

# CCBS – LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

---

2 November 2018 – 9 November 2018



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

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



Tuesday 6 November 2018

Department for Employment Affairs and Social Protection

Michaél Martin asked the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection if she will report on the allocation in 2019 to North-South bodies in her Department; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

**Regina Doherty:** The Department's budget allocation for 2019 is €20.498 billion, providing for schemes and services relating to pensions; working age income supports; working age employment supports; illness, disability and carers; children; supplementary payments; as well as pay and non-pay administration.

While there is no specific allocation within my Department's 2019 Budget Estimates for north south bodies, a Cross-Border Partnerships Programme supports cross-border jobseekers, workers and employers in those border regions under the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EASI) which is directly managed by the European Commission. The Partnerships have a targeted remit to provide services to citizens of the border region.

The Partnership addresses the particular obstacles that frontier workers, employers and jobseekers face in the cross border region through the provision of services, including a network of cross-border advisers, matching jobseekers with job vacancies in both jurisdictions, information seminars, labour market monitoring, cross-border mutual learning for public employment services, and cross-border employability training.

The EURES Ireland/ Northern Ireland Cross Border Partnership, established in 1993, is one of nine such partnerships in Europe involving 13 Member States. The Partnership activities are funded through an annual competitive bid process under the EASI Programme.

Approved grant funding at 90% will amount to approximately €224,000 in 2018.

**Source** <https://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2018-11-06a.3031&s=cross+border+2018-11-02..2018-11-09#g3033.r>

**Thursday 8 November 2018**

**Department for Transport, Tourism and Sport**

Brendan Smith asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if he will ensure that there will be no disruption to cross-Border bus services following Brexit; if he and Bus Éireann have had discussions with their counterparts in Northern Ireland and Britain; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

**Shane Ross:** While negotiations with the EU are being handled centrally by the Michel Barnier and his team, I have met with Secretary of State Chris Grayling on Brexit concerns generally on a number of occasions and am meeting him again in Dublin on Thursday 8 November. Officials from my department have also met with their counterparts in London and Belfast in relation to the implications of Brexit including on cross-border public transport services. The most recent of these meetings was last Tuesday, 6 November, with officials from the Department of Infrastructure Northern Ireland. The latter discussions included the implications for cross-border bus services. These discussions do not, and cannot, delve into bilateral negotiations on contingency planning, the withdrawal agreement or on the future EU/UK relationship.

Brexit and its potential implications for Ireland are being managed on a whole-of-government basis. The Department is represented on all relevant cross-Departmental coordination structures, and an internal Departmental Committee on Brexit meets on a monthly basis to oversee the Department's analyses and planning as the negotiations progress.

Contingency planning in relation to Brexit at both a national and an EU level is focused on preparing for a no-deal scenario or so-called "disorderly Brexit" and on a central case scenario involving a transition period based on the "status quo" and agreement on the future relationship. The Department continues to engage with the European Commission on Brexit concerns impacting on Ireland across all sectors, including public transport cross-border services.

The Department has continually stressed the importance that stakeholders take all necessary steps within their control to prepare for Brexit, including the importance of undertaking contingency planning to minimise the impact of Brexit on their operations. We have also advised stakeholders to refer to the European Commission's published Notices to Stakeholders in the field of transport.

Source: <https://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2018-11-08a.669&s=cross+border+2018-11-02..2018-11-09#g670.q>