

No. 55491*

**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 establishing the Independent Reporting Commission. Dublin, 13 September 2016

Entry into force: *8 August 2017 by notification, in accordance with article 11*

Authentic text: *English*

Registration with the Secretariat of the United Nations: *Ireland, 20 November 2018*

**No UNTS volume number has yet been determined for this record. The Text(s) reproduced below, if attached, are the authentic texts of the agreement /action attachment as submitted for registration and publication to the Secretariat. For ease of reference they were sequentially paginated. Translations, if attached, are not final and are provided for information only.*

**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 portant création de la Commission indépendante de rapports. Dublin, 13 septembre 2016

Entrée en vigueur : *8 août 2017 par notification, conformément à l'article 11*

Texte authentique : *anglais*

Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat de l'Organisation des Nations Unies : *Irlande,
20 novembre 2018*

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Agreement between the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland establishing the Independent Reporting Commission

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

Recalling the agreement reached in multi-party negotiations and annexed to the Agreement signed by both Governments on 10 April 1998 (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);

Recalling subsequent agreements, including the St. Andrew’s Agreement, the Hillsborough Agreement devolving policing and justice powers, the Stormont House Agreement and the agreement reached on 17 November 2015, “A Fresh Start, The Stormont Agreement and Implementation Plan”;

Reiterating their commitment to work collectively to achieve a society free of paramilitarism, including within the context of the Northern Ireland Executive’s Strategy to End Paramilitarism (hereafter referred to as “the Executive’s Strategy”), by tackling all paramilitary activity and associated criminality and supporting the rule of law, the PSNI and the criminal justice system;

Having decided to establish an independent international commission to report on progress towards ending paramilitary activity connected with Northern Ireland and to report on and inform the implementation of the Executive’s Strategy;

HAVE AGREED as follows:

Article 1

The Independent Reporting Commission (hereafter referred to as “the Commission”) is hereby established by the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (hereafter “the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom”) in accordance with this Agreement.

Article 2

- (1) The Commission shall be independent in the performance of its functions.
- (2) The Commission shall have the legal capacity of a body corporate.

Article 3

The objective of the Commission is to carry out the functions as described in Article 4 of this Agreement with a view to promoting progress towards ending paramilitary activity connected with Northern Ireland, and supporting long term peace and stability in society and stable and inclusive devolved Government in Northern Ireland.

Article 4

(1) In relation to the remaining threat of paramilitary activity, in particular from those paramilitary groups declared to be on ceasefire, the Commission shall:

- (a) report on progress towards ending continuing paramilitary activity connected with Northern Ireland; and
- (b) report on the implementation of the relevant measures of the Government of Ireland, the Government of the United Kingdom, and the Northern Ireland Executive, including the Executive's Strategy.

(2) The Commission shall report annually to the Government of Ireland, the Government of the United Kingdom and the Northern Ireland Executive. The Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom may also jointly request reports on such further occasions as required. The Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom shall publish the reports of the Commission.

(3) The Commission, in its reports, may make recommendations to the Northern Ireland Executive in order to inform future Programme for Government priorities and commitments through to 2021.

Article 5

In carrying out its functions as described in Article 4 of this Agreement the Commission shall consult:

- (a) the Government of Ireland and relevant law enforcement agencies;
- (b) the Government of the United Kingdom and relevant law enforcement agencies;
and
- (c) in Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Executive, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, statutory agencies, local councils, communities and civic society organisations.