

Northern Ireland Office Briefs Consular Association of Northern Ireland

29 March 2010

Belfast, NORTHERN IRELAND: Officials from the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) and the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) briefed Members of the Consular Association of Northern Ireland (CA-NI) today at Stormont House.



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Mr Bill Sinnerton - Hon. Consul for Lithuania, Mr Milan Mladek (Vice-President) - Hon. Consul for Czech Republic, Mme Regine McCullough - Hon. Consul for France, Mr Nick Lestas - Hon. Consul for Cyprus, Ms Franziska Hewitt - Hon. Consul for Switzerland, Mr Jerome Mullen - Hon. Consul for Poland, Mr Paul Goggins MP – Minister of State, Mr Declan O’Loan – Hon. Consul for Romania, Mrs Cecilia Bouman - Hon. Consul for Portugal, Gerard O’Hare – Hon. Consul for Latvia, Mrs Margaret Lee – Hon. Consul for New Zealand, Dr Christopher Stange (Secretariat) - Hon. Consul St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Mr Richard Holmes – Hon. Consul for Mongolia

This follows the historic Hillsborough Agreement of February 05, 2010 for the devolution of policing and criminal justice powers to the Northern Ireland Executive, set for April 12, 2010.

The briefing session covered a political update, policing, security, prisons, criminal justice and problems faced by the Black and Ethnic Minority (BME) communities in Northern Ireland, followed by interactive dialogue.

Minister of State, The Hon. Paul Goggins MP whom attended the event, spoke to the various members of the Consular Association commenting on the fantastic work being conducted on behalf of their respective countries and nationals in Northern Ireland, as well as, strengthening links between all our countries, working towards a better shared future for all.

Dr Christopher Stange, Secretariat of the Consular Association of Northern Ireland extended thanks to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, The Rt. Hon. Shaun Woodward MP that through discussions led to this meeting, and to the entire Northern Ireland Office staff for the continued support and future engagement.

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