

CCBS – LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

8 June 2018 – 15 June 2018



Northern Ireland
Assembly

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



Tuesday 12 June 2018

Department for Transport, Tourism and Sport

Peter Fitzpatrick asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the status of efforts to improve cross-Border tourism; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Brendan Griffin: My Department has responsibility for the development of national tourism policy while the tourism agencies have responsibility for the implementation of that policy. In that regard, Fáilte Ireland has responsibility for regional tourism development and domestic tourism promotion and it promotes all areas of Ireland as a tourism destination, including in Northern Ireland. Tourism Ireland is responsible for promoting the island of Ireland overseas as a tourism destination.

Furthermore, Fáilte Ireland, Tourism Northern Ireland and Tourism Ireland work together on an ongoing basis, including through regular tri-partite meetings, where improvements to cross-border tourism on the island of Ireland are discussed.

I have asked the tourism agencies to provide more information directly to the Deputy in regard to their efforts to improve cross-Border tourism. Please advise my private office if you do not receive a reply within ten working days.

Source <https://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2018-06-12a.45&s=cross+border+2018-06-08..2018-06-15#g46.q>

Wednesday 13 June 2018

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Brendan Smith asked the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if he has had contact with the British Foreign Secretary following the comments by him in relation to the importance of cross-Border trade and the interdependence of business and commerce North and South; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Simon Coveney: North South cooperation and cross-border trade has grown significantly in the years since the Good Friday Agreement, strengthening a growing prosperity which both supports and is supported by the peace process. Underpinned by the current shared EU regulatory framework, cross-border trade at present represents the first export market for 73% of Northern Ireland's small and medium-sized companies. More than 7,000 businesses trade from Northern Ireland across the island of Ireland, supporting over 165,000 jobs. Recent research has also shown a high degree of integration of the economies North and South, including in supply chains and trade in intermediary products. Northern Ireland accounts for between ten and twelve percent of total exports from Ireland to the UK and seven to eight percent of imports. Given that the population of Northern Ireland is less than three percent of the UK total, this shows the closeness of the economic ties between both parts of the island.

This underlines the importance of securing an outcome in the Brexit negotiations that maintains an invisible border on the island of Ireland. This objective goes beyond trade and is to protect the Good Friday agreement in all its parts and the gains of the peace process. Peace and prosperity are mutually reinforcing and cross-border trade is an important element in supporting jobs and building prosperity.

I regularly meet the Foreign Secretary, including at meetings of Foreign Ministers in an EU context, and internationally, as well as other UK Ministers who are heavily engaged in the Brexit negotiation process. Ireland's views on the importance of a workable resolution to the issues relating to the border on the island of Ireland are known to the UK Government and are discussed on a regular basis when Irish and UK Ministers meet. Ireland and the United Kingdom share many areas of mutual interest and concern and we will continue to work on areas of commonality with the aim of reaching an outcomes that reflects Ireland's well-stated objective of achieving as close as possible a relationship between the EU and the UK after Brexit.

Source: <https://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2018-06-13a.107&s=cross+border+2018-06-08..2018-06-15>