

Irish Government Financial Package

Summary

The Irish Government is fully committed to North-South cooperation having spent €654m in the period 2009 to 2014 and will continue to commit to substantial financial resources [estimated at €450m in the period 2015 to 2020] to support agreed work programmes.

The Irish Government will continue to support measures to promote reconciliation, including through continued annual provision of €2.7m in the Reconciliation Fund. In addition the Government will allocate €5 million to the International Fund for Ireland to support its work of reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the border counties in 2015.

The Irish Government commits to bring forward legislation and to provide financial support to an Independent Commission on Information Retrieval as set out in the Agreement.

The Irish Government reaffirms its support for the EU PEACE and INTERREG funding programmes, which will see almost €500m invested in the region for the period from 2014 to 2020, and will continue to work closely with the Northern Ireland Executive (and with the Scottish Government in the case of INTERREG) to ensure that the opportunities under these programmes are maximised. The Government remains committed to the concept of the Narrow Water Bridge Project and to developing the Ulster Canal.

The Irish Government fully supports the A5 Project and reaffirms its commitment to provide £25m in each of the years 2015 and 2016 as a contribution to the project. In addition the Government commits to examining scope for further financial contributions to the project in the context of the forthcoming Capital Expenditure Programme.