



The  
**Executive Office**

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**Marie Austin  
Committee for TEO  
Room 412  
Parliament Buildings  
Ballymiscaw  
Stormont  
BELFAST  
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**24 November 2020**

**Dear Marie**

## **TEO COMMITTEE – UPDATE ON OFFICIALS’ ENGAGEMENT WITH IRISH GOVERNMENT**

The Committee for the Executive Office, following oral briefing by Officials on 30 September 2020, has requested further details on the level/type of contact and the range of issues under discussion.

As negotiations to establish agreement on the terms of the UK’s exit from the European Union (EU), are still ongoing between the UK Government and the EU, engagement with the Irish Government has, as a consequence, been restricted in scope and level.

In terms of the level/type of contact to date, since June 2020 TEO deputy directors have had informal telephone conferences with their counterparts in the Department of Foreign Affairs, on three occasions.

Discussions have included:

- The organisation of resources for operational readiness by the end of the implementation period and information on stakeholders and businesses engagement events;
- North South Ministerial Council administrative arrangements in advance of the plenary sessions;
- Administrative arrangements in advance of Joint Committee and Specialised Committee meetings where the Irish Government would be in attendance; and
- Update on progress in the UK negotiations with the EU including RoI priorities.

Alongside this, the North South Ministerial Council (NSMC) is considering the implications of UK withdrawal from the EU across the various NSMC Sectors. Officials from Executive Departments have been working with their counterparts in

the Irish Government to prepare papers to aid discussion at NSMC sectoral meetings. This engagement is ongoing and is expected to continue. Senior officials from TEO are also planning for meetings with senior officials from the Department of Taoiseach and Department of Foreign Affairs to maintain a high level overview of withdrawal related issues, as envisaged in the Joint Communique from the NSMC Plenary meeting on 31 July 2020. The Committee will be provided with timely briefing as work in this area develops.

**Yours sincerely**

**[REDACTED]**

**Assembly Section**



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1 October 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

**BREXIT: NON-NEGOTIATED OUTCOME**

At its meeting on 30 September 2020, the Committee for the Executive Office received oral evidence from officials on Brexit issues including readiness for a non-negotiated outcome.

During the evidence session, officials referred to contact with the Irish Government/officials outside of the main talks.

Following the evidence session, the Committee agreed to request further details on the level/type of contact and the range of issues under discussion.

I should be grateful for a response by 15 October 2020.

Yours sincerely

**Marie Austin**  
**Clerk to the Committee for the Executive Office**

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