

No. 48823

**Ireland
and
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

Agreement between the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on co-operation on criminal justice matters (with annex). Dublin, 1 April 2010

Entry into force: *22 December 2010 by notification, in accordance with article 6*

Authentic text: *English*

Registration with the Secretariat of the United Nations: *Ireland, 5 August 2011*

**Irlande
et
Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord**

Accord entre le Gouvernement de l'Irlande et le Gouvernement du Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord relatif à la coopération en matière de justice pénale (avec annexe). Dublin, 1^{er} avril 2010

Entrée en vigueur : *22 décembre 2010 par notification, conformément à l'article 6*

Texte authentique : *anglais*

Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat des Nations Unies : *Irlande, 5 août 2011*

[ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS]

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND
NORTHERN IRELAND ON CO-OPERATION ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE
MATTERS**

The Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

Having regard to the Agreement between the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland done at Belfast on 10 April 1998 ("the British-Irish Agreement") and to the Multi-Party Agreement reached at Belfast on 10 April 1998 annexed to the aforesaid Agreement;

Considering the report of the Review of the Criminal Justice System in Northern Ireland published in March 2000 ("the Criminal Justice Review"), the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002, which enacts certain recommendations of the Criminal Justice Review, and the Criminal Justice Review Updated Implementation Plan published in June 2003;

Taking into account the progress made on co-operation between the relevant agencies in Ireland and in Northern Ireland ("the two jurisdictions") on policing and security matters;

Taking into account also developments within the European Union in respect of co-operation on criminal justice matters;

Recalling the discussions that took place between the two Governments and the political parties at Hillsborough Castle in March 2003 and the Joint Declaration published by the two Governments on 1st May 2003;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

Ministerial Meetings on Criminal Justice Cooperation

(1) The Ministers of the Northern Ireland Executive and Government of Ireland responsible for criminal justice matters in the two jurisdictions (hereinafter referred to as "the Ministers") shall meet at least annually for the purpose of facilitating more effective co-operation and coordination on criminal justice matters, including in combating criminal behaviour, working together in the prevention of crime and on community safety issues, and dealing with offenders after conviction. Such meetings shall be referred to hereinafter as Ministerial Meetings on Criminal Justice Cooperation.

(2) The Ministers shall provide periodic reports on the Ministerial Meetings on Criminal Justice Cooperation to their respective Ministerial colleagues in the Northern Ireland Executive and the Government of Ireland.

(3) The Ministerial Meetings on Criminal Justice Cooperation shall operate on the basis of the arrangements set out in the Annex, which shall constitute an integral part of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 2

Working Group on Criminal Justice Cooperation

- (1) A Working Group on Criminal Justice Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as the "Working Group") comprising officials from Northern Ireland and Ireland shall meet regularly to support the Ministerial Meetings and to take forward work on progressing the relevant recommendations of the Criminal Justice Review, and to identify other areas in which co-operation on criminal justice matters could be enhanced or initiated, as appropriate.
- (2) The Working Group shall prepare, seek the agreement of the Ministers to, and implement annual work programmes on co-operation and co-ordination on criminal justice matters. Such work programmes will be published, including in electronic format.
- (3) The Working Group shall be accountable to the Ministers, and through the Ministers to the Northern Ireland Executive and Government of Ireland, and shall provide reports on progress to the Ministerial Meetings on Criminal Justice Cooperation.
- (4) The Working Group shall meet at least twice each year and shall operate on the basis of the arrangements set out in the Annex, which shall constitute an integral part of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 3

Protocols

- (1) Where appropriate, written Protocols may be drawn up between relevant criminal justice agencies in Northern Ireland and Ireland addressing detailed aspects of co-operation on criminal justice matters agreed between them.
- (2) Any such protocols shall be submitted to the Ministers for approval and signature.
- (3) Such protocols shall not constitute international agreements and shall not have binding effect.

ARTICLE 4

Relationship with other international agreements

This Agreement shall not affect the rights and obligations of the Parties under other international agreements.

ARTICLE 5

Operation and Review of Agreement

(1) This Agreement shall have effect in respect of criminal justice matters to the extent that they are devolved to the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Northern Ireland Departments and Ministers.

(2) The parties to this Agreement shall keep the Agreement under review.

ARTICLE 6

Entry into force

Each Government shall notify the other in writing of the completion, so far as it is concerned, of the requirements for entry into force of this Agreement. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of receipt of the later of the two notifications.

In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto by the respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

Done in two originals at *Dublin* on the *15* day of *April* 2010.

For the Government of Ireland:

For the Government of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland: