

Northern Ireland Office objectives 2015 to 2020

Our key purpose is to make politics work by working alongside the Northern Ireland Executive to:

- help improve the effectiveness and delivery of the devolved institutions
- ensure a more secure Northern Ireland
- deliver a growing economy including rebalancing the economy
- ensure a stronger society by supporting initiatives designed to build better community relations and a genuinely shared future

The UK government is delivering a stronger Northern Ireland within a stronger United Kingdom across a wide range of areas. In support of the government's commitments, our objectives are:

Making politics work

We will:

- work to implement fully and faithfully the historic Stormont House Agreement to enable devolution to function more effectively; to deal with the legacy of the past; and to make progress on divisive issues such as flags and parading
- work with the Northern Ireland Executive and partners to support and implement the political agreements to increase the stability of the institutions
- work with Whitehall partners, the Northern Ireland Executive and, consistent with the 3-stranded approach, the Irish government to implement the provisions of the Fresh Start and Stormont House Agreements
- within this, work with the Executive to ensure the delivery of its own commitments on institutional changes and other commitments in the Stormont House and Fresh Start Agreements

- work with Whitehall partners to ensure that, as appropriate, government policy takes account of Northern Ireland constitutional and devolution issues and that the Executive has visibility and understanding of UK-wide policy decisions

A more secure Northern Ireland

We will:

- develop and implement our strategy to combat terrorism, giving the strongest possible support to the brave men and women of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI)
- work with key partners, including the PSNI and devolved government, to drive down the threat from Northern Ireland-related terrorism and ensure appropriate protection for those at risk. Provide additional security funding of £160 million over the next 5 years to support the Police Service of Northern Ireland
- support the devolved institutions in their strategy to end paramilitarism, through close cooperation with strategic security partners and the Irish government and the creation of a new monitoring and implementation body
- ensure that partners have the strongest possible support to tackle the threat and that effective policies and legislation are in place. Provide an additional £25 million over the next 5 years to tackle continuing paramilitary activity in accordance with the Fresh Start Agreement

A growing economy

We will:

- complete the devolution of Corporation Tax powers to the Assembly, consistent with the Executive fulfilling its commitments on finance, welfare reform and efficiencies in the Stormont House Agreement

- work closely with the Executive to implement commitments in the 2013 economic pact to rebalance the economy and to build a more united and stronger society
- work with the Northern Ireland Executive, ensure that proposals are brought forward, and as appropriate implemented, to rebalance the Northern Ireland economy
- work with the Executive on a stable and sustainable budget and pave the way for completion of the devolution of corporation tax. Ensure the delivery of the financial measures in the Agreements, including welfare reform through legislation at Westminster
- work with Whitehall partners to ensure the views of the Executive and businesses in Northern Ireland are taken in to account when economic policy is being made in Westminster
- work with the Executive to ensure Westminster measures are understood and that devolved economic and fiscal policy recognises and complements UK-wide policy

A stronger society

We will:

- work with the Northern Ireland Executive and partners to support reconciliation and the Executive's objective of building a shared future for all, while acknowledging the past
- work to increase engagement and build trust across society and ensure that government funding supports progress on the Executive's ['Together: Building a United Community \(TBUC\)' Strategy](#) and in delivering a shared future
- prepare legislation to establish the legacy institutions set out in the Stormont House Agreement. To work with the Northern Ireland Executive, political parties, victims groups and the Irish government to achieve sufficient consensus to introduce legislation

- work with sponsored bodies and partners. Support the government's work to introduce a Bill of Rights, taking account of Northern Ireland's particular circumstances

Northern Ireland Office fit for the future

We will:

- make government more efficient, effective and accountable
- ensure that the Northern Ireland Office embraces change and lives within its means, and maximises the value of its people and resources
- deliver the efficiency savings identified as part of the Spending Review to ensure that the department operates within its annually funded baseline and can deliver Ministerial priorities
- introduce new, more flexible and mobile, IT system and reduce the cost of accommodation and related services
- make the Northern Ireland Office fit for the future and able to deliver existing and new priorities by having the right structure and people in place