireland Assembly was dissolved at 00:01 on Thursday 26 January 2017.

The elections will take place on Thursday 2 March 2017.



Tuesday 7 February 2017

Department of Health

Billy Kelleher asked the Minister for Health the number of meetings that have taken place by his Department's Brexit committee; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Simon Harris: My Department is building on initial work completed to deepen its analysis of the possible impacts, risks, opportunities and contingencies arising over the longer term as a result of the UK's decision to leave the EU, including in the area of cross-border health co-operation. A Department of Health Management Board Subcommittee on Brexit was established in advance of the UK referendum to examine the implications of a decision to leave the EU on healthcare in Ireland and for Irish citizens. The Subcommittee is chaired at senior level and made up of representatives from across the Department, as well as from the HSE at National Director level. This sub-committee has met four times, with each division within my Department providing support and analysis. The Department of Health has also tasked the HSE and its other agencies with conducting further analysis on the impact of Brexit and this work is ongoing. My Department, in cooperation with its

agencies and other stakeholders, will continue to intensify detailed and focused preparations for the impact of Brexit on the health sector. The work of the Management Board sub-committee feeds into the structures coordinated centrally by the Department of the Taoiseach. My Department is represented on the Senior Officials Group on EU Affairs and the Interdepartmental Group on EU/UK Affairs, which supports the Cabinet Committee on Brexit, and provides input to a number of the workgroups set up as part of this support structure.

In addition to the Management Board sub-committee, an Interdepartmental/Interagency Group has been established to prepare a bid for the relocation of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) on foot of a Government Decision at the end of October. The Government believes that Ireland would be a very suitable location and that a move to Dublin would minimise the disruption to the business of the EMA, thus ensuring continued protection of EU citizens and providing reassurance to the industries which it regulates. The Group is chaired by the Department of Health and includes representatives from the Departments of the Taoiseach, Foreign Affairs and Trade, Agriculture Food and Marine, and Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, as well as the Health Products Regulatory Authority, Health Research Board, IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland and Science Foundation Ireland. The first meeting of the Group took place on 8 November and it has met twice since. A sub-group of the EMA Working Group has also met three times.

Source: <https://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2017-02-07a.999&s=cross-border#g1000.g>

Thursday 2 February 2017

Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation

Niamh Smyth asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation the targeted strategies the IDA and Enterprise Ireland have ongoing in the border region at present and particularly in counties Cavan and Monaghan to entice businesses in view of Brexit; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Mary Mitchell O'Connor: Enterprise Ireland (EI), the Local Enterprise Offices and IDA Ireland are engaging on an ongoing basis with all client companies regarding the impacts being felt as a result of Brexit. They have clear plans in place to mitigate challenges and maximise opportunities arising from the UK decision.

In Budget 2017, I secured additional monies, both current and capital, to support the enterprise agencies' strategic response to Brexit.

InterTrade Ireland also has a programme of initiatives to deal with the practical consequences of Brexit for cross-border trade.

I have a particular focus on the trade implications for the border region and am heavily engaged with all stakeholders in the Region on an ongoing basis.

I met with a delegation of Councillors, TDs and Senators from Cavan/Monaghan on 19 January last to discuss enterprise and job creation issues in the counties.

The Regional Action Plan for the North East/North West, which has a strong Brexit focus, aims to support 28,000 new jobs across Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan, and Louth by 2020.

I attended the second Implementation Committee meeting in Cavan in September. There is strong progress to date, with 5,600 more people in employment across the region since the start of 201. Brexit is a standing item on the agenda of these meetings.

Source: <https://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2017-02-09a.34&s=cross-border#g36.r>