



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Research and Information Service Briefing Note

Paper 25/16

17 February 2016

NIAR 77-16

Ray McCaffrey

Allocation of Ministers in the Northern Ireland Executive and Committee Chairpersons and deputy Chairpersons in the Northern Ireland Assembly 1998-2016

1 Introduction

This briefing note contains information on the selection of Ministerial posts by political parties since the first Executive formed under the terms of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. It also provides tables outlining the allocation of Chairs and Deputy Chairs in each mandate since the first Assembly and places these alongside the relevant Minister.

2 Ministerial allocation

Figure 1 (overleaf) shows, since Ministers were first nominated to the Executive, the party to which each Minister with responsibility for a Northern Ireland Executive department has belonged.

It should be noted that there was a period of suspension from October 2002 to May 2007, and, in September 2015, the Ulster Unionist Party resigned from the Executive (it had held the post of Regional Development). The DUP, as the next party in line under the D'Hondt process, filled this post. The timeline is accurate up to 17 February 2016.

Only one post, Minister for Education, has been held continuously by the same party, Sinn Féin, since 1999.

Figure 1: Ministerial posts since 1999

Department	1999-2002	2007-2011	2011-December 2015
First Minister	UUP	DUP	
Deputy First Minister	SDLP	Sinn Féin	
Agriculture & Rural Development	SDLP	Sinn Féin	
Culture, Arts & Leisure	UUP	DUP	Sinn Féin
Education	Sinn Féin		
Enterprise, Trade & Investment	UUP	DUP	
Environment	UUP	DUP	SDLP
Finance & Personnel	SDLP	DUP	
Health, Social Services & Public Safety	Sinn Féin	UUP	DUP
Higher & Further Education/DEL	SDLP	UUP	Alliance
Regional Development	DUP	Sinn Féin	UUP DUP
Social Development	DUP	SDLP	DUP
Justice			Alliance

