



European Election Manifesto 2019





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Rt Hon Arlene Foster MLA Party Leader

On 23rd June 2016, the people of the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union.

It was the largest vote in the history of our country. Whatever the variations in the referendum result, from town to town, constituency by constituency, or region to region, it was a national question and we reached a national decision.

It was not an English vote, a Scottish vote, a Welsh vote or a Northern Irish vote but a British vote to leave. It is often forgotten that it was the 'Leave' vote in Scotland and Northern Ireland that gave the Leave campaign its UK majority.

The only rightful and respectful implementation of the mandate from 17.4 million people is for us all to leave the EU on the same terms. It need not and must not be a choice between respecting the result and the Union.

In all circumstances, our first priority will be the Union. This is why when the dangers to our precious Union were clear in the Withdrawal Agreement the DUP opposed it and helped defeat it in Parliament on three occasions.

Under the leadership of the DUP, Unionism has not found itself alone but drawn support from across the parliamentary parties.

I recognise that within Unionism there was a divergence between Leave and Remain. However, our common Unionism means we can all unite in respecting the result and that we should leave as one United Kingdom.

I recognise that many nationalists and others within Northern Ireland voted remain. However, I believe we should all unite around a belief in democracy and thus the result should be implemented.

There is much work to be done to respect the result and protect our Union. There is much work ahead in the future negotiations. It is only the DUP that has the strength and focus to do so.

In this election I encourage you to use your vote and support our experienced candidate Diane Dodds so that we can send a clear message of support for the Union whilst respecting the referendum result.



Diane Dodds MEP

This is not an election I expected. But this is an election that I must fight and I must win – for democracy and for Northern Ireland.

Our Parliament decided to call the referendum, to invoke Article 50 and all major parties promised to respect the result in the last election.

The people's message was clear. They want to take back control of our borders, our laws and our money. For the health of our democracy, we must respect and implement the result as one United Kingdom.

The Withdrawal Agreement contains many compromises between Leave and Remain but the DUP cannot and will not compromise on the Union itself as the price of leaving the European Union.

The prioritisation of the All-Ireland market before and above all others does not make economic sense for the present or future generations of Northern Ireland. For Northern Ireland to drift further and further away from its main market and potentially excluded from future trade deals is in no one's real interests.

The DUP and all parties are committed to no hard land border. We are committed to an agreement

that achieves just that. However, changing the land border into a sea border in the Irish Sea is moving the problem not solving it.

The DUP cannot and will not support trade barriers within the United Kingdom.

Throughout the Brexit process the European Union has not shown respect for the United Kingdom's political or economic integrity or the leave result.

On 23rd May, vote DUP to stand up to the EU's disrespect.

The governments' negotiation strategy has failed to respect the result and deliver for Northern Ireland. It needs to solve the problem of the backstop.

On 23rd May, vote DUP to tell the government that we must leave the EU now.

The 'Remain' majority in Parliament must not be allowed to disrespect the people's choice.

On 23rd May, make the DUP the strongest voice.



Leaving the European Union

Since the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union the Democratic Unionist Party has stood strong for Northern Ireland in exit negotiations.

We believe the result of the referendum in 2016 must be honoured.

At this election use your vote to send a message that the referendum result to leave should be implemented and we should have already exited the EU.

The Democratic Unionist Party has consistently and repeatedly indicated that we could not support the Withdrawal Agreement because of the construction of the backstop.

This backstop, or protocol, is included in the agreement between the EU and the UK Government and if it became operational, requires that Northern Ireland at any time in the future could be subject to the rules of the Customs Union or parts of the Single Market whilst the rest of the UK was not.

Were the backstop to become operational Northern Ireland would sit in a separate legal position from the rest of the United Kingdom in economic and trade terms.

In those circumstances there is the strong possibility that we could have a long-term outcome whereby Northern Ireland would

inevitably pull away from its biggest trading market in Great Britain, as there would be internal barriers within the United Kingdom.

At this election send a message - NO INTERNAL UK TRADE BARRIERS

As we leave the European Union the economic and constitutional integrity of the United Kingdom must be maintained.

The DUP does not want to see a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Equally as we leave the EU we cannot support any new trade barriers within the United Kingdom.

The DUP wants to see a sensible agreement concluded between the United Kingdom and the European Union that works for all parts of the United Kingdom. We want to secure the United Kingdom's departure from, and our future relationship with, the European Union on terms that accord with our key objectives to ensure the economic integrity of the United Kingdom and respect the democratic outcome of the referendum.

On 23rd May vote to defend the Union and deliver Brexit.

An Experienced Representative - A Record of Achievement

Diane Dodds MEP has represented Northern Ireland in the European Parliament since 2009. Diane is well known as a champion for the interests of Northern Ireland and has spoken up many times for the issues and causes that matter to you. She has dedicated herself to be a full-time advocate for Northern Ireland and while others want to put 'Ireland first' the DUP will be putting Northern Ireland first.

In the last term Diane Dodds held:

- Rural advice clinics in Newtownards, Clogher, Templepatrick, Portadown and Portrush,
- Business funding seminars.
- Community-funding workshops in Limavady, Omagh, Lurgan, Ballymoney, Portadown, Banbridge, Templepatrick, Ballynahinch, Newtownabbey, Belfast, Clogher and Dromore.
- 'Signposts to Support Older People' information seminars in Rathcoole, Banbridge, Portadown, Limavady, Coleraine, Belfast, Lisburn, Antrim and Ballymena.
- Innocent victims seminars/visits to Brussels,
- Human trafficking awareness event with Lord Morrow and the European Christian Political Movement in Brussels.



Delivering Across Northern Ireland

In addition to speaking, campaigning and voting in Brussels and Strasbourg Diane has assisted a wide and varied series of groups located throughout Northern Ireland to secure funding over the last ten years.

From Belfast to Bangor, from Ballybeen to Bloomfield, from Maguiresbridge to Magheragall, Diane Dodds has been pleased to work with church groups, women's groups, the Orange Order, the Apprentice Boys of Derry, residents

associations, industry groups, sports clubs and bands to help secure European funding for their projects.

Diane also retains a dedicated funding service accessible to the public in her full-time Lisburn office. Throughout Northern Ireland Diane Dodds is known for her ability and determination to deliver for local groups seeking funding from Europe.

Representing the people of Northern Ireland in the European Parliament

Diane Dodds MEP has voted:

- ✓ **FOR** a new PEACE PLUS Programme for Northern Ireland post-Brexit.
- ✓ **FOR** a Single Seat for the European Parliament which could save €180million every year.
- ✓ **FOR** reduced salaries for MEPs and EU Commissioners.
- ✓ **FOR** cuts to the number of EU civil servants.
- ✓ **FOR** exemptions for NI motorsport from damaging rules on motor insurance.
- ✓ **FOR** greater flexibility for NI in the new EU Firearms Directive.
- ✓ **FOR** an end to cross-border roaming charges.

- ✗ **AGAINST** increases to the EU budget.
- ✗ **AGAINST** the creation of new and expensive EU bodies.
- ✗ **AGAINST** a Financial Transaction Tax (FTT).
- ✗ **AGAINST** the EU Regulation on Port Services, which disadvantages NI ports.
- ✗ **AGAINST** a move towards an EU army.

A Record of Delivery For Agriculture

During the last term Diane has:

- Held a series of Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) roadshows across Northern Ireland to explain the new reforms.
- Produced a Single Farm Payment (SFP) calculator to help assist farmers in future planning.
- Hosted a visit to the European Parliament allowing Northern Ireland agri-food stakeholders to engage Commission officials, participate in EU farm visits and connect delegates with Commissioner Hogan in relation to future policy.
- Established regular dialogue with Secretary of State for Agriculture Michael Gove MP including on the future Agriculture Bill and UK tariff policy.
- Arranged a visit by European Investment Bank officials to Northern Ireland to examine local support.
- Sponsored a number of local farming groups to visit the European Parliament.
- Ensured regular engagement with the wider sector, including UFU, NIMEA, DairyUK and Nature Matters NI.
- Supported farmers in their campaign for fairer food prices.
- Lobbied Brussels during the last milk crisis to employ safety net protections for the dairy industry.
- Ensured that Northern Ireland farmers did not move to a flat rate entitlement payment on day one of the new CAP, protecting NI productive capacity and allowing farmers time to adapt.
- Worked alongside Party colleagues to open up new and lucrative markets in China for pork products.
- Pursued a balanced approach to driving agriculture and safeguarding the benefits of the environment.

Diane voted:

- ✓ **FOR** safe and high animal welfare standards for transport of live animals.
- ✓ **FOR** fairness within the supply chain for our farmers.
- ✓ **FOR** an adequate CAP budget.
- ✓ **FOR** a pragmatic approach towards the use of antibiotics and pesticides in farming, ensuring products are safe and based on sound scientific evidence.

- ✗ **AGAINST** the latest CAP proposals as they don't go far enough to simplify the system and protect productive agriculture in Northern Ireland.
- ✗ **AGAINST** EU trade policies that damage local sectors, including negotiations with the Mercosur countries, which could damage the NI beef sector.



For Innocent Victims Of Terrorism

The DUP is serious about supporting innocent victims of terrorism. In the past term Diane has sponsored local victims and their representatives to come to Brussels and share their stories. These include Decorum NI in Bangor, Omagh Support and Self-Help Group, Castlehill Foundation, The Ely Centre and South East Fermanagh Foundation. Across Europe there are individuals and families that have suffered similar harrowing experiences to those living with the impact of violence, terrorism and loss in every corner of Northern Ireland. In many cases the challenges they face and their needs are the same.

Diane has acted as a mediator between these victims, including those in Fermanagh and

Spanish victims of ETA. In particular, she has established positive links with MEPs Teresa Jiménez-Becerril and Maite Pagazaurtundúa, both of whom lost loved ones to ETA's terrorist campaign. In 2018 Diane facilitated a seminar in Brussels bringing together SEFF and Victims of Terrorism Collective, COVITE, a Spanish advocacy organisations.

We will never forget those who sacrificed so much in the fight against a brutal terrorist campaign. Diane has pressed the Irish Ambassador to the EU and the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights to condemn the Irish Government's failure to address allegations of state collusion in murders by republicans.

Protecting The Most Vulnerable

Diane Dodds has served as Vice-President of the European Parliament's Working Group on Human Dignity, a role that afforded her the opportunity to speak up for the right of the unborn child and speak out against modern slavery and assisted suicide. In October 2016 she hosted an event in the European Parliament in Brussels to raise awareness of human trafficking and exploitation, allowing Lord Morrow to share his views and experience as the author of Northern Ireland's Human Trafficking and Exploitation Act in NI, the UK's first piece of anti-slavery legislation for more than 200 years. Diane has also led the way in the campaign to raise awareness of the benefits of folic acid in reducing the chances of serious birth defects, including spina bifida.



For Tackling Cyber-Bullying And Online Exploitation

The DUP is committed to playing an active part in making the internet a safer place for our children and consumers. In 2018 Diane used her role on the European Parliament's Conference of Presidents to challenge the CEO of Facebook Mark Zuckerberg on what the social media giant is doing to prevent cyber-bullying and other forms of online exploitation. She raised with him the rising number of false Facebook pages behind which fraudsters and predators operate and exploit online users.

These crimes have had an indelible impact on families and communities right across Northern Ireland. Children and young people are often the most vulnerable and it is vital that we encourage practical advice and best practice for ensuring

safety. Since being elected in 2009 Diane has supported proactive legislation at an EU level, including the 2011 Directive on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography.



For Connecting Local Businesses

In 2016, Diane joined forces with Local Economic Development Company (LED-COM) in Larne to arrange and host a visit by a delegation of Northern Ireland businesses to the European Parliament in Brussels. The two-day visit connected local business representatives and owners to key stakeholders in the EU responsible for administering central and regional EU funds, including Horizon 2020, Erasmus + and COSME.



For Citizens Travelling Across The EU

In 2015 Diane published a 'Signposts to support for travelling in the EU', a brief advice guide for people in Northern Ireland who travel across Europe on business or holiday. This included assistance on driving abroad, securing accommodation, currency issues and healthcare.


For Older People

In 2015 Diane collaborated with local advice organisations to produce 'Signposts to Support for Older People', a comprehensive guide presenting the public with a wide range of Government and voluntary services that are available to help older people across Northern Ireland.

This guide included information on maximising benefit entitlement, staying healthy and independent, ensuring safety in the home, and promoting active citizenship.

FIVE reasons to vote Dodds 1

- 1** To defend the Union and oppose a border poll
- 2** To respect the result of the 2016 referendum to leave the European Union
- 3** To support a Brexit where the whole of the United Kingdom leaves together
- 4** To oppose the backstop and ANY trade barriers between Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- 5** To elect a strong and experienced voice for Northern Ireland's interests in Brussels



Working on the policies that matter to you

Agriculture

Since the EU referendum in 2016, Diane has used her position within the European Parliament to highlight the need for a sensible Brexit deal for agriculture in Northern Ireland. The DUP continues to believe that it is in the best interests of both the UK and the EU to work towards a comprehensive free trade agreement. It is telling that many EU stakeholders have written to Michel Barnier citing the need for a deal given the EU's €24bn surplus in agri-food trade with the EU.

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has been a key focus of Diane's work as an MEP. She has held rural roadshows across Northern Ireland advising rural communities of changes to the CAP and accessing support for farm diversification.

Diane has been clear that threats to local agriculture stemming from continued membership of the EU are very real. The continued reduction in the percentage spend of the overall EU budget on agriculture and the increasing demands for a more federalist European agenda mean that support for local agri-food inside the EU is spiraling downward. There is also an increasing willingness to make decisions in respect of pesticides, approval of new farming technologies and other key policies without necessary scientific analysis.

Exiting the EU allows new opportunities for agriculture, particularly through a new UK agriculture bill and extra flexibility for policy

direction from Stormont. The DUP has secured the same level in cash terms of direct support to farmers through the confidence and supply agreement to the end of the current Parliament. This gives more funding certainty to local farm businesses than those operating in the rest of the EU. Diane is keen to promote the benefits of direct support going forward including increasing UK's food self sufficiency, ensuring consumers have access to high-quality, safe, traceable, wholesome food, whilst guarding against land abandonment and safeguarding employment within NI's largest manufacturing sector.

Diane will continue to fight for an agriculture framework which creates a profitable, productive and sustainable future for our farmers.

The DUP will:

- Fight for adequate funding for agriculture in the future UK agriculture policy.
- Ensure that productive farmers are supported through any new agriculture legislation.
- Continue to protect Northern Ireland's economic interests in any new trade deals impacting on local agriculture.
- Work toward effective common UK-wide frameworks to ensure the functioning of the UK internal market.
- Support initiatives which provide education and equipment to improve safety on farms.

Food Supply Chain

Since Diane was elected to the European Parliament in 2009 she has been a strong advocate for fairness within the supply chain for farmers. While the UK led the way in the establishment of the Grocery Code Adjudicator, Diane has made it clear that it does not have the practical means to effectively address unfairness within the supply chain.

Diane supports the need at both a UK and EU level for action to be taken but it must have the legislative toughness to deal with the problems facing farmers.

The DUP will:

- Promote tangible measures to ensure fairness within the supply chain.



The Backstop Threat

The draft withdrawal agreement including the Northern Ireland backstop poses great risks for agriculture in Northern Ireland. The backstop, if operational, would place local farmers in a different regulatory regime than the rest of the UK, creating a border down the Irish Sea. Given that Great Britain is Northern Ireland's most important market for agri-food produce - the DUP will not support exit arrangements which facilitates divergence and weakens access over time.

The DUP will:

- Oppose exit arrangements which create new barriers for local agri-food produce to NI's biggest market.
- Pursue a comprehensive free trade agreement with the EU.
- Fight for a sensible Brexit which protects the UK's internal market.

Environment

Brexit should not be viewed as an opportunity to abandon the environment but rather an opportunity to deliver an environmental policy which works for Northern Ireland. The future of our environment is something we should all value and the DUP will support pragmatic frameworks post-Brexit.

Diane has welcomed the work carried out by the former Agriculture Minister Michelle McIlveen MLA into the sustainable agriculture land management strategy. This provides a very clear roadmap of how agriculture working in tandem with the environment can benefit all involved. Our farmers are the solution to improving our environment, not the problem.

The DUP believes that producing food in the UK, and not relying on imports, ensures the food we eat is produced in a way that complements the environment. There is a real danger that both the EU and the UK will outsource our environmental

responsibility in terms of food production to other countries.

Diane will continue to ensure funding for improvements to the environment including agri-environment schemes which deliver tangible environmental benefits, realistic policy objectives and sufficient time for farmers to adapt to new policy initiatives.

The DUP will:

- Support policies which protect and enhance the environment.
- Encourage the uptake of environmental farming schemes.
- Support the delivery of the recommendations of the sustainable land management strategy.
- Ensure farmers are given greater access to education, financial support and sufficient time to adjust to tackling environmental challenges.

Rural Communities

Rural communities are at the heart of the social and economic fabric of Northern Ireland. Diane has been a supporter of greater access to rural broadband, increasing our tourism potential and encouraging business growth and creation in these areas. The DUP has also promoted the use of rural development monies to assist rural business. Through a range of public meetings Diane has raised awareness of the opportunities available through Local Action Groups. Diane will continue to ensure these funding streams are available going forward and ensure there is a balance between job creation and providing facilities in rural areas.

The DUP will:

- Support actions which develop the Northern Ireland tourism sector, including food tourism initiatives.
- Ensure rural development funding is distributed fairly, recognising the need to support small rural businesses.
- Continue to ensure the roll out of ultra-fast broadband is progressed in rural areas.



Fisheries – Righting the Wrong

There is recognition across those who supported Leave and Remain that one industry that did not flourish under our membership of the European Union was fisheries and the coastal areas this industry contributes to. There is a common desire to right these wrongs.

Presently, 58% of the fish and shellfish caught in the Exclusive Economic Zone are caught by non-UK EU boats with the UK share of some species being as low as 9% of the total weight of catch. This makes clear the fundamental imbalances against the UK industry under the Common Fisheries Policy. In negotiations, the issue of fisheries should be treated as a distinct field and not one for trade off. The transition agreement does not deliver for the UK fishing industry but the end state is the ultimate prize.

The experience of the industry is more of managed decline but leaving the European Union provides it with the opportunity to be reborn. This rebirth requires a long-term plan to deliver for fishing and coastal communities. The DUP believes a fresh start for fisheries should be built on the following approaches:

- **Fishing Zones** - Implementing Brexit must see the UK retaking our territorial waters including the 200-mile nautical limit. The principle of equal access to a common resource will no longer apply to UK waters after the UK leaves the EU. The DUP supports reasserting exclusivity on the 12 mile coastal zone to deliver a direct benefit to our inland shipping fleet with the exception of wherever there is a mutual access agreement e.g. the recently restored mutual access for Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland coastal waters. The Exclusive Economic Zone is where the scope for significant growth in our fishing and processing industries lie by ensuring that our fishing fleet gains a full and

fair share of what can be sustainably caught. Any access to UK waters must be on the principle of mutual benefit, namely there is an identifiable and comparable benefit in terms of access to non-UK waters and markets.

- **Sustainability** - The UK, utilising its membership and research of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), should establish its own independent scientific advisory body to ensure that our fisheries are properly monitored and the appropriate controls and measures are maintained based on the best available science. This should be based outside London.
- **Enforcement** – The DUP considers the proposal of four fishing enforcement vessels to be insufficient and that the practice of the vessels also being used for other duties should cease.
- **A New Maritime and Fisheries Fund** – The existing EU programme was focused on decline management but what will be needed is funding to support a growth strategy. Present funding levels should be maintained and this industry should receive a ‘Brexit’ bonus with extra investment.
- This new fund should concentrate on:
 - Investment in the fleet, ports and processing chain in Kilkeel, Ardglass, Portavogie and other fishing communities with a reduction in EU bureaucracy around such applications.
 - Promotional and training schemes to attract young people into the industry.
 - Promoting fish products – despite being an island nation our levels of fish eating is low. Relevant campaigns should be run to encourage eating this healthy product.



- **A UK Voice** - The UK will have its own membership and unfettered voice on the appropriate international bodies. These mechanisms should seek co-operation and collaboration on shared fish stocks to further bolster sustainability and aim to achieve:
 - Its own access to third country waters building on the pre-existing agreements achieved via the European Union and exploring opportunities for expansion.
 - A neighbourhood agreement developed between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.
- **Free Trade with the European Union** – the DUP supports a no-tariff agreement with the European Union. In terms of access the

Norwegian model provides a clear example of how sustainability and trade can be maintained.

- **End the Hague preference in the Irish Sea** – This system was designed in the 1970s and is no longer fit for purpose and disproportionately affects the Northern Ireland fleet.
- **Migration** – There are already pre-existing issues in terms of crewing vessels as young people turned away from a declining industry. A new migration policy needs to account for the need of non-EU labour to crew the existing fishing fleet while new programmes under the reprogrammed Maritime and Fisheries Fund build the local pool of labour.

Sharing The Prosperity Of The United Kingdom

The vote to leave the European Union has helped start a debate about the regional economic disparities within the United Kingdom. After we leave, we have a new opportunity to overhaul regional policy to tackle these disparities and our common productivity problems.

- It becoming a 'Christmas Tree' policy that kept getting added to and over-complicated.
- Too much bureaucracy, in true EU style.
- Taking delivery agents further away from community level.
- Currency fluctuations impacting on budgets

The EU contribution to regional policy was through the European Regional and Development Fund and the European Social Fund. The effectiveness of such programmes was undermined by:

- Trying to design them for 28 radically different countries.

As spend levels contributed to the amount of the United Kingdom's rebate our government was overly focused on spend over delivery and the practical issues of match funding during a period of public spending restraint.

A New Approach

The new policy should be based on the following five approaches:

- 1** This programme should shift from being a transnational programme of the EU to being a trans-UK programme. This would maintain its non-Barnett status.
- 2** The programme should have a singular focus – convergence of the regional economies and for the poorer parts within prosperous regions with a focus upon GDP and Disposable Income figures and boosting productivity.
- 3** As a minimum the present funding levels would be maintained for the four constituent parts of the UK. However, there should be greater emphasis upon regional transfers than the scheme presently allows for which see greater regional transfers within England.
- 4** The national government would set the overarching framework, challenge and approval function as the EU presently provides with comparable recognition in the branding etc of the UK government's contribution to the projects which flow from it.
- 5** The present flexibilities provided to the devolved administrations in terms of the delivery mechanisms in their respective areas should continue.

Regional funding should be increased in the following two ways. The UK receives 70% of what it contributes to the regional funds. The full allocation should be given to the new programme.

The UK presently contributes approximately £1 billion to the EU Cohesion funds but is not eligible for its spend. This funding should be used to create a second element added to the programme based on competition between the

regions. This would encourage new and creative approaches rather than simply maintaining existing programmes.

Issues that require further debate and discussion across the UK regions are the time-scales for such funding programmes, whether additional funding should focus more on capital infrastructure spend and what support can be given to the private sector for investment that will boost productivity.

Future Peace and INTERREG Funds

Cross-border peace and reconciliation funding has made a positive contribution to communities across Northern Ireland. The DUP has been proud to back this grassroots investment since Ian Paisley and other Northern Ireland MEPs first made the case back in the 1990s. Many valuable worthwhile projects, including those focusing on the needs of innocent victims and disadvantaged young people, have been supported and enhanced by this injection of support over many years. INTERREG programmes specifically incorporating the United Kingdom and the Irish Republic have also contributed to lasting and transformative projects such as cancer and cardiology services established at Altnagevlin Hospital.

At every stage the DUP has fought to minimise red tape and ensure fair access for those sections of society most in need of support. Diane Dodds has voted in favour of a PEACE Plus programme and new local INTERREG programme post-Brexit. We welcome the commitment of our government and the EU27 to following through on these commitments under all political outcomes.

In terms of PEACE Plus we support the proposed co-design of that programme between the UK, Ireland and European Union. However, it is noticeable that there is not a similar co-design process for the INTERREG funds. As the circumstances of the participating areas in the UK are unique within the next INTERREG programme it would seem a mistake to apply a EU27 designed scheme to them.

The DUP will:

- Seek a commitment to the co-design of new PEACE and INTERREG programmes between the UK, Ireland and European Union.
- Provide mentoring and support to organisations applying to the PEACE and INTERREG programmes as well as successor schemes.
- Support fair and simplified access to a new PEACE PLUS Programme post-Brexit.
- Ensure that innocent victims and disadvantaged groups have the confidence and capacity to apply.

Participation In Other EU Funds

The DUP does not believe that Brexit prevents Northern Ireland from being outward looking or collaborative. In practice this should mean co-operating in EU programmes where there is added value for our communities and economy, allowing people across our Province to study, work and live abroad.

The Erasmus + Programme allows students, teachers and young people to study, work, volunteer, teach and train abroad in Europe. Their experiences and the skills they learn help them develop personally and ultimately bring added-value to the local economy. By December 2018 the total funding awarded to projects and individuals in Northern Ireland was €38m. Brexit is as an opportunity to strengthen these ties, allowing those in education, youth or the sport sector to benefit from cross-border exchange projects as part of a new future relationship.

Northern Ireland has some of the most talented and driven researchers in the UK and the world. It is right that they continue to have access to

exciting research opportunities working side by side with others throughout the EU. The Horizon 2020 Strategy was launched in March 2015 by the Northern Ireland Executive's with a target of drawing down €145m. The DUP believes continued links with this Programme and its successors can help take development of the regional economy to a new level.

The DUP will:

- Promote appropriate access for researchers and students across Northern Ireland to the Horizon 2020 and Erasmus + programmes.
- Engage with the Government to ensure proposed 'cooperative accords' with the EU provide effective opportunities for people in Northern Ireland.
- Advocate on behalf of recipients of government funding struggling with red tape and changing goalposts, particularly in relation to the ESF guidelines.
- Lobby against a one-size fits all approach to project requirements as well as monitoring and evaluation.

Security

Co-operation between the UK and Irish Governments is underpinned by the Intergovernmental Agreement on Criminal Justice Matters, not EU membership. However a close working relationship with European neighbours is in the mutual interest. The DUP believes that any deal on the terms of our exit from the EU must include a close future relationship toward tackling common threats such as terrorism and organised crime in the interests of keeping our collective communities safe.

The DUP will:

- Promote a deep and comprehensive agreement on extradition of suspects with the EU.
- Urge the Government to opt-in to the Prüm Convention governing the exchange of DNA, fingerprint and vehicle registration data.
- Pursue close onward engagement between Governments, the PSNI and Garda in relation to templates for exchanging information pertinent to fighting crime.
- Lobby the Treasury and Department of Justice for additional PSNI resources to ensure Brexit readiness, including extra full-time officers.

A Fair Share Of Brexit Dividends

The UK is a net contributor to the EU's budget. This means that in 2017 we paid in £8.9bn more than we received back. This is money collected from taxpayers across Northern Ireland with no added value for them or their families. After Brexit it must be directed into frontline services as well as to education, skills and promoting social cohesion in every corner of Northern Ireland and between every region of the United Kingdom.

The DUP will:

- Work to ensure that Northern Ireland receives its fair share of Brexit dividends.
- Pursue greater Brexit readiness cash allocations to Northern Ireland departments.
- Support the creation of UK Prosperity Funds, which reflect Northern Ireland's regional needs and priorities.
- Promote new funding mechanisms which build on financial support provided to businesses and the community, voluntary and women's sectors through the ESF and ERDF.
- Ensure that new investment structures are less bureaucratic and better accessible.



Increased Local Powers

One of the driving forces behind the vote to leave in June 2016 was the gradual loss of powers to the EU over the last forty years. Brexit must restore authority over our laws to our national Parliament and enhance the tools and resources held by devolved administrations. It is also key that new national policy frameworks understand and address Northern Ireland specific needs and challenges.

The DUP will:

- Work to ensure that powers in devolved areas returning from the EU are transferred to local ministers and departments as soon as possible.
- Lobby for Northern Ireland's circumstances to be reflected in new UK-wide policy frameworks.
- Promote deep engagement with local communities on how new powers should be used.

Immigration And Skills

The DUP supports a fair and controlled UK immigration policy after Brexit to replace unrestrained free movement from the EU. It is important that under new requirements firms in Northern Ireland continue to have effective access to skilled and low-skilled labour from across the world where this is integral to the success of the Northern Ireland economy.

The DUP will:

- Ensure Northern Ireland's unique labour needs are understood and met.
- Support enhanced measures to deport individuals who represent a security threat to people living in the UK.
- Promote visa schemes, which allow key local industries such as agri-food, manufacturing, tourism and hospitality to meet justified demand for low-skilled labour.
- Oppose the proposed £30,000 salary threshold for securing a visa to work in the UK as a skilled migrant.
- Encourage a compassionate approach to refugees seeking refuge from religious persecution and other serious human rights abuses.

A Fair Settlement On Citizens Rights

Citizens from EU countries have made a valuable contribution to our local communities and to our economy. Over 60,000 EU citizens have made their home in Northern Ireland. They deserve certainty for the future. We believe there should be no barriers to implementing the citizens rights chapter of the draft withdrawal agreement under any Brexit scenario. That is why DUP MPs backed the Costa Amendment in the House of Commons in February. In the past term Diane has also proactively engaged with representatives of ethnic minorities living across Northern Ireland. The DUP is committed to continuing this outreach and ensuring that our Province continues to be a welcoming and cohesive place to live and work. Alongside Party Leader, Arlene Foster, Diane Dodds has also met directly with the Home Secretary Sajid Javid MP to press the case for enhanced local Home Office resources

in Northern Ireland to assist affected citizens with navigating any changes post-Brexit.

The DUP will:

- Urge the EU to honour reciprocal commitments to UK and EU citizens living and working in each other's jurisdiction, even under a no deal scenario.
- Press for a greater Home Office presence in Northern Ireland to allow EU citizens to have access to localised support and advice when applying for settled status.
- Ensure that UK and EU students enrolled on courses abroad are able to complete their studies.
- Ensure that reciprocal rights for British and Irish citizens, underpinned by the Common Travel Area and national legislation, continues post-Brexit.

Cyber-Crime And Internet Safety

As your MEP Diane Dodds has made promoting cyber safety a personal priority. The DUP is committed to making the internet a safe space for all, young and old. We want to see tougher legislation which brings better protections against fraud, sexual exploitation and cyberbullying.



The DUP will:

- Work closely with the UK Government to deliver on its White Paper on online harm and tackle growth of violent and inappropriate content online.
- Urge social media firms, tech companies and major retailers to better safeguard against cyber-bullying and fraud.
- Engage with community stakeholders and government departments to raise awareness and provide advice to parents, children and consumers.



European Court of Justice

Due to EU law taking supremacy over UK law European judges have increasingly passed judgements which undermine the authority of our national Parliament at Westminster. This is particularly clear when it comes to deporting violent criminals and terrorists. After Brexit this must end.

The DUP will:

- Promote an end to the jurisdiction of the ECJ in the United Kingdom.
- Oppose the ECJ having a veto over the operation of any solution agreed in relation to the land border.

Innocent Victims

The DUP stands with innocent victims in their desire for truth, justice and dedicated support mechanisms. Since 2007 we have tripled funding provision for victims, including those who are not part of wider advocacy organisations, and continue to strongly oppose amnesties or the rewriting of the past. In the past term Diane Dodds has acted as a bridge between Northern Ireland victims and Spanish victims of terrorism and continues to provide a free space for those affected to tell their stories.

The DUP will:

- Act as a mediator between local innocent victims and those with similar harrowing experiences elsewhere in Europe.
- Support continued adherence to minimum standards and rights for support given to victims after the UK leaves the EU.
- Stand against Sinn Fein propaganda events in the EU institutions that glorify murder.
- Call on the Irish Government to respond substantively to allegations of collusion between the Garda and the IRA.

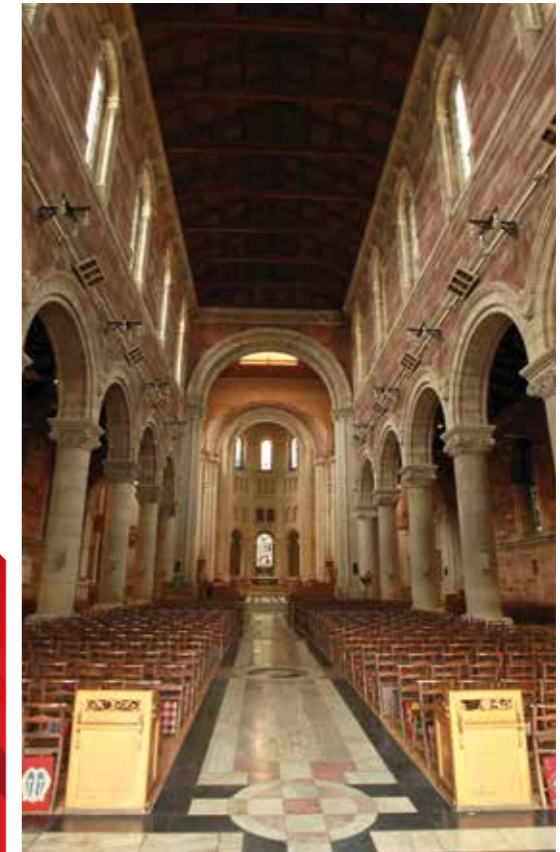


Religious Persecution

The DUP has used the European Parliament as a platform to highlight human rights abuse across the world. The OpenDoors World Watchlist throws a spotlight on the 50 countries where Christians face the most extreme persecution and Diane Dodds has worked alongside the organisation and others to raise awareness of these global injustices. As a member of the Parliament's Intergroup on Freedom of Religion or Belief and Religious Tolerance she has also worked alongside MEPs from other countries to bring victims of religious violence to Brussels, allowing them to share their stories. This included an event co-hosted with Bas Belder MEP focusing on persecution in China.

The DUP will:

- Speak out against restrictions against fundamental freedoms in places like North Korea, China, Pakistan and Nigeria.
- Provide a safe and accessible platform for persecuted groups and their advocates to share their stories and throw a spotlight on abuses throughout the globe.



An EU Army

In 2017, the vast majority of EU Member States decided to opt-in to the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) mechanism. This will see those countries develop joint defence capabilities and make more resources available for EU military operations; undermining the strength of NATO.

The DUP welcomes the UK's decision not to join this arrangement. In Parliament Diane Dodds has continued to oppose the creation of an EU army,

defending the UK's right to an independent and sovereign national defence policy.

The DUP will:

- Oppose the establishment of an EU army
- Oppose the creation of an EU military headquarters
- Reject an EU seat on the UN Security Council
- Support research and development activities in the defence sector



Your views

The Democratic Unionist Party is keen to hear your views as we continue to develop our policies and proposals for inclusion in future manifestos and policy development documents. We would welcome any contribution you would like to make.

Please forward views to: consultation@dup.org.uk

A full range of our policies and consultation proposals can be found on our website under the sections policies and publications.

We look forward to hearing from you.



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