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Ireland-Scotland Joint Bilateral Review

Report and Recommendations 2021–25

Foreword

Simon Coveney TD, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence

Michael Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, Europe and External Affairs



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We are delighted to publish this report, but do so, of course, at a time of unprecedented change and challenge. Although we can't launch the report together in Edinburgh or Dublin, we are impressed and enthused by the energy, and opportunity it, and our joint process, contains.

Undertaking a bilateral review jointly has been a first for each of our governments. At the outset, in November 2019, it was agreed that the purpose of the review was to ensure that the closeness, the cooperation, and the natural connectivity of the Irish-Scottish relationship was not taken for granted in a changing international environment. We also agreed that the scope of the review should align with the shared competences of both governments.

The end of the Brexit transition period has brought change. In this new context, we both want to see the closest possible relationship between Scotland and Ireland, and the UK and Ireland, for the mutual benefit of the people in our countries, and, more broadly, on these islands.

The review considered what we do together: as governments, as trading nations, through our research bodies, our cultural institutions and our communities. We heard from many people and organisations whose ideas, experience and energy for further cooperation are reflected in this report. The response to our public questionnaire was overwhelmingly positive and provided a rich seam of information on connections across all themes of the review.

Listening to many voices, we have agreed recommendations of what more we should do. This is a starting point for the next five years, and indeed beyond. We have created the signposts which point the way for our ambitions to work together, rather than narrowly defining future outcomes. By creating further opportunities, we know we will see new ideas emerge, as the relationship continues to evolve.

Moreover, in order to ensure that the ambition in our recommendations is realised, we are committed to meeting annually, when we will not only look at what we have done, but also set new, ambitious, shared objectives.

As we continue to live with COVID-19 and rebuild our societies and economies, this new and focussed cooperation will support our broader recovery. We look forward to shared endeavour in many fields, from the arts, science, business, across government and between our people.

This is both a platform, on which our relationship will grow, and a map, which will guide that growth. We commend it to our fellow citizens. We hope that you will find opportunity and ambition reflected within. Please join us in realising it together.



Pat Kinevan's *Before* at Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2019.
© Patrick Redmond

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Overview

The evolving international context for the relationship between the United Kingdom and Ireland has reinforced the importance of strong links between the neighbouring jurisdictions on these islands.

Despite no longer sharing membership of the European Union, the strong and enduring foundation of the Common Travel Area, and the structures created by the Belfast/ Good Friday Agreement, provide a stable foundation for the continued development of relations between our peoples.

In this context, the occasions of the 20th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, which saw the creation of the British-Irish Council, and 20+ years of Scottish devolution, informed the decision of both the Government of Ireland and the Scottish Government that the time was right for a strategic review of the relationship.

The aim of the bilateral review has been to consolidate existing ties in the context of a new international environment, and to unlock the further untapped potential in many areas of the Scottish-Irish relationship. Working together on a joint bilateral review in this way was a diplomatic first for each of our governments.

Work on the joint bilateral review began in November 2019. The purpose of the review was not to be exhaustive, but, through a consultation process, to capture a snapshot of the current state of the relationship, to signpost shared ambition, and to realise the potential for future growth in the Irish-Scottish relationship.

The areas examined in the review, and reported on here, are bilateral government relations, and, more broadly, business and the economy, community and diaspora, culture, academic and research links, and rural, coastal and island communities, all areas in which the Scottish Government has devolved authority.

The review process involved a rich variety of engagements with a range of stakeholders, in the form of round table discussions, consultation groups, and hundreds of conversations. Through an online questionnaire, we were able to widen the reach of the review. Some 1,068 responses were received from individuals and organisations in Ireland, Scotland and beyond.



Ballet Ireland at Edinburgh Festivals 2018, as part of Culture Ireland GB18.
© Julie Howden

While the contributions are not representative of all views in either or both countries, they provide a wealth of commentary and illustrate a greater degree of active engagement in the relationship than previously anticipated.

The work of the review indicated that the five priority themes frequently overlapped. This was particularly evident in the Rural, Coastal and Island Communities strand, where all of the review themes naturally connect. This reflects the significant coastal and rural nature of communities in both Scotland and Ireland. It is clear that this Rural, Coastal and Island Communities strand of the review presents some of the most exciting opportunities for future collaboration, and the recommendations illustrate commitment to developing these together.

The review process was inevitably interrupted by the global pandemic, as both governments responded to the immediate emergency phase of the crisis. Original plans for stakeholder consultations were, as a result, adapted. Work in the business and economy sector is being prioritised as this report is launched, focussing on the approach to supporting Scottish-Irish business connectivity in the years ahead and more immediately, supporting economic and social recovery from the pandemic.

The review process was set out in a Concept Note. A Steering Committee of senior officials from both governments oversaw the process, and will monitor progress on the agreed recommendations. The Steering Committee will report both to Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Scotland's Cabinet Secretary for External Relations annually, when new recommendations for further cooperation will be adopted. The process will run for five years, to 2025, in line with the objectives of the Global Ireland strategy.

This report sets out what was learned through the review process, and makes recommendations for how the Irish-Scottish relationship will further develop. Some recommendations are specific, and relate to work to be delivered in the first year. Others are signposts pointing to longer term future direction.

Government to Government Relations

In 1998, devolution through the Scotland Act, the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, and the establishment of the British-Irish Council were touchstones for a deepening of Scottish-Irish relations. In the same year, Ireland opened a Consulate General in Edinburgh to broaden and deepen the relationship in this new context.

Since then, long-standing and rich people-to-people friendships have been enhanced further by deepening parliamentary connections, including through the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly (BIPA), strengthened bilateral relations between the Government of Ireland and the Scottish Government, and cooperation through the work sectors of the British-Irish Council. In 2016, President Michael D Higgins addressed the Scottish Parliament during a visit to Scotland, and Scotland's First Minister addressed Seanad Éireann during a visit to Ireland.

Relations are close across a number of policy areas, particularly in the context of the British-Irish Council. In recent years, frequent visits by the First Minister, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and a range of ministers reflect a broad and diverse exchange of policy ideas and initiatives.

Scotland is a priority destination for St Patrick's Day visits by Irish ministers, supporting diaspora, trade, and cultural relations. Likewise, Scottish ministers regularly travel to Ireland on governmental business, and to participate in Burns Suppers and St Andrew's Day events. Regular trade missions in each direction are also supported by ministers.

Civil servants work together in the context of the British-Irish Council, and in the course of bilateral business. From tackling the challenges of managing UNESCO world heritage sites and sharing expertise on conservation, through collaboration on development aid projects in Malawi, to joint problem-solving in our public health sectors, Ireland and Scotland have strong and effective working relationships which continue to grow. Many of these connections have been facilitated through mutual involvement in EU programmes, and there is a shared commitment to continue developing strong working relationships. Working with partners, such as the CivTech Alliance, our commitment to drive innovative solutions to shared challenges across our public sectors, and deliver proven value, includes the application of digital technologies and data analytics.



President Michael D Higgins and Ken Macintosh, Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, meet in the Scottish Parliament, 2016.
© Áras an Uachtaráin

Along with the Embassy of Ireland in London, Ireland has Consulates General in Edinburgh and Cardiff, and recently announced plans to open another in the North of England. The Consulate General of Ireland in Edinburgh works on diverse issues in Scotland, including support of Irish citizens and diaspora, promotion of Ireland's cultural and economic interests, and engagement with the Scottish Parliament, Scottish Government, and the Scotland Office.

Scotland has representative offices in a number of locations around the world. Based in the British Embassy, the Scottish Government Office in Ireland opened in 2016, and works on the promotion of trade and investment links, government-to-government relations, cultural cooperation, and economic, academic and innovation collaboration.

MONITORING PROGRESS

The bilateral review process was governed by a Steering Committee of senior officials from each government. This committee will continue in a similar form to oversee implementation of the recommendations in this report. The Steering Committee will receive updates from government departments, and other agencies, on their relevant work, and will consult with external partners. It will meet at least twice yearly and report to the Minister for Foreign Affairs in Dublin and the Cabinet Secretary for External Relations in Edinburgh, who will meet annually to review progress, and agree new recommendations for further collaboration until 2025.



Christ Church Cathedral Dublin on St Andrew's Day, 2019.
© Peter Varga

CASE STUDY – SCOTTISH-IRISH HEALTH FORUM

Since 2017, the Scottish-Irish Health Forum has provided an opportunity for senior health officials in Ireland and Scotland to learn together, focussed on learning through comparing systems and services, learning from each other's best practice, and being critical friends while facing common challenges. The success of the Forum has been the shared commitment to open communication of information and ideas, discussion on design and delivery issues, and collaboration where appropriate opportunities exist.

The Forum's work has focussed on:

1. Public Health and Health Improvement
2. Patient Safety
3. Data, Digital, Technology and Innovation
4. Access, Flow, Value Improvement and Efficiencies
5. Service and System Integration

While COVID-19 prevented a planned three-month exchange of senior officials to work in each other's health systems, health colleagues have been making use of their working relationships in the Forum to tackle shared challenges during the pandemic. Significant examples include close engagement on digital solutions delivering new services within weeks rather than the originally planned months or years. Irish officials have shared their experience on the development and launch of their COVID Tracker App, while Scottish officials provided support and knowledge sharing on Attend Anywhere, which Ireland has adopted as a platform for clinical video consultations.

The success of the Scottish-Irish Health Forum with its focus on shared challenges, and beneficial outcomes for patients, is an excellent model for bilateral cooperation in other areas of work.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » The Taoiseach and Scottish First Minister will meet at bi-annual British-Irish Council summits, and will ensure that high-level contact is maintained by their ministers.
- » As leads on the bilateral relationship, Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Scottish Cabinet Secretary for External Affairs will maintain ongoing contact, and will meet annually to specifically review progress on the recommendations of this review, and agree new recommendations.
- » The Bilateral Review Steering Committee, made up of relevant senior officials from Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs and Scottish Government External Relations Directorate, will meet at least twice annually to monitor progress.
- » Both Scotland and Ireland remain committed to the vision and mandate of the British-Irish Council (BIC), established under the Belfast/ Good Friday Agreement, and will work to enhance collaboration through the BIC, where possible.
- » The Consulate General of Ireland in Edinburgh and the Scottish Government Office in Dublin will work with the Houses of the Oireachtas (Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann) and the Scottish Parliament to support increased contacts between parliamentarians, and cross-party engagement in our joint work.
- » Irish and Scottish health officials will continue to work together through the Health Forum and deliver the previously planned secondments delayed by COVID-19. Both governments will maintain their good cooperation on efforts to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic, seeking mutually beneficial collaboration in that task where appropriate.
- » Building on our collaboration in Malawi, Irish and Scottish officials will have an exchange on international development issues in 2021, including on Ireland's policy on international development, 'A Better World' and its focus on issues of gender equality, climate action, governance and reducing humanitarian need.



The Kelpies, Falkirk, as part of Tourism Ireland's Global Greening initiative on St Patrick's Day, 2017.
© Tourism Ireland

Business and Economic Relationship

Close geographic proximity, ease of access, shared language and cultural familiarity mean that Ireland and Scotland are natural economic partners as well as occasional competitors.



European Offshore Wind Development Centre, Aberdeen.
© Scottish Enterprise/McAteer Photograph

Trade between our two countries has grown steadily in recent years. Enterprise Ireland client exports to Scotland grew by 44% over the 10 years from 2008-2018. From 2013-2017, Scottish exports to Ireland grew by an average of 4.7% per annum, making Ireland Scotland's sixth largest export market in 2018.

Responses to the review stressed the already positive nature of economic relations between Ireland and Scotland, and broadly indicated that there is potential for significant growth in this area. The shared industries that underpin both economies provide this potential. Construction, agricultural machinery, renewable energy, food and beverage, digital health, and financial services are the most promising sectors. Ireland-Scotland trade is a mix between multinational companies and SMEs.

There is scope for shared learning and activity to increase our economic cooperation in these areas, particularly on renewable energy. Ireland and Scotland share significant geographic advantages that provide the potential to become world leaders in wind, tidal and wave technology.

Cooperation on the economic relationship has been strong in recent years. In 2018, Enterprise Ireland led its largest ever trade mission to Scotland, a recognition of the opportunities for Irish companies in Scotland. In the same year, Scotland brought six trade missions to Ireland, involving 60 companies. In 2019, a ministerial-led trade mission brought 16 Scottish companies focused on fintech and related areas to Ireland.

Cooperation is also taking place at regional level. Irish and Scottish regional development agencies are working together on the implementation of Co-Innovate – The Innovations Pathway programme, a European Interreg programme aimed at increasing the number of SMEs participating in cross-border and transnational research projects.

Scotland and Ireland have been natural competitors in the international tourism market, which is of huge significance to both economies. Following the unprecedented impact of COVID-19 on international travel, and the often remote Irish and Scottish communities which rely heavily on tourism, both governments are committed to including tourism in our ongoing economic work together.

Exports

372

Enterprise Ireland companies, employing over 22,000 people in Ireland, exported over **€253 million to Scotland in 2018**. (Enterprise Ireland).



Ireland is Scotland's closest International trading partner and 6th largest export market. Scotland exported **£1.235bn** in goods and services to **Ireland in 2018**. (Export Statistics Scotland).



Exchange

In 2018, **56** client companies participated in **Enterprise Ireland's largest ever trade mission to Scotland**. (Enterprise Ireland).

In 2018, there were **6** trade missions from **Scotland to Ireland** involving **60** companies. (Scottish Government Office, Dublin).



Growth

Enterprise Ireland client exports to **Scotland** grew by **44%** over the 10 years from 2008–2018. **Scottish exports to Ireland** grew by an average of **4.7% p.a.** from 2013-2017. (Enterprise Ireland and Export Statistics Scotland).



LOOKING FORWARD

Both governments are now focused on the challenge of driving a post-COVID-19 recovery that is sustainable and generates green growth, while protecting and creating good jobs. Geographic proximity, the advantages provided by the Common Travel Area, the existing depth of connections, and the shared nature of challenges underline the importance of the Irish-Scottish economic relationship, and the need to enhance cooperation, and grow trading opportunities. Working with a range of partners in the coming years, there will be scope for shared learning and activity to support economic cooperation in these areas, particularly on renewable energy and digital innovation.

CASE STUDIES

Mabbett is a Scottish Safety, Environment and Engineering Consultancy which won a number of major Irish contracts having participated in a trade mission to Ireland in 2018. The connections made allowed them to bid for and win a multi-year contract with Bord Bia (the Irish Food Board) to verify Origin Green sustainability plans, working with over 300 Irish food and drink businesses to date, in partnership with Environmental Efficiency in Bray. Mabbett are now established in the Irish market, having secured further contracts with other Irish public sector agencies Bord Iascaigh Mhara (Ireland's Seafood Development Agency) and the Environmental Protection Agency. Mabbett are also registered to support Irish businesses through Enterprise Ireland's Green Business Offer (GreenStart and GreenPlus), currently supporting a food and drink business with an ISO 50001 energy management system project.

Mabbett continue to develop relationships and project opportunities with Irish food and drink, and manufacturing and engineering companies, assisting them to improve environmental performance, legal compliance, sustainability and efficiency. Mabbett's Director-Environment, Geraldine Boylan, has led on building links on the circular economy, sharing experience from projects delivered in Scotland. As they have increased their engagement in Ireland, with businesses and stakeholders such as West Lothian Chamber, South Dublin Chamber and Údarás na Gaeltachta (the Gaeltacht Development Authority) in particular, Mabbett has opened an office in Naas, ensuring further sharing of energy and environmental good practice, benefiting both Ireland and Scotland.

XOCEAN: Founded in 2017, XOCEAN is an Enterprise Ireland high potential start-up (HPSU) client. Their success, based on ground-breaking technology combined with deep technical expertise, has seen collaboration with leading Scottish companies, including SSE, supporting both offshore wind and subsea cables. In 2018, the company participated in the Enterprise Ireland trade mission to Scotland and has attended events such as SPE Offshore Europe in Aberdeen.

Using Unmanned Surface Vessels (USVs), XOCEAN provides turnkey data collection services to surveyors, companies and agencies. From mapping the seabed to environmental monitoring, their platform offers a safe, economic and carbon neutral solution to collecting ocean data, thus ensuring coastal nations like Ireland and Scotland can protect and benefit from this precious natural resource. XOCEAN's coastal work in Scotland includes pipeline inspections for companies such as BP, Shell and TOTAL and bathymetric surveys of the Scottish coast for the MCA (Maritime & Coastguard Agency).



Mabbett, a Scottish safety, environment and engineering consultancy company.
© Mabbett



XOCEAN's Unmanned Surface Vessels operating off the coast of Isle of Skye, Scotland.
© XOCEAN

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Both governments will support relevant business-to-business networks in their work to build personal and business connections between Scotland and Ireland.
- » The Consulate General of Ireland in Edinburgh and the Scottish Government Office in Dublin will work with our economic agencies, chambers of commerce, local authorities, and the British-Irish Chamber of Commerce to deliver a range of events and activities that will:
 - Focus on the shared challenges – particularly for SMEs – posed by COVID-19.
 - Share lessons learned and provide opportunities for enhanced business-to-business connections.
 - Determine how the wider business community wants the bilateral relationship to develop post-COVID and in the changing international context.
- » In 2021, and working with a wide range of business and local government partners, including the Local Government Information Unit, we will focus on shared challenges and lessons learned for SMEs in both domestic and export markets, and on local government and business efforts to support and rebuild sustainable town centres.
- » Both governments will jointly host a trade conference, led by Ireland's Consulate General in Edinburgh and the Scottish Government Office in Dublin, to hear views from a wide range of stakeholders including business representative organisations, chambers of commerce, and other enterprise stakeholders.
- » In 2021, the Consulate General of Ireland in Edinburgh and the Scottish Government Office in Dublin will support the formation of a Scotland-Ireland Trade Taskforce. The Taskforce will engage with public and private sectors to promote the development of Irish-Scottish trade relations. The format and remit of the Taskforce will be determined following consultations with trade agencies, industry representatives and chambers of commerce.
- » Ireland and Scotland will cooperate on the research and development of offshore renewable energy technologies, to enable these technologies to become commercially deployable, particularly in the areas of floating wind and wave energy.
- » Ireland will engage with the Scottish Government on their approach to the wellbeing economy and just transition in Climate Change policy.
- » Both the Consulate General of Ireland in Edinburgh and the Scottish Government Office in Dublin will host focussed business and trade events, with annual showcases focussed on St Patrick's and St Andrew's Days.

Community and Diaspora

The histories of the peoples of Ireland and Scotland are closely connected, with our stories of migration taking many forms at different times. Place names and family names across both lands are an ever-present reminder of the intertwined past and shared future.

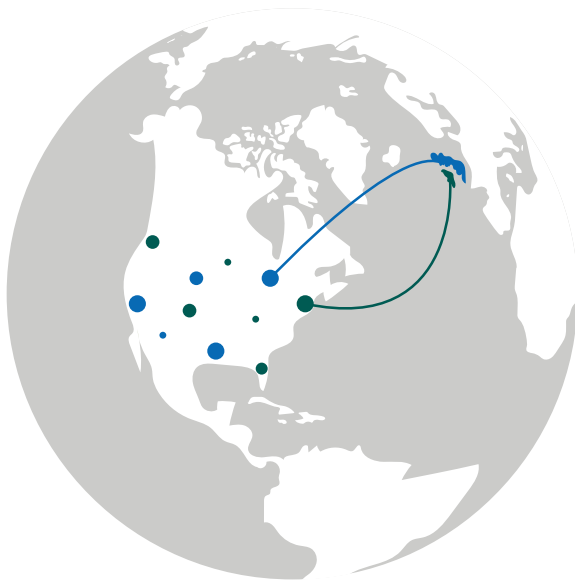
Irish and Scottish diasporas are in many of the same locations, such as the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. In some locations these diasporas are closely interlinked, and defined by a shared heritage, such as in Nova Scotia where there is a shared linguistic identity in Gaelic, or through shared Ulster-Scots heritage, particularly evident in the USA. Highland Games celebrated in North America are enthusiastically embraced by those of Scottish and Irish heritage and often celebrated jointly. There is potential to develop broader understanding of this joint heritage, building on recent work by Ireland's Consuls General in Boston and Atlanta.

Ireland has a long tradition of diaspora engagement around the world, led by the Department of Foreign Affairs, appointing its first Minister for Diaspora Affairs in 2014. Scotland engages its global diaspora through GlobalScot - a worldwide network of almost 800 entrepreneurial and inspirational business leaders and experts. These professionals use their skills, experience and connections to support Scottish businesses to grow and develop. As well as supporting and working directly with Scottish businesses, many GlobalScots undertake activities to support Scotland's international work.



Sara Sheridan, Catriona Logan, Margot McCuaig, and Louise Bruton (L-R) in conversation at 2020 Brigid's Day celebrations, Glasgow Women's Library.
© Consulate General of Ireland, Edinburgh/Brian Sweeney

Irish and Scottish diasporas overlap in the U.S., where more than **3 million people** proudly identify as Scots-Irish. (2015 US census data).



Responses to the online questionnaire indicated that respondents from both communities – the Scottish community in Ireland and the Irish community in Scotland – are equally involved in meeting each other through diaspora-focused events. Both communities are interested in being more actively involved.

A wealth of community organisations in both countries continue to support and enrich the lives of these respective diaspora communities, and promote Scottish and Irish cultural capital and sporting traditions. Both countries also use annual events such as St Andrew's Day, St Patrick's Day, Burns Supper and St Brigid's Day, celebrating culture and heritage, to forge new relationships, showcase talent, and develop community outreach. Live Music Now Scotland artists have performed at official events and on visits to care homes, schools and hospices in Dublin in recent years.

Branches of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann in Scotland nurture Irish traditions in music, often sharing them

Around the globe around **70 million people claim Irish roots** (Department of Foreign Affairs) and **50 million people claim Scottish descent.** (National Records Scotland).

63% of respondents to the questionnaire believe that **community and diaspora links** are very important to the relationship.

Dublin was the Scottish Government's first innovation and investment hub providing a Scottish Government presence for its diaspora in Ireland since 2016.

Almost **30,000 Irish citizens were living in Scotland** in 2011. (UK Census data, 2011).

with other diaspora communities. Likewise, Irish dance schools in Scotland, as around the world, attract people of all backgrounds to this art form. Vibrant Irish language activities, and Ciorcail Comhrá, in Glasgow and Edinburgh attract speakers and learners of mixed ability to enjoy speaking Irish. Causeway Ireland Scotland Business Exchange is active in Scotland, Ireland and Northern Ireland providing links between our diasporas in business, and has diversified with a young professionals network and mentoring programme.

The Dublin Scottish Benevolent Society of St Andrew, founded on St Andrew's Day in 1831, is one of the oldest Scottish diaspora societies in the world. Originally founded "for the relief of indigent and distressed natives of Scotland in Dublin," the society now performs a vital role in fostering fellowship among Scots in Ireland, celebrating Scotland's culture and annual festivals, and promoting an understanding in Ireland of the culture of Scotland.



Musicians from Live Music Now Scotland! perform at the Scottish Government St Andrew's Day reception in Dublin.
© Peter Varga

A variety of well-established Irish community organisations exist in Scotland, though there has been limited engagement with the Government of Ireland Emigrant Support Programme (ESP). Opinions expressed in the online questionnaire suggest an appetite for more community activity in sports and the arts, indicating a sustainable future for Irish organisations in Scotland.

Scotland GAA's recent successful partnership with West Dunbartonshire Council, Sport Scotland, and local clubs helped to secure significant funding to build a state of the art clubhouse and pitches at the Clydebank Community Sports Hub. This inclusive community facility is a shared base for Gaelic games, rugby, and Taekwondo. It is an excellent example of how community and diaspora organisations can work with partners to both secure their own future and share their heritage.

LOOKING FORWARD

The focus for governments will be on lesson learning and the exchange of good practice. The Scottish Government will, for example, work with Irish colleagues leading on diaspora affairs, to assess where lessons can be drawn from Ireland's experience. There is also scope for increased exchange and partnerships between different diaspora organisations.

CASE STUDY

In 2018 the Omagh Protestant Boys Melody Flute Band participated in the 195th Savannah St Patrick's Day Parade as a result of a partnership between the Consulate General of Ireland in Atlanta, the Northern Ireland Bureau in Washington and the Ulster-Scots Agency. This was the first ever participation of a traditional Ulster-Scots marching band in a major U.S. St Patrick's Day Parade. It was made possible by an invitation from the Savannah St Patrick's Day Parade Committee and support from local Scottish and Irish community organisations. This outstanding 30-strong band started its programme by performing at Savannah's Independent Presbyterian Church, where the city's first St Patrick's Day Parade ended in 1813, and opening an exhibition on Savannah's Scots-Irish heritage. It won the best band award and made front-page news with its parade performance. Representatives of the Government of Ireland, the Northern Ireland Bureau, the Ulster-Scots Agency, and the British Consul General, himself a Scot, marched alongside the band. The Ulster-Scots Agency has told this story through BBC Radio Ulster broadcasts. The Agency also commissioned a documentary "From Ulster to Savannah," which has been screened on both sides of the Atlantic with support from the partners.



Drum Major, Stacey Connor, leading the Omagh Protestant Boys Melody Flute Band in the St Patrick's Day Parade, Savannah, 2018.
© The Ulster-Scots Agency

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Ireland and Scotland will deliver two shared diaspora and heritage events in Irish Embassies and Consulates in the USA and Canada in 2021, in cooperation with the Scottish Government's network of offices in North America.
- » The Consulate General in Edinburgh will deliver an awareness campaign in Scotland to increase engagement with the Government of Ireland's Emigrant Support Programme.
- » The Scottish Government Office in Dublin will further enhance its reach into and connections with the Scottish diaspora in Ireland, through its programme of winter festival events.
- » The Consulate General in Edinburgh will expand the celebration of Brigid's Day year on year across Scotland following the successful 2020 event held in the Glasgow Women's Library.
- » Scotland will engage with and learn from Ireland's diaspora policy experience through engagement with the Department of Foreign Affairs Irish Abroad Unit in Dublin and the varied approaches of Ireland's diplomatic missions.
- » The Department of Foreign Affairs will support Donegal County Council's Donegal Connect event in Glasgow, planned for 2021.



A university Ladies Gaelic Football game at the 2017 Irish Culture and Heritage Day at the Grange Cricket Club Edinburgh - hosted by Consulate General of Ireland in Edinburgh, Conradh na Gaeilge Glaschú, and Scotland GAA.
© Consulate General of Ireland/Leo Paredes Photography

Culture

From the ancient to the contemporary, the value of culture in the lives of both Scotland and Ireland, at home and abroad, is well recognised. The high levels of engagement in the review process under this theme underlined its importance, with most focus on the arts, language and sport.



Edinburgh International Book Festival, Charlotte Square Gardens.
© Edinburgh International Book Festival

Levels of collaboration happening across both jurisdictions in culture, heritage, arts and sport continue to increase. Collaboration between Showcase Scotland and Tradfest, and close working relationships between Culture Ireland and the Edinburgh Festivals, typify the ease with which collaboration in this sector happens and demonstrates how cooperation can co-exist with competition, feeding creativity and strengthening the bilateral relationship.

Links are strong at ministerial and official level between our creative industries and within the Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-used Languages work sector of the British-Irish Council. Our officials meet quarterly under a biennial work programme, leading up to a ministerial-level meeting.

Colm Cille, or Columba, is a foundational link between Ireland and Scotland. Beyond his ecclesiastical influence, which migrating Scots then carried to Canada and elsewhere, his legacy in learning, art and intellectual property reaches far beyond Scotland and Ireland. Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Foras na Gaeilge, the language agencies of Scotland and Ireland, have a partnership, Colmcille, and are promoting international cultural collaboration and celebration of the 1500th anniversary of his birth in 2020-21.

Monuments from the Neolithic era, including the tombs at Maeshowe and Brú na Bóinne, demonstrate how far back the links between us stretch. These links continue today in the work to preserve, promote and share these UNESCO World Heritage Sites with visitors. Historic Environment Scotland's (HES) case study on the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site for the Climate Vulnerability Index is a valuable lead for Ireland, and both countries have considerable shared expertise in this area to offer internationally.

Festivals

In 2019, there were **80** shows (approx. **191** artists) at Edinburgh Festival Fringe **from Ireland** with a further **26** shows (**44** artists) **from Northern Ireland**. (Edinburgh Festival Fringe).



3 of Edinburgh's leading international festivals, the Edinburgh International Festival, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and the Edinburgh Art Festival, **are led by Irish directors** while **Ireland's National Theatre** is **co-led by a Scottish director**.



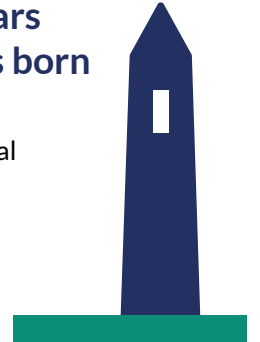
Language

Across Ireland, **771,811** people reported that they also **speak Irish** outside of the education system. (2016 census). In 2011, **57,600** people in Scotland reported that they could **speak Gàidhlig**. (2011 UK census).



Heritage

2021 marks **1,500** years since **Colmcille** was born – a figure who made a vital contribution to the historical record of **both Ireland and Scotland** in the early Christian monastic period.



Scotland has **6** UNESCO World Heritage sites:



St Kilda



Edinburgh (Old Town and New Town)



The Heart of Neolithic Orkney



New Lanark



The Antonine Wall



The Forth Bridge

Ireland has **2** World Heritage sites:



Brú na Bóinne



Skellig Michael



Performance on the Mound in Edinburgh during Edinburgh Fringe Festival.
© VisitScotland/Kenny Lam

Our archaeologists benefit from the strategic partnership, through a memorandum of understanding on policy and best practice collaboration, between the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (UK) and the Institute of Archaeologists (Ireland), and work closely together within international organisations. The Edinburgh Group brings together professional bodies representing architects, engineers and building surveyors with Irish officials and those of the UK and devolved governments biannually to exchange knowledge on education and practice in architectural conservation.

Founded in 1980, the Celtic Media Festival, based in Glasgow, is an industry celebration of television and radio production in the Celtic nations and regions. Connections between Ireland and Scotland, particularly between TG4 and BBC Alba, are strong, with high quality joint programming regularly winning awards at the Festival. Glasgow Film Festival and Dublin International Film Festival have also run joint showcases in recent years.

In May 2019, the Scottish Government Office in Dublin hosted the Creative Cities Summit and networking event, designed to engage leaders in the Creative and Cultural Industries (CCI) in Glasgow and Dublin to share future ambitions to build closer links. City councils, national institutions, universities and businesses were all involved and work continues in this area.

LOOKING FORWARD

Cultural and heritage exchange and promotion will continue to be central to the bilateral relationship. Both governments will work together in the coming year with a continued focus on creating opportunities for our artists and performers, and for our creative and heritage sectors to flourish, despite the constraints and profound challenges created by the global pandemic. Ireland and Scotland will also collaborate on cultural projects during the Colmille 1500 anniversary year.

CASE STUDY

Collectively, the Edinburgh International Festival, Edinburgh International Book Festival, Edinburgh Festival Fringe and Edinburgh Art Festival are the world's largest global arts and cultural gathering. Culture Ireland supports Irish artists at the Festivals every August in Edinburgh, where they reach local and global audiences, gaining international recognition and touring contracts.

Selection for the curated Edinburgh International Festival is a significant mark of success for any international company. Following Druid's acclaimed presentation of Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* in 2018, Oona Doherty's *Hard to be Soft, A Belfast Prayer* marked a significant collaboration between Culture Ireland, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, and the British Council, co-supporting work of a Northern Ireland company in Edinburgh in 2019.

Amidst more than 3,000 shows annually, Irish artists are highlighted in the Fringe every year. In 2019, Pat Kinevane was awarded the coveted Herald Archangel Award for sustained contribution to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe,

and Gina Moxley achieved Fringe First and Herald Angel awards for her show *The Patient Gloria*.

Every August in Edinburgh, Culture Ireland hosts an industry event bringing together Irish artists and festival and venue presenters, producers and promoters, securing new international touring contracts for Irish artists across Europe, the USA, New Zealand and Australia, as well as important stages in Britain.

Close collaboration in the arts and cultural spheres of Ireland and Scotland is personified in the leadership of three of the Edinburgh Festivals - Edinburgh International Festival (Fergus Linehan), Edinburgh Festival Fringe (Shona McCarthy), Edinburgh Art Festival (Sorcha Carey) - while the co-directors of the National Theatre of Ireland, Graham McLaren and Neil Murray, came to Ireland from Scotland's National Theatre.

Despite the disruption caused by the pandemic, in 2020 Culture Ireland maintained its commitment to Irish artists' participation in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and Edinburgh International Book Festival, this time online.



Oona Doherty's *Hard to be Soft, A Belfast Prayer* at Edinburgh International Festival, 2019.
© Luca Truffarelli

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » The Consulate General of Ireland in Edinburgh and the Scottish Government Office in Dublin will fund high level artistic joint programming in support of Colmcille 1500 celebrations (Dec 2020-21), showcasing contemporary work and performance reflecting this shared international legacy.
- » Ireland and Scotland will build on the excellent structured cooperation between the Office of Public Works and Historic Environment Scotland (HES), particularly focused on protecting monuments from the effects of climate change, and conservation skills development. A new memorandum of understanding between HES and Ireland's Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage will facilitate exchange of knowledge and structured cooperation in addressing the impacts of climate change on our built and archaeological heritage.
- » The Scottish Government Office in Dublin will work with Poetry Ireland and the Scottish Poetry Library to develop an exchange programme bringing together schools and young people to co-create work and performance.
- » The Consulate General of Ireland in Edinburgh and the Scottish Government Office in Dublin will celebrate Scottish-Irish co-productions in both Irish/ Gàidhlig and English in an online TV festival in partnership with the Celtic Media Festival.



Scotland GAA ahead of the 2019 All-Ireland Junior Football Championship Semi-Final against Kerry at the Clydebank Community Sports Hub, Glasgow.
© Duncolm Sports Photography



Swim Ireland attends a reception to mark the 2018 Euro Championships.
© Paul Sherwood

- » Ireland and Scotland will build on annual collaboration between Showcase Scotland and Tradfest to promote the best in our musical traditions.
- » The Consulate General of Ireland in Edinburgh will support Conradh na Gaeilge to increase the profile of their Irish language activity in Scotland.
- » The Embassy of Ireland in London and Scotland House in London will host, in alternate years, an annual celebration of our shared cultural affinity.
- » The Consulate General of Ireland in Edinburgh and the Scottish Government Office in Dublin will jointly host an event in 2021 to share best practice in increasing participation and inclusivity in sport.

Colmille
ÉIRINN IS ALBA
Léarscáil ó cheann ó dheas na hÉireann
go ceann ó thuaidh na hAlban

Colmille
ÉIRINN IS ALBA
Mapa bho cheann a deas na h-Éireann
gu ceann a tuath na h-Alba

Colmille

Tha an ceangal eadar Alba is Éirinn aig cridhe a' mhapa tha seo, Tìr Chaluim Chille. 'S e mapa cruinn ceart a th' ann agus tha an t-saighdear air an làimh chlì a' comharrachadh na h-àird tuath.

Faodaidh sibh barrachd fhaighinn a-mach mu ainmean-àite na h-Alba is na h-Éireann aig www.logainm.ie www.ainmean-àite.org agus ag www.placenamesi.org

Colmille

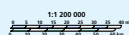
The relationship between Ireland and Scotland is at the centre of this map, Tìr Choluim Cille. It is an accurate map, and the arrow on the left points to the north.

You can find out more about the placenames of Scottish and Irish Gaelic at www.logainm.ie, www.gaelicplacenames.org and www.placenamesi.org

Colmille

Tá an cobhneas idir Éirinn agus Albain ag críofáir na léarscáile seo, Tí Cholm Cille. Léarscáil chruinn at inti, agus taispeánann an tsaihgeair ar chlé an aird thuaidh.

Is féidir níos mó a fháil amach faoi logainmneacha Ghaeilge na hÉireann is Ghaeilge na hAlban ag www.logainm.ie www.ainmean-àite.org agus ag www.placenamesi.org



Copyright © Colmille 2012
Mapa: Foras na Gaeilge
Léarscáil: Foras na Gaeilge
Léarscáil: Foras na Gaeilge
Léarscáil: Foras na Gaeilge
Léarscáil: Foras na Gaeilge



Foras na Gaeilge



This map is named Colmille, or Columba, and was designed by Foras na Gaeilge (Ireland) and Bòrd na Gàidhlig (Scotland) for their Colmille partnership. This partnership fosters communication and collaboration between the Scottish Gaelic and Irish Gaelic language communities. The map cartography is by Collins Bartholomew, the blue arrow points north, and the place names are in Scottish and Irish Gaelic.
© Foras na Gaeilge/Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Academic and Research Links

Ireland and Scotland are steeped in the tradition of education and shared learning, dating back to the time of St Colmcille, whose monastery on Iona provided the first centre of literacy in the region.

The University of St Andrews and Trinity College Dublin are two of the oldest universities on these islands, founded in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Facilitated by the Common Travel Area, each country has traditionally hosted each other's students and academics, and the links between institutions are strong. Academic communities have been enriched and diversified by this mobility.

Shared educational heritage remains a strong part of the relationship, and East-West collaboration will continue to be a prominent feature of the Irish and Scottish academic and research systems. This collaboration is partly founded on personal and professional relationships between teachers, academics and researchers, but has been increasingly facilitated through various formal programmes.

Ireland and Scotland work together on primary and secondary schooling at official level. The CEOs of the teaching regulatory bodies in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and Ireland meet regularly, and Ireland and Scotland collaborate on teaching regulation, state examinations, schools inspectorate bodies and curriculum development.



Iona Abbey.
© Visit Scotland/Paul Tomkins



University of Glasgow Main Building.
© University of Glasgow

Shared tradition results in a similar culture and structures in the higher education sector. This has led to excellent cooperation at academic level, with productive research links. Scotland and Ireland rank in the top 20 global countries in the 2019 Incites Essential Science indicators, and share a strong commitment to developing innovation and knowledge-based societies equipped to address national and global challenges.

Much recent cooperation has taken place under EU research frameworks such as Erasmus and Horizon, and there is a strong wish to continue such collaboration into the future. In 2019, Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) hosted a meeting between the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and the Irish Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, to open a dialogue for more formal engagement between SFI and the SFC, of greater importance when access to EU funding changes. SFI collaboration with Scottish researchers is also facilitated through UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and other funding bodies. The Irish Research Council (IRC), together with SFI and UKRI, have jointly established the UK-Ireland research funders' forum to enable regular strategic dialogue.

Questionnaire responses on the Academic and Research theme were substantial, detailed and almost universally positive. There is an obvious appetite for further engagement, tempered by concern about the loss of access to EU funding programmes.

Within the humanities, Irish and Scottish studies are vibrant. The Research Institute of Irish and Scottish Studies at the University of Aberdeen was inaugurated by then-President Mary McAleese in 1999. The Centre for New Irish Studies in Trinity College Dublin, formerly the Centre for Irish-Scottish and Comparative Studies, manages a number of linked research projects in Irish and Irish-Scottish studies. The Scottish-Irish Migration Initiative (SIMI), a University of Edinburgh and University College Dublin initiative, is another example of academic collaboration that brings together Scottish and Irish scholars to develop research in an area of significant current interest.

LOOKING FORWARD

Both governments will work with partners across this sector to create opportunities for research that support the development of each of the themes in this report. Both governments will also continue to foster opportunities for deepened, and more structured, collaboration between institutions and research and innovation bodies.



Trinity College Dublin.
© Tourism Ireland

CASE STUDY: BOYNE TO BRODGAR

The Boyne to Brodgar initiative is a network of museums, universities, independent experts, societies, trusts and local authorities, with extensive links to community groups. It can undertake a whole range of activities which focus on Neolithic heritage as a means of celebrating and furthering Scotland-Ireland links, creating several significant legacies.

Neolithic monuments (from around 4000 BC to 2500 BC) are a significant feature of Scotland's and Ireland's rich shared heritage. There are over 1000 upstanding monuments from the Neolithic period in Scotland and Ireland, many of international significance, including World Heritage Sites, visited by tens of thousands of people every year.



The Ring of Brodgar - part of the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site.
© VisitScotland / Kenny Lam

Boyne to Brodgar: Making Monuments, Creating Communities is an innovative project, focusing on the Neolithic monuments across Scotland, Ireland and Northern Ireland. These range from the iconic World Heritage Sites of Brú na Bóinne and the Heart of Neolithic Orkney to less well-known henges and timber circles. This international, interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral initiative is co-operative, socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable, featuring archaeologists, heritage professionals, educators and community groups, in the UK and Ireland and beyond.

Boyne to Brodgar aims to:

- » Improve understanding of these monuments, the people who built and used them, and their connections, by fostering and promoting research.
- » Assist heritage professionals to create policies and strategies for the investigation, preservation and presentation of these monuments, developing joined-up and sustainable heritage tourism trails of Neolithic monuments across Ireland and Scotland.
- » Empower local communities to take pride in and protect their prehistoric heritage through co-developed projects about Neolithic monuments.

Membership is informal and currently includes University College Dublin, University of the Highlands and Islands, National Museums Scotland, National Museum of Ireland, National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Historic Environment Scotland, Department for Communities Northern Ireland, Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, German Archaeology Institute, Northlight Heritage, and Orkney Islands Council.



Newgrange - a Neolithic passage tomb which forms part of the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site.
© Tourism Ireland

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » The Scottish Government and the Government of Ireland (through the Department of Foreign Affairs) will partner with the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) and the Royal Irish Academy (RIA), to jointly fund structured research collaboration to harness the expertise of their fellowships. Across the five thematic areas of this review, this will support policy development, with appropriate support from Irish and Scottish funders.
- » Ireland and Scotland will pilot a structured collaboration between Irish and Scottish researchers and officials coordinated by the Scottish Policy and Research Exchange (SPRE), focussed on shared challenges identified in each of the five themes of the review.
- » The Consulate General of Ireland in Edinburgh and the Scottish Government Office in Dublin will facilitate and host academic collaboration events to enhance existing research networks and support new activity.
- » The Consulate General of Ireland in Edinburgh and the Scottish Government Office in Dublin will work with partners to establish networks for our respective graduate cohorts and alumni, with a specific focus on networking opportunities for young professionals and early career researchers.
- » Irish and Scottish education officials will finalise a new framework for cooperation with the aim of enhancing existing collaboration and developing new initiatives in the areas of further education, higher education and research and innovation. Finding ways to maintain and encourage student mobility between Ireland and Scotland, including investigating the development of dedicated mobility programmes between Scottish and Irish higher education institutions, will be a priority.

Collaboration

By the end of 2018, there were **102** collaborations with researchers based in Scotland supported by Science Foundation Ireland.



Areas of shared medical research include:

Genealogy **Haemochromatosis**
Alcoholism **Pharmaceuticals**
Biotech (Ireland-Scotland Review Questionnaire).

Areas of shared arts, humanities, and sciences research:

History **Archaeology**
Literature **Gàidhlig/Gaeilge**
Postcolonialism **Oceanography**
Aquaculture **Rural development**
Social farming (Ireland-Scotland Review Questionnaire).

Exchange

In 2018-19, there were **1,970** Irish domiciled students studying at a Scottish institution. (Higher Education Statistics Agency).



In 2017, **46** students came from Scottish Universities to study in Ireland through the Erasmus+ programme. (British Council).



Rural, Coastal, and Island Communities

The shared geography of Ireland’s and Scotland’s rural, coastal, and island communities was considered the strongest area for collaboration by 73% of respondents to the online questionnaire, generating the highest number of comments. All of the other review themes coalesce in the Rural, Coastal and Island communities strand, presenting exciting possibilities for future collaboration.



Dunfanaghy, County Donegal.
© Fáilte Ireland

Existing cooperation at all levels is strong, reflecting the natural partnership based on our shared richness of significant rural, coastal and island communities. Scotland published its National Islands Plan in December 2019 and Ireland will pursue its own Islands Strategy over the course of this government.

17% of Scotland’s population and 37.4% of Ireland’s population live in rural areas. 93 inhabited islands in Scotland had a total population of 103,700 in 2011, about 2% of Scotland’s population. Ireland recorded a total population of 8,756 living on 76 of Ireland’s 82 offshore islands, about 0.2% of Ireland’s population.

Consultations with government departments in both countries have demonstrated a deep level of cooperation in areas of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries and the

Communities

73% of questionnaire respondents believe that **rural, coastal, and island communities** are very important to the Ireland-Scotland relationship. (Ireland-Scotland Review Questionnaire).



93 inhabited islands in Scotland had a total population of **103,700 in 2011**. (UK Census 2011). Ireland recorded a total population of **8,756 living on 76 of Ireland's 82 offshore islands**. (2016 census).



marine environment. Scotland's position at the forefront of climate change policy is of interest to Ireland, including on peatland restoration and offshore renewable energy. Likewise, Ireland's programme for government points to Scotland's work on town centres as a potential example to follow.

Údarás na Gaeltachta (the agency responsible for the economic, social and cultural development of Irish-speaking regions of Ireland) has a number of programmes harnessing existing connections, building new contacts and developing stronger economic ties between the Gaeltacht regions of Ireland and the West of Scotland. Their gteic project (Gréasán Digiteach na Gaeltachta - Gaeltacht Digital Network) is a network of 31 innovation and digital hubs developed in locations throughout Ireland's Gaeltacht area. The gteic digital hubs will provide a vibrant network of high-speed broadband facilities in rural Gaeltacht regions stimulating job creation, assisting remote working, and encouraging and enabling the return of Diaspóra

Livelihoods

In 2018, Ireland's ocean economy had a turnover of **€6.2 billion** and a direct economic contribution of **€2.2 billion (1.1% of GDP)**. (Socio-Economic Marine Research Unit (SEMURU), NUI Galway, 2019).

€6.2 billion



Marine Scotland supports fishing & aquaculture with a turnover of around **£1.7 billion including about 75,000 jobs** in the marine industry and marine tourism. (Marine Scotland).

£1.7 billion



na Gaeltachta, where the unique Gaeltacht culture drives creativity and innovation. This model is of interest to Scotland.

The Scottish Government aims to see an increase in people speaking, using and learning the Gaelic language. Promotion of the Gaelic arts and Gaelic culture is an important element of this. Creative Scotland participated in the Ceangal | Dolen II theatre conference that took place between 10-13 November 2020. The conference was the second focused gathering of theatre practitioners working in the Irish, Welsh, and Scottish languages respectively. The gathering focused on innovation in theatre in these languages through sharing best practice and nurturing respect, linguistic diversity and equality.

LOOKING FORWARD

Submissions to the review and to the online questionnaire illustrated the challenges and tensions our rural, coastal and island communities face on a day-to-day basis – specifically around energy, tourism, landscape and livelihoods.

While Brexit and the global pandemic add to these long-standing challenges and tensions, there are opportunities for positive change. Taken together, an increase in home and remote working, a renewed focus on the benefits of localisation, changing business and working models, and reduced commuting, open up exciting potential opportunities for our rural, coastal and island communities and societies. As a result, there is now a renewed focus on rural connectivity (digital and transport), sustainability of communities, and decentralisation of services.



Arbroath smokies being prepared by Iain R Spink on the beach at Auchmithie.
© VisitScotland / Kenny Lam



Clare Island Harbour, Mayo.
© Fáilte Ireland

CASE STUDY: SMART ISLANDS: SCOTLAND AND IRELAND

As part of the EU's Smart Islands Initiative, Irish and Scottish island communities are working to become smart, inclusive, thriving societies. Recent work has included a series of visits between island communities, focussed on sustainable social, economic and community development.

Eigg and Canna islanders met with Clare Island and Inishturk islanders in County Mayo and undertook on-site visits and workshops about 'Smart Islands.' A visit to Grimsay by Irish and Scottish islanders focussed on culture and identity, crofting, tourism, and developing island skills, and included young crofters and musicians, as well as enterprise, arts, tourism and language development officers. Islanders from both Ireland and Scotland attended training in Galway looking at island-based enterprise development, and coaching skills to support fellow islanders. As a direct result of their work together, an outdoor children's nursery on Sherkin Island was developed, inspired by a similar facility at Grimsay.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » The Scottish Government and the Government of Ireland, working with the University of the Highlands and Islands and Údarás na Gaeltachta, will convene a conference in 2021 to develop joint activity to address the opportunities and challenges of living in rural, coastal and island communities, including how adaptation to the COVID-19 context informs policy planning.
- » The Marine Institute and Marine Scotland will continue formal collaboration to pursue mutually beneficial research. The Scottish Government has highlighted the benefits of collaboration on the blue economy, aquaculture and on the potential for research exchanges between respective marine parks and innovation centres.
- » Teagasc (Ireland's Agriculture and Food Development Authority) and Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) will build on their existing research collaboration, encompassing a wider range of research themes and activities, and include advisory and education functions, in addition to expanding relationships with other institutions.
- » Existing and potential future collaborations between Scottish and Irish forestry sectors will focus on increasing forestry's role in addressing climate change challenges, growing forest economies, afforestation, creating green jobs and contributing to the recovery from the COVID-19 emergency.
- » Based on shared interests in building sustainable, self-sufficient island communities using innovations in renewable energy projects to address island depopulation, the Government of Ireland and the Scottish Government will seek to continue mutual exchange and lesson sharing in these areas.
- » The Consulate General of Ireland in Edinburgh and the Scottish Government Office in Dublin will work with business organisations and local authorities to encourage further twinning arrangements between Scotland and Ireland where these can add value to existing and new links.
- » All recommendations stemming from this joint bilateral review, both those in this report, and those that will be agreed by both governments at each annual review, will include a focus on rural, coastal and island communities.



A memorial sheiling to mark the ancient legend of Deirdre and Naoise and the common past of the peoples of Scotland and Ireland. Situated in the mountains overlooking Loch Etive, Argyll, the sheiling [an ancient Gaelic word for a mountain shelter] was commissioned by Sam Macdonald to commemorate his wife, the love story of Deirdre and Naoise, and the cultural ties between Ireland and Scotland.

© Julia Fayngruen

Annex 1: Recommendations

Progress on the recommendations in this report will be monitored by the Steering Committee and reported to ministers annually, when new recommendations will be agreed.

GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT

- » The Taoiseach and Scottish First Minister will meet at bi-annual British-Irish Council summits, and will ensure that high-level contact is maintained by their ministers.
- » As leads on the bilateral relationship, Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Scottish Cabinet Secretary for External Affairs will maintain ongoing contact, and will meet annually to specifically review progress on the recommendations of this review, and agree new recommendations.
- » The Bilateral Review Steering Committee, made up of relevant senior officials from Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs and Scottish Government External Relations Directorate, will meet at least twice annually to monitor progress.
- » Both Scotland and Ireland remain committed to the vision and mandate of the British-Irish Council (BIC), established under the Belfast/ Good Friday Agreement, and will work to enhance collaboration through the BIC, where possible.
- » The Consulate General of Ireland in Edinburgh and the Scottish Government Office in Dublin will work with the Houses of the Oireachtas (Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann) and the Scottish Parliament to support increased contacts between parliamentarians, and cross-party engagement in our joint work.
- » Irish and Scottish health officials will continue to work together through the Health Forum and deliver the previously planned secondments delayed by COVID-19. Both governments will maintain their good cooperation on efforts to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic, seeking mutually beneficial collaboration in that task where appropriate.
- » Building on our collaboration in Malawi, Irish and Scottish officials will have an exchange on international development issues in 2021, including on Ireland's policy on international development, 'A Better World' and its focus on issues of gender equality, climate action, governance and reducing humanitarian need.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC

- » Both governments will support relevant business-to-business networks in their work to build personal and business connections between Scotland and Ireland.
- » The Consulate General of Ireland in Edinburgh and the Scottish Government Office in Dublin will work with our economic agencies, chambers of commerce, local authorities, and the British-Irish Chamber of Commerce to deliver a range of events and activities that will:
 - Focus on the shared challenges – particularly for SMEs – posed by COVID-19.
 - Share lessons learned and provide opportunities for enhanced business-to-business connections.
 - Determine how the wider business community wants the bilateral relationship to develop post-COVID and in the changing international context.
- » In 2021, and working with a wide range of business and local government partners, including the Local Government Information Unit, we will focus on shared challenges and lessons learned for SMEs in both domestic and export markets, and on local government and business efforts to support and rebuild sustainable town centres.
- » Both governments will jointly host a trade conference, led by Ireland's Consulate General in Edinburgh and the Scottish Government Office in Dublin, to hear views from a wide range of stakeholders including business representative organisations, chambers of commerce, and other enterprise stakeholders.
- » In 2021, the Consulate General of Ireland in Edinburgh and the Scottish Government Office in Dublin will support the formation of a Scotland-Ireland Trade Taskforce. The Taskforce will engage with public and private sectors to promote the development of Irish-Scottish trade relations. The format and remit of the Taskforce will be determined following consultations with trade agencies, industry representatives and chambers of commerce.
- » Ireland and Scotland will cooperate on the research and development of offshore renewable energy technologies, to enable these technologies to become commercially deployable, particularly in the areas of floating wind and wave energy.
- » Ireland will engage with the Scottish Government on their approach to the wellbeing economy and just transition in Climate Change policy.
- » Both the Consulate General of Ireland in Edinburgh and the Scottish Government Office in Dublin will host focussed business and trade events, with annual showcases focussed on St Patrick's and St Andrew's Days.

COMMUNITY AND DIASPORA

- » Ireland and Scotland will deliver two shared diaspora and heritage events in Irish Embassies and Consulates in the USA and Canada in 2021, in cooperation with the Scottish Government's network of offices in North America.
- » The Consulate General in Edinburgh will deliver an awareness campaign in Scotland to increase engagement with the Government of Ireland's Emigrant Support Programme.
- » The Scottish Government Office in Dublin will further enhance its reach into and connections with the Scottish diaspora in Ireland, through its programme of winter festival events.
- » The Consulate General in Edinburgh will expand the celebration of Brigid's Day year on year across Scotland following the successful 2020 event held in the Glasgow Women's Library.
- » Scotland will engage with and learn from Ireland's diaspora policy experience through engagement with the Department of Foreign Affairs Irish Abroad Unit in Dublin and the varied approaches of Ireland's diplomatic missions.
- » The Department of Foreign Affairs will support Donegal County Council's Donegal Connect event in Glasgow, planned for 2021.

CULTURE

- » The Consulate General of Ireland in Edinburgh and the Scottish Government Office in Dublin will fund high level artistic joint programming in support of Colmcille 1500 celebrations (Dec 2020-21), showcasing contemporary work and performance reflecting this shared international legacy.
- » Ireland and Scotland will build on the excellent structured cooperation between the Office of Public Works and Historic Environment Scotland (HES), particularly focused on protecting monuments from the effects of climate change, and conservation skills development. A new memorandum of understanding between HES and Ireland's Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage will facilitate exchange of knowledge and structured cooperation in addressing the impacts of climate change on our built and archaeological heritage.
- » The Scottish Government Office in Dublin will work with Poetry Ireland and the Scottish Poetry Library to develop an exchange programme bringing together schools and young people to co-create work and performance.
- » The Consulate General of Ireland in Edinburgh and the Scottish Government Office in Dublin will celebrate Scottish-Irish co-productions in both Irish/ Gàidhlig and English in an online TV festival in partnership with the Celtic Media Festival.
- » Ireland and Scotland will build on annual collaboration between Showcase Scotland and Tradfest to promote the best in our musical traditions.
- » The Consulate General of Ireland in Edinburgh will support Conradh na Gaeilge to increase the profile of their Irish language activity in Scotland.
- » The Embassy of Ireland in London and Scotland House in London will host, in alternate years, an annual celebration of our shared cultural affinity.
- » The Consulate General of Ireland in Edinburgh and the Scottish Government Office in Dublin will jointly host an event in 2021 to share best practice in increasing participation and inclusivity in sport.

ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH LINKS

- » The Scottish Government and the Government of Ireland (through the Department of Foreign Affairs) will partner with the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) and the Royal Irish Academy (RIA), to jointly fund structured research collaboration to harness the expertise of their fellowships. Across the five thematic areas of this review, this will support policy development, with appropriate support from Irish and Scottish funders.
- » Ireland and Scotland will pilot a structured collaboration between Irish and Scottish researchers and officials coordinated by the Scottish Policy and Research Exchange (SPRE), focussed on shared challenges identified in each of the five themes of the review.
- » The Consulate General of Ireland in Edinburgh and the Scottish Government Office in Dublin will facilitate and host academic collaboration events to enhance existing research networks and support new activity.
- » The Consulate General of Ireland in Edinburgh and the Scottish Government Office in Dublin will work with partners to establish networks for our respective graduate cohorts and alumni, with a specific focus on networking opportunities for young professionals and early career researchers.
- » Irish and Scottish education officials will finalise a new framework for cooperation with the aim of enhancing existing collaboration and developing new initiatives in the areas of further education, higher education and research and innovation. Finding ways to maintain and encourage student mobility between Ireland and Scotland, including investigating the development of dedicated mobility programmes between Scottish and Irish higher education institutions, will be a priority.

RURAL, COASTAL AND ISLAND COMMUNITIES

- » The Scottish Government and the Government of Ireland, working with the University of the Highlands and Islands and Údarás na Gaeltachta, will convene a conference in 2021 to develop joint activity to address the opportunities and challenges of living in rural, coastal and island communities, including how adaptation to the COVID-19 context informs policy planning.
- » The Marine Institute and Marine Scotland will continue formal collaboration to pursue mutually beneficial research. The Scottish Government has highlighted the benefits of collaboration on the blue economy, aquaculture and on the potential for research exchanges between respective marine parks and innovation centres.
- » Teagasc (Ireland's Agriculture and Food Development Authority) and Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) will build on their existing research collaboration, encompassing a wider range of research themes and activities, and include advisory and education functions, in addition to expanding relationships with other institutions.
- » Existing and potential future collaborations between Scottish and Irish forestry sectors will focus on increasing forestry's role in addressing climate change challenges, growing forest economies, afforestation, creating green jobs and contributing to the recovery from the COVID-19 emergency.
- » Based on shared interests in building sustainable, self-sufficient island communities using innovations in renewable energy projects to address island depopulation, the Government of Ireland and the Scottish Government will seek to continue mutual exchange and lesson sharing in these areas.
- » The Consulate General of Ireland in Edinburgh and the Scottish Government Office in Dublin will work with business organisations and local authorities to encourage further twinning arrangements between Scotland and Ireland where these can add value to existing and new links.
- » All recommendations stemming from this joint bilateral review, both those in this report, and those that will be agreed by both governments at each annual review, will include a focus on rural, coastal and island communities.



Tobermory, Isle of Mull.
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Annex 2: Questionnaire

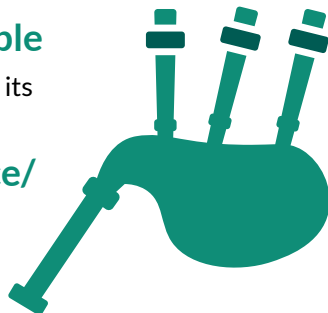
The online questionnaire, part of the joint public consultation exercise conducted as part of the bilateral review, was hosted online by the Scottish Government on their Citizen Space facility. The questionnaire was live from 19 December 2019 to 20 March 2020. The online engagement exercise attracted a total of 1,068 responses from the length and breadth of both countries and including 70 responses from outside Ireland and Scotland. The vast majority of responses came from individuals (96%), and overall the review received responses and submissions from 49 organisations. An analysis of these responses will be published on gov.scot.

Visibility

Scotland most visible
in Ireland through
sporting activity
and events.



Ireland most visible
in Scotland through its
community and
diaspora presence/
organisations.



1,068
responses to our joint
online consultation.



79% viewed the
Ireland-Scotland relationship
as positive.

75% saw the relevance of the
relationship increasing over the
next 5 years.





Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot