

# UK UPDATE

## UK Update Issue 174

22 July 2024

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The UK Update provides up-to-date information on UK-EU, and UK-Ireland relations, bringing together relevant statements and policy positions from key players in Ireland, the UK and the EU.

The Update is part of a wider communications programme covering the work of the IIEA's UK Project Group – including commentaries, speeches, texts and event reports – which are highlighted on the Institute's website. ([www.iiea.com](http://www.iiea.com))

### Introduction<sup>1</sup>

The Labour Party's landslide result in the UK general election saw Sir Keir Starmer speaking on the steps of No.10 Downing Street having accepted the King's invitation to form a Government, ending fourteen years of Tory rule. He told his national audience that:

*[...] now our country has voted decisively: for change, for national renewal, and [for] a return of politics to public service. Politics can be a force for good - we will show that, and that is how we will govern. Country first, party second. You have given us a clear mandate and we will use it to deliver change...to restore service and respect to politics... end the era of noisy performance tread more lightly on your lives and unite our country. Four nations, standing together once again. Our work is urgent... And we begin it today.*

Prime Minister Starmer immediately set about resetting relations with Ireland with early and constructive engagement with both Belfast, Dublin and with Europe.

### Section One: State of Play

#### Taoiseach and Prime Minister meet at Chequers<sup>2 3</sup>

The Taoiseach, Simon Harris, met with the British Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, at the Prime Minister's country residence on 17 July 2024. Following formal talks on a wide agenda, the Prime Minister entertained the Irish delegation at dinner. This was Keir Starmer's first such bilateral meeting since taking up office.

1. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/keir-starmer's-first-speech-as-prime-minister-5-july-2024>

2. <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/fad18-joint-statement-by-taoiseach-simon-harris-and-prime-minister-keir-starmer/>

3. <https://www.irishtimes.com/politics/2024/07/18/i-cant-overstate-the-significance-of-this-meeting-harris-and-starmer-begin-anglo-irish-reset-at-chequers/>

Following the meeting at Chequers, the Taoiseach and Prime Minister issued the following joint statement:

*Taoiseach Simon Harris and Prime Minister Keir Starmer discussed close relations between Ireland and the United Kingdom and agreed that the time was right for a reset of the partnership.*

*They noted that the ties which bind both countries span geography and history, family and business, politics and culture, and agreed to work together over the coming weeks to put in place arrangements to support, encourage and strengthen all aspects of relations.*

*As a first step towards rebuilding this unique partnership, the Prime Minister and Taoiseach committed to annual summits at which they will take stock of joint work to deepen and reinvigorate cooperation.*

*They discussed the Good Friday Agreement as co-guarantors and their shared commitment to its principles and institutions, and to furthering prosperity and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. They discussed legacy issues, working to support all communities and victims in Northern Ireland.*

*Their discussions also covered global issues, including support to Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression.*

*They both agreed on the need for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the release of all hostages, and urgent action to address the humanitarian crisis. The Taoiseach welcomed the Prime Minister's commitment to closer cooperation with the European Union.*

The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister have now engaged to hold annual formal bilateral Anglo-Irish Summits under their leadership, which would produce detailed work programmes for their ministers to implement. They have also undertaken to cooperate on a range of issues including migration, developments in Northern Ireland, and ways in which the UK could develop a closer relationship with the European Union. The Taoiseach made specific reference to the theme of the structures under the Common Travel Area for dealing with problems. The Tory government had insisted that these did not exist, but they were clearly there.

Speaking after the meeting on this topic, the Taoiseach said: "In my view that should never have been deviated from in the past." He also emphasised in this statement the significance of his meeting with Prime Minister Starmer.

"I can't overstate the significance of this evening's meeting," said the Taoiseach.

## **Taoiseach Invitation to visit Downing Street<sup>4</sup>**

Among the first direct contacts made by Keir Starmer upon taking up office was with the Taoiseach who accepted an invitation to meet in person in Downing Street on 17 July. Mr Harris said that the call included a commitment by both leaders to have a "close and constructive working relationship". The Taoiseach said both he and Mr Starmer spoke of their "shared determination to reset and strengthen the bilateral relationship between Ireland and the United Kingdom."

The Taoiseach told Keir Starmer that he also welcomed the appointment of Hilary Benn as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, following his significant period as Shadow Secretary of State and emphasised that "meaningful reset" of the relationship between the neighbours "would require regular engagement".

Mr Harris had moved quickly once the result of the British general election became known on Friday to make contact with the incoming Prime Minister. He saw such early engagement as an essential part of an effort to repair relations between Dublin and London which had been put under strained by the protracted wrangling over the fallout from Brexit and the complexities of Northern Ireland's status outside the EU.

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4. <https://www.rte.ie/news/uk-election-2024/2024/0705/1458330-uk-reax-ireland/>

“At the end of the day, we’re neighbours, we’re friends; in many cases we’re family as well,” Mr Harris told *Sky News*. He insisted that Ireland and the UK should work constructively together to ensure fulfilment of the promise of the Good Friday Agreement “which was very much in the DNA of the British Labour Party”. The Taoiseach spoke of the opportunity to improve the relationship between the UK and Ireland, saying: “There’s an opportunity now, a real opportunity that we must seize, and the next generation will never forgive us if we don’t press reset and say: Yes it’s been a difficult few years, but you know what? We have so much more in common than divides us.”

The Taoiseach made clear that a key priority in his meeting with Mr Starmer would be discussing ways of improving the structures for systematic engagement between Britain and Ireland at all relevant levels following Brexit. Mr Harris said:

*It used to be that whoever the Irish Taoiseach and British Prime Minister was would meet regularly through their membership of the European Union. Those structures obviously aren’t there now. I respect that fact. But we do need to look for new ways of making sure that regular engagement happens.*

## King’s Speech<sup>5</sup>

On 17 July 2024 King Charles III gave his King’s Speech in the House of Lords, setting out formally the programme of the incoming Labour administration. This included specific references to devolution and, in particular, Northern Ireland:

*My Government will strengthen its work with the devolved governments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland so that the best outcomes possible are delivered for citizens across the United Kingdom. My Ministers will establish a new Council of the Nations and Regions to renew opportunities for the Prime Minister, heads of devolved governments and mayors of combined authorities to collaborate with each other.*

*My Government will continue to support the political institutions and devolved government in Northern Ireland. In consultation with all parties, measures will be brought forward to begin the process of repealing and replacing the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023.*

In his introductory remarks in the formal House of Commons debate on the King’s Speech, Prime Minister Starmer had a brief exchange with the DUP MP, Jim Shannon, as reported by Hansard:

Jim Shannon (DUP)

*May I commend the Prime Minister? There are many in this House, on both sides of the Chamber—not only in his party, but on the Opposition Benches—who welcome his election as Prime Minister and look forward to the delivery of some feel-good factor for all of this great nation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Better together is what I always say. Perhaps even those in the Chamber who have different ideas think the same. In my provincial paper two weeks ago, it was recognised that Northern Ireland was very much part of the Prime Minister’s 10-year plan. Will he outline exactly what that plan will be for Northern Ireland? Can he ensure us that our position will never weaken and always get stronger?*

Prime Minister

*I am grateful for that intervention. It was very important to me, and to my Government, that within days of being elected I went to Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales with that message about working together. As the hon. Gentleman will know, I worked in Northern Ireland for five years on reforms to the Police Service in Northern Ireland. It matters to me that we make progress on all matters across all our nations,*

5. <https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-07-17/debates/2D7D3E47-776E-4B81-8E2A-7854168D6FED/King%E2%80%99SSpeech>

*and that is the way in which we will operate as a Government. It was a statement of intent that I made in those early days, and let me say, in direct answer to the hon. Gentleman's question, that I will continue in that vein.*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-07-17>

## Prime Minister Starmer at European Political Community Summit. 18 July 2024<sup>6</sup>

Prime Minister Keir Starmer has made a commitment to his fellow European leaders that his government will seek to reset Britain's ties with their countries.

The Prime Minister spoke to the European Political Community at Blenheim Palace on 18 July 2024, telling leaders from some forty other countries that he wanted to renew "trust and friendship" with them. Keir Starmer told the summit:

*We want to work with all of you to reset relationships, rediscover our common interest and renew the bonds of trust and friendship that brighten the fabric of European life. We will strengthen our existing relationships and we will build new ones. This includes resetting our relationship with the EU because I believe that the UK and the EU, working together as sovereign partners, are a powerful force for good across our continent.*

Commentators noted what was described as "perhaps the most 'strikingly full-throated' defence of the European Court of Human Rights from a British prime minister in years", Keir Starmer, with a lifetime of involvement in European legal affairs, spoke of the European Convention: "I myself first read about these principles of the convention and international law in a law library in Leeds, well, 40 years ago now. That inspired me in everything I have done since then and I still draw strength from it, and value from it, every day."

The new Foreign Secretary David Lammy commented to the *BBC* and made clear that a very demanding set of talks and eventual negotiations lie ahead:

*Of course, we're entering into discussions but we're nowhere near a negotiation on the trade agreement – that paper-thin trade agreement that Boris Johnson struck – the veterinary deal that we've said that we want to get, the mutual qualifications that we want to work on, and the UK-EU security pact that we're proposing to Europe that will enable us to discuss a whole range of issues across the European family.*

## Tánaiste speaks to Foreign Secretary<sup>7</sup>

As the Taoiseach and Prime Minister made early and significant contact, the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs Micheál Martin spoke to new UK foreign secretary David Lammy about the future relationship between Ireland and its nearest neighbour. In a statement, the Tánaiste said both he and Mr Lammy agreed the Westminster election results offer a chance to rebuild bridges between both nations.

*We agreed that there is now a significant opportunity for a reset of our bilateral relationship. Now is a moment to embrace the spirit of partnership that we know can and does deliver for the people who call these islands home. We face challenges and we face opportunities, from the local to the global, from the Middle East to Ukraine, from positive UK engagement with the EU, to defending the multilateral order.*

6. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/jul/18/starmer-promises-eu-leaders-at-epc-he-will-repair-ties-with-their-countries>

7. <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/c3a34-statement-by-tanaiste-on-conversation-with-new-uk-foreign-secretary-david-lammy/>

Mr Martin commented that the two countries' relationships is important with "close cultural connections". The Tánaiste also highlighted the significance of the trading partnership between the two islands and the role of both British and Irish governments as co-guarantors of the Good Friday (Belfast) Agreement. Mr Martin finished his remarks on a positive note: "I look forward to building on that foundation to ensure positive progress together and to take forward our shared agenda."

## Keir Starmer committed to Good Friday Agreement<sup>8 9 10</sup>

Sir Keir Starmer, on his first visit to Northern Ireland as Prime Minister on 8 July 2024, was reported as pledging to build "respectful" relationships between the London and Dublin governments following the instability of the "last six to eight years" and insisting that he would act as an "honest broker" in relation to a Border poll on a united Ireland.

In only his third day in office, the Prime Minister held a formal meeting with the Sinn Féin First Minister Michelle O'Neill and the DUP Deputy First Minister Emma Little-Pengelly before holding a series of brief discussions with delegations from the North's five main parties.

Speaking to the Belfast and Dublin media, he described the meetings as "positive and constructive" before re-affirming his commitment to "resetting relationships" with politicians on both sides of the Border. "I have been very clear that my government has a mandate for change, for stability here in Northern Ireland and a different way of doing politics."

The *Irish Times* highlighted Mr Starmer's comments on the controversial Troubles Legacy Act, which Labour Party had committed to "repeal and replace" and noted that he declined to comment on whether he would request the Irish Government to drop the inter-state case it lodged in the European Court of Human Rights against the previous UK administration in respect of the Act.

The Prime Minister was quoted at length: "I have already had discussions with the Taoiseach (Simon Harris) and others, again to make it clear the approach I will take to reset and make sure those relationships are collaborative, that they are respectful," Mr Starmer commented. He said "Of course there are issues, including in relation to (legacy) litigation. But the most important thing is the way in which we will approach this. "I treat the mandate that I was given in the general election as a mandate for doing politics differently, a mandate for stability, much-needed stability. I think one of the big problems of the last 14 years, but particularly the last six to eight years, has been instability, a lot of chopping and changing. That all ends today. I have had very constructive discussions not only here in Northern Ireland but with the Taoiseach earlier on."

The *Irish Times* recalled that during a visit to the North last year, Keir Starmer had dismissed the likelihood of a Border Poll in the next decade and said it was "not even on the horizon". However, on this occasion, the Prime Minister – when pressed by reporters - appeared to have altered his position, saying that "This is provided for by the Good Friday Agreement. The framework is set out and I'm absolutely committed to the Good Friday Agreement. Today is a recommitment to that and to the approach and the role of the UK government in that as the honest broker."

Prior to the Prime Minister's press conference, the Northern Ireland party leaders spoke about their respective morning meetings with Mr Starmer, with each welcoming his appointment and his early visit to Belfast.

8. <https://www.irishtimes.com/politics/2024/07/08/keir-starmer-in-belfast-for-meetings-with-northern-ireland-political-leaders/>

9. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/politics/keir-starmer-aims-to-end-uk-ireland-instability-get-a-better-brexiteer-deal-and-reaffirm-good-friday-agreement/a1484536598.html>

10. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/keir-starmer-arrives-for-first-visit-to-north-as-uk-prime-minister-K53WCKS5ZNH3NN-RGBVFTCRP2HA/>

For Sinn Féin, Mary Lou McDonald spoke of him as a “sensible person” and said the difference in dealing with the new Labour government compared to the previous Conservative government, was like the difference between “daylight and dark”. She referred to the need for action on public funding for the North’s frontline services and to the issue of funding for the Casement Park redevelopment in west Belfast ahead of the 2028 Euro Finals “We expect to see progress on that matter (Casement) in the near future”. The Alliance party leader Naomi Long also said they had positive discussions and contrasted relations with the previous government, which produced a “very toxic legacy”. She hoped the Labour government would mark a “new start” in terms of relations with Northern Ireland. “We had the opportunity to raise with him the importance of the impartiality of government in terms of its engagement with local parties and with the Assembly.

The *Telegraph* reported that the DUP’s new leader Gavin Robinson commented that Keir Starmer “knows what makes this place tick” and reminded readers that he had spent five years working in Northern Ireland as a human rights advisor to the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

“We had the opportunity not only to talk to him about the importance of devolution in Northern Ireland but the political process itself and the need for a proactive British government to carefully nurture relationships within Northern Ireland. We talked to him about the ongoing challenges to deliver for people of Northern Ireland. He has the opportunity to make significant changes and advance things positively.”

The SDLP leader Colum Eastwood MP was reported as saying that Mr Starmer understands Northern Ireland. “Keir Starmer is somebody who gets it, he understands this place, he has been here many times, he worked here, and he knew the issues before we even raised them. Even saying that, we still raised them.”

## Secretary Benn pledges to work with Irish Government on Legacy Act<sup>11</sup>

Northern Ireland’s Secretary of State Hilary Benn has pledged to work with the Irish Government on a new approach to dealing with the legacy of the Troubles. In his first visit to the region since taking up office, Mr Benn set out his stall which has made resetting British - Irish relations, severely strained in recent years, a key priority. This includes replacing the Conservative’s controversial Legacy Act, which is opposed by all of Northern Ireland’s main parties and is being challenged by the Irish Government in the European Court of Human Rights. The Taoiseach has welcomed the new British government’s intention to scrap the Legacy Act, but he has so far declined to say if Ireland will now drop its case against the UK, adding that things must be taken step by step.

## New Foreign Secretary to reset UK relationships<sup>12 13</sup>

As Prime Minister Keir Starmer set about his national tour marking his entry into office his senior ministerial colleagues were also quick to announce their arrival. An early example saw David Lammy speaking with evident emotion about his appointment as Foreign Secretary. In an early Statement he said: “It is the honour of my life to stand before you as Foreign Secretary. A descendant of enslaved people. A black, working class, man from Tottenham. A community which has never produced a Foreign Secretary before. This speaks to what a modern, multicultural Britain can be.”

The Foreign Secretary then set off on what the BBC described as his “whirlwind first trip as foreign secretary, organised at very short notice...not about instant results or even brave new horizons...all about perception - the appearance of a new, vigorous administration, determined to hit the ground running, brimming with goodwill towards some of the UK’s most important partners.”

11. <https://www.rte.ie/news/uk/2024/0707/1458629-starmer-scotland-uk/>

12. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cne4wypn23wo>

13. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/reconnecting-britain-for-our-security-and-prosperity-foreign-secretary-david-lammys-statement>

Mr Lammy spent an evening in Berlin with his German counterpart, Annalena Baerbock but decided against a visit to Paris since France was in election mode with the likelihood of a divisive result with far-reaching consequences. He also decided to leave Brussels out of this itinerary. Brussels, and the European Commission, would be for another day.

The Foreign Secretary then travelled to Warsaw and Stockholm. Poland and Sweden are seen to be significant European partners and NATO members with whom he could start exploring the possibilities and practicalities of future, closer UK-EU relations. “I want to reset both our bilateral relationship and our relationship with the European Union” he said, referring to the Labour Party manifesto policy on developing a new EU-UK security pact.

The *BBC* commented that, in these early talks, David Lammy aimed to start working on the outline of a plan for the security pact. Labour’s concept, worked out in some detail in opposition, and reflecting ideas that were lost in the early post-Brexit negotiations, is notable for its wide-ranging definition of security to cover not just defence, but the key issues that make up modern-day security, from the climate crisis to energy, pandemics, cyber, investment strategies, and critical minerals.

Commentators agreed that Poland, with its high levels of defence spending, Germany with its response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and Sweden with its newly agreed membership of NATO were the obvious places to start. The involvement of the UK under Labour, with its significant defence expertise, was seen as an offer to these neighbours as a form of reassurance as they worry about what a possible Trump presidency might mean for the NATO system and future US contributions to the defence of Europe,

Meanwhile, on his equally rapid visit to the UK capitals, the Prime Minister said in Edinburgh that work was already under way to improve the UK’s relationship with the EU. He insisted that the new government “can get a much better deal than the botched deal that Boris Johnson saddled the UK with”.

## Section Two: The Evolving Debate

### Nigel Farage and Populism<sup>14</sup>

Politico wrote strikingly about what it described as “the closing salvo of Nigel Farage’s victory speech” on the night of the UK general election saying that it would be “ringing in the ears of both Labour and Conservative MPs.”

Politico pointed out that the “upstart Reform UK” party won around 14 percent of all votes cast in the 2024 election and, for the first time, saw a handful of MPs elected to the UK parliament, with Nigel Farage among them. This raises the question of if this moment of triumph prove a temporary upset to Britain’s long tradition of largely centrist rule, or will Reform’s explosive arrival in Westminster bring a fundamental realignment of British politics along the lines seen elsewhere for populist parties across the globe?

Rishi Sunak became the latest Tory Prime Minister to suffer at Farage’s hands with Reform’s vote probably costing the Conservative Party as many as 100 MPs by splitting the right-wing vote. Then, Farage went on to assert “We will now be targeting Labour votes, we’re coming for Labour, be in no doubt about that.”

Politico argued that this strong showing cost the Tories swathes of seats due to Britain’s first past the post voting system. The same electoral dynamic meant that while Reform won four million votes, it captured few actual seats, with only five new MPs. However, at the next election, which must take place by 2029, all that could change. “Labour must now deal with the reality that much of its traditional working-class base that it lost to the Conservatives in 2019 has not returned — and has instead shifted to Reform.”

14. <https://www.politico.eu/article/nigel-farage-right-wing-populism-united-kingdom-general-election-reform-uk/>

## Irish Times Editorial, 8 July 2024<sup>15</sup>

On 7 July, the *Irish Times* wrote of the implications for British-Irish relations in the immediate aftermath of Labour's general election landslide victory.

In a lengthy Editorial, the **Irish Times** saw Labour's victory setting the scene for a "serious upgrading of British-Irish relations after they deteriorated so badly under the previous Conservative governments." Early contacts between Irish ministers and their new British counterparts were seen as "a really welcome sign that both sides recognise that change is necessary."

The *Irish Times* reflected on the genuine efforts to develop relations at the start of David Cameron's premiership in 2010. Cameron's decision to hold a referendum on EU membership "and then the dramatic Brexit vote in 2016, shattered any such progress." While common Irish and UK membership of the EU had seen mutually advantageous relations over four decades, Brexit "set them back, and for the worse. In key areas such as managing trade – including in Northern Ireland – and migration policy, tensions became the order of the day."

The *Irish Times* believes that Keir Starmer is committed to resetting official relations and wants to work jointly with Dublin on strengthening power-sharing in Northern Ireland and making the institutions, agreed in the 1998 Good Friday (Belfast) Agreement, more effective. Many leading figures in the new government are known to have a deep knowledge of Irish affairs. According to the Editorial's author: "[...] the stage is set for closer ties between the two governments, and also an improvement in their respective relations with the UK's devolved authorities. Such considerations will feed into the Labour government's engagement with unionists and nationalists in Northern Ireland too."

Finally, the editorial comments that the new Labour government will enjoy strong Irish support in its efforts to achieve more "constructive relations with the EU, economically, politically and in security and defence."

## NI Secretary Benn vows Casement Park stadium will be built<sup>16</sup>

Northern Ireland's new Secretary of State Hilary Benn has given a firm commitment that the GAA's new Casement Park stadium in west Belfast will be built. However, he could not give a guarantee that it will be completed in time to host the Euro 2028 Football Championships.

*RTÉ* recalled that a reconstructed GAA ground at Casement Park has been shortlisted as the venue for five matches in the EURO 2028 Competition. Speaking during a visit to Belfast, Mr Benn was reported as saying he will have a detailed briefing on current estimated costs, which have escalated from an initial £77 million to an estimated cost of around £300m:

*I am looking at this urgently, it's probably the most urgent issue on my desk, One way or another, if it's possible in time for the Euros, if not one way or another the Casement Park will have to be built to complete the project which has included of course, Windsor Park, the Kingspan for football and for rugby, and Casement Park for the GAA so I'm looking to see what can be done.*

A spokesperson for Taoiseach Simon Harris said:

*We welcome the comments from Hilary Benn. Taoiseach Simon Harris has been clear that he would like to see Casement Park delivered in time to host EURO2028 games in Belfast. The Taoiseach remains committed to this being the case and will work with Prime Minister Starmer and the British government to that end.*

15. <https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/editorials/2024/07/07/the-irish-times-view-on-the-future-of-anglo-irish-relations-the-time-is-right-for-a-reset/>

16. <https://www.rte.ie/news/ulster/2024/0707/1458666-casement-park/>

## Section Three: Background Material and Further Reading

### Background Material

**Belfast Telegraph** Keir Starmer aims to end UK-Ireland instability, get a better Brexit deal and ‘reaffirm’ Good Friday Agreement. *Belfast Telegraph*, 8 July 2024. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/politics/keir-starmer-aims-to-end-uk-ireland-instability-get-a-better-brexit-deal-and-reaffirm-good-friday-agreement/a1484536598.html>

**Newsletter** Sir Keir Starmer places focus on stability in Northern Ireland as he meets leaders. *Newsletter*, 8 July 2024. <https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/politics/sir-keir-starmer-places-focus-on-stability-in-northern-ireland-as-he-meets-leaders-4694347>

**Irish News** Keir Starmer says he is ‘committed to Good Friday Agreement’ in answer to question about united Ireland poll. *Irish News*, 8 July 2024. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/keir-starmer-arrives-for-first-visit-to-north-as-uk-prime-minister-K53WCKS5ZNH3NNRGBVFTCRP2HA/>

**RTE** Starmer set for short-lived honeymoon as he takes office. *RTE*, 8 July 2024. <https://www.rte.ie/news/uk-election-2024/2024/0706/1458509-keir-starmer-britain/>

**Guardian** Operation Reset – Lammy’s mission to reconnect gets off to flying start. *Guardian*, 7 July 2024. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/article/2024/jul/08/operation-reset-lammys-mission-to-reconnect-gets-off-to-flying-start>

**Irish Times** Next generation will ‘never forgive us’ if Anglo-Irish relations not repaired, Taoiseach says. *IT*, 7 July 2024. <https://www.irishtimes.com/politics/2024/07/07/next-generation-will-never-forgive-us-if-anglo-irish-relations-not-repaired-taoiseach-says/>

**Irish Times** Three main issues on the agenda for Keir Starmer in Northern Ireland. *IT*, 7 July 2024. <https://www.irishtimes.com/politics/2024/07/07/three-main-issues-on-the-agenda-for-keir-starmer-in-northern-ireland/>

**Irish Times** Britain and Northern Ireland wake up to new political realities. *IT*, 7 July 2024. <https://www.irishtimes.com/podcasts/inside-politics/britain-and-northern-ireland-wake-up-to-new-political-realities/>

### Further Reading

**Lisa Claire Whitten** *Brexit and the Northern Ireland Constitution*. Oxford UP

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The IIEA acknowledges the support of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme of the European Union



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