

New institutions stipulated by the Belfast Agreement

Northern Ireland Institutions

Legislative Assembly

A 108-member assembly with legislative powers to govern Northern Ireland, elected by proportional representation from 18 constituencies.

Cross-Party Executive

The Assembly elect The First Minister and a Deputy First Minister. Ministers are appointed on the basis of party strength in the Assembly with responsibility for such devolved matters as health, education and social services.

Assembly Committees

Ministers are supported and scrutinized by cross-party committees.

Civic Forum

A Civic Forum made up of 60 representatives of civil society is consulted on social, economic and cultural issues.

North-South Ministerial Council

With a joint secretariat staffed by civil servants this council develops co-operation between the two states. The Council comprises the First Minister and Deputy First Minister of the Northern Ireland Assembly, two Ministers from the Irish government and other relevant ministers. In addition to Plenary sessions, implementation bodies meet frequently with the participation of appropriate ministers.

British-Irish Institutions

British-Irish Council

This council consists of representatives of the British and Irish governments, devolved institutions in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands. It exchanges information, discusses, consults and seeks to reach agreements on co-operation in the areas of transport links, agriculture, environment, culture, health and education as well as approaches to EU matters.

British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference (BIIC)

The Conference brings together the British and Irish governments to promote bilateral co-operation.

For more detailed explanations, please see Accord 8: *Striking a balance: the Northern Ireland Peace Process*, available online at www.c-r.org/accord.

Acronyms

DUP	Democratic Unionist Party	PSNI	Police Service of Northern Ireland
IICD	Independent International Commission on Decommissioning	RIRA	Real Irish Republican Army
INLA	Irish National Liberation Army	RUC	Royal Ulster Constabulary
IRA	Irish Republican Army	SDLP	Social Democratic and Labour Party
IRSP	Irish Republican Socialist Party	UDA	Ulster Defence Association
LVF	Loyalist Volunteer Force	UFF	Ulster Freedom Fighters
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly	UUC	Ulster Unionist Council
NIA	Northern Ireland Assembly	UUP	Ulster Unionist Party
NIWC	Northern Ireland Women's Coalition	UVF	Ulster Volunteer Force