

**TERMINOLOGY, INCLUDING EXPRESSIONS BEST AVOIDED**

**Geographical Areas**

**(i): United Kingdom/Great Britain**

ACCEPTABLE

**UK/GB**

The UK is a **political** expression; Great Britain is a **geographical** term. Great Britain consists of England, Scotland and Wales: NI is part of the UK (i.e. the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) but not part of the GB. NI people set considerable store by the proper use of the two terms.

**These Islands** - A way of avoiding "British Isles".

**Across the Water** - A Northern Ireland term which refers to Great Britain.

BEST AVOIDED

**The Mainland** - A term used by Unionists but not generally acceptable. Reference should be made to "GB".

**British Isles** - A geographical term including the UK and the Republic, but not popular in Republic.

**England** - This disregards Scotland and Wales.

(ii) Northern Ireland

ACCEPTABLE

**Northern Ireland** - Preferable to "Ulster" or "the Province".

**The North** - An acceptable colloquialism used by both communities.

**The Province** - Although strictly only accurate when referring to the old 9 counties Province of Ulster, the term is in fairly common usage. It is best avoided when talking to nationalists.

**West/East of the Bann** - The rivers of the Upper and Lower Bann divide Northern Ireland, North to South. East of the Bann are Counties Down and Antrim, which are heavily populated and Protestant dominated.

**West of the Bann** are the Counties Armagh, Fermanagh, Londonderry and Tyrone which are more sparsely populated (together they hold only 36% of the population) and the overall community contains slightly more Catholics than Protestants.

**Londonderry/Derry** - Londonderry is the correct terminology for the City as it is enshrined in a Royal Charter. It is also the term usually used by Protestants. Many Catholics refer to "Derry". The District Council is now named "Derry City Council", chosen by a majority vote of the council to the fury of Unionist councillors. Both communities are, however, proud to be called "Derrymen". The Protestant (Church of Ireland) Bishop is Bishop of 'Derry and Raphoe'. The Apprentice Boys of Derry is a Loyalist organisation.

RESTAINGED

**The Free State** - Official name of the Republic from 1922-37. Sometimes used in derogatory form by Unionists and Republicans. Unacceptable.

## CONFIDENTIAL

### BEST AVOIDED

**Ulster** - the 9 county Province of Ulster comprises the 6 counties of NI plus Monaghan, Cavan and Donegal in the Republic of Ireland. The term Ulster is not strictly correct when applied to NI but is often used by Protestants. Better avoided, as also is "**Ulstermen**".

**The 6 Counties and North of Ireland** - Terms commonly used by Nationalists and indicative of support for Irish unity. Objectionable to Unionists.

**"Being out here"** (i.e., in NI) - unacceptable because it smacks of the "colonial out-post" attitudes. The phrase "**Being over here**" is more often used, but should also be avoided.

**Orange/Green Areas** - The term "Orange" (as in Orange Order, etc.) applies to Protestant/Unionist areas. The term "Green" refers to Catholic/Nationalist. **Neither term is acceptable publicly** but is common shorthand in private conversation.

### **(iii) The Republic of Ireland**

### ACCEPTABLE

**Ireland/The Republic of Ireland/The Republic/The south** - All are acceptable. Since the Agreement the Irish Government prefers the use of 'Ireland' where possible.

### BEST AVOIDED

**The Free State** - Official name of the Republic from 1922-37. Sometimes used a derogatory term by Unionists and Republicans. **Unacceptable.**

C O N F I D E N T I A L

**The 26 Counties** - A term used largely by the Nationalist (and particularly militant republican) population. **Unacceptable** for use by Ministers.

**The 32 Counties** - A term used largely by Republicans to refer to the island of Ireland. **Best avoided.**

**Eire** - Official name of the Republic in Irish. Refers to the island of Ireland and implies claim to the 6 Counties comprising Northern Ireland. Used sometimes as a derogatory term by Northern Protestants for the Republic. **Unacceptable.**

**The Republican Government** - A term occasionally used to describe the Government of the Republic of Ireland. To be avoided at all costs, as being deeply offensive to that Government.

The political overtones of this terminology are well demonstrated by the description of "Irish whiskey" in EC regulations and corresponding domestic legislation concerning alcohol. The EC regulation described Irish Whiskey as whiskey produced in Ireland or NI, the UK legislation referred to whiskey produced in NI or the Republic of Ireland, and the Republic's legislation referred to whiskey produced in any part of Ireland.

**The NI Population**

**(i) The Population as a Whole**

ACCEPTABLE

**The People of Northern Ireland** - should be used instead of "Northern Irish".

C O N F I D E N T I A L

**The two communities/the two parts or the two sides of the community** - Both refer to the Catholic/Protestant divide. The latter is now preferred usage since publication of the 1982 White Paper "Northern Ireland - A Framework for Devolution". Both **acceptable**.

BEST AVOIDED

**The Northern Irish** - Unacceptable to Unionists. Northern Irish should also **not** be used to describe a person's origins.

**Ulstermen** - This term is used by Protestants but not strictly correct.

**(ii) The Protestant Community**

ACCEPTABLE

**Loyalists**. Acceptable when used in the context of supporters of the UDP and PUP, otherwise best avoided due to overtones of militancy.

**The Majority Community/Unionists/Protestant** - all acceptable terms.

**Blackmen** - Refers specifically to members of the Royal Black Institution senior section of Orange Order. Term acceptable to Unionists, but not usually required by Ministers.

BEST AVOIDED

**Orangemen** - **Unacceptable**, except when specifically referring to members of the Orange Order.

**Prods** a term of abuse used by Catholics when referring to Protestants.

**Unacceptable.**

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ACCEPTABLE

**Roman Catholics/Catholics/The Minority Community** - Acceptable terms, but not used as synonymous with "nationalists".

**Nationalists/The Nationalist Side of the Community** - A common term referring to persons with an aspiration for Irish unity (normally but not necessarily, Catholics). Generally limited to those seeking unity by peaceful means. **Acceptable.**

BEST AVOIDED

**Republicans** - A potentially offensive term which is generally taken to refer to those who countenance the use of violence to promote Irish unity (as Irish Republican Army). **To be avoided** except in the context of Sinn Fein.

**Fenians** - A term of abuse, originally members of the Fenian Organisations, a secret Nationalist Organisation of the late 19th century. **Unacceptable.**

**Taigs** - An abusive local slang used by some Protestants when referring to Catholics. **Unacceptable.**

**Security**

ACCEPTABLE

**Plastic Baton Rounds**

**The Maze** - **Acceptable** short form of "HM Prison Maze".

**The Army/The Security Forces** - Acceptable.

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**Irish Naval Visits** - Acceptable term for Irish Navy presence in Carlingford Lough and Lough Foyle.

### BEST AVOIDED

**Plastic Bullets** - Unofficial term, emotive and to **be avoided**.

**H Blocks/Long Kesh/the Kesh - Unacceptable.** Terms used by Nationalists referring to HMP Maze (formerly RAF Long Kesh and later an internment camp).

**Irish Naval Patrols** - the term "patrol" might be taken to imply an acceptance of the exercise of policing powers over the Loughs common to NI and the Republic.

### **Political Terminology**

#### ACCEPTABLE

**Devolution** - The devolution of legislative and executive powers to a NI legislature and Executive which would be ultimately subordinate to Westminster.

**Majority Rule/Stormont Rule/The Stormont System** - Government by the Unionist majority, ruling Stormont alone as in the period 1921-1972.

**Integration** - Generally intended to mean the complete absorption of NI into the UK system of government (but, in reality, could simply mean closer alignment).

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**Administrative Devolution** - The creation of a single regional council with executive, but not legislative powers of local-government type matters. In practice, often a synonym for integration (qv).

**Local Government Reform/Reorganisation** - The restoration to NI's 26 local councils of a range of powers roughly similar to those held before 1973. (The District Councils operate on a straight party strength/majority vote basis, but are elected by PR/STV).

**Power Sharing or Partnership** - Generally a system proposed by the SDLP and Alliance whereby all constitutional parties with elected representatives have a role to play in government. However, since the 1974 Executive, this term has become widely understood as referring to a system whereby the elected representatives from both sides of the community would be entitled to places in an Executive, i.e. institutional power-sharing.

**Participation** - An alternative phrase for power-sharing developed by the Alliance Party in order to avoid the overtones which the term "power-sharing" acquired in the minds of Unionists (i.e. the power-sharing Executive of 1974).

**Responsibility Sharing** - A term, primarily used by Unionists, to describe the sharing of power, at local government level in particular, for example in Dungannon District Council where the Unionists and Nationalists have an agreement to alternate the top two posts every six months. Also used by the two main Unionist parties in their various policy documents to refer to arrangements at regional level which would not amount to "power sharing" but in which representatives of both parts of the community would be "represented at the highest level" or otherwise have a role "commensurate with their support".

**A Widely Acceptable Form of Government** - A term used by Ministers and Government representatives to refer to any system of governments which

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would be acceptable to a majority on both sides of the community in NI (and to UK Government, Parliament and the Republic of Ireland Government).

**IONA** - 'Isles of the North Atlantic'. An acronym for the political proposals for a federal relationship between 'these islands' (qv).

**Words and Phrases to be avoided on the Anglo-Irish Agreement**

	<b>Reason:</b>
<i>"The Irish Government <b>represent</b> the minority."</i>	The SDLP (and indeed Sinn Fein) provide the minority's elected representatives. Unionists would criticise the statement with some justice as derogation from sovereignty and also because some Catholics vote for the Alliance and even in a few cases for Unionists. It is better to say that the Irish " <b>reflect</b> the views of the minority".

<i>"The Agreement is about <b>consultative</b> arrangements with the Irish".</i>	The Irish are sensitive about the idea that they are merely <b>consulted</b> . It would be better to say "we are committed under the Agreement to make determined efforts to resolve any difficulties that may arise in the Intergovernmental Conference and we shall take that obligation seriously".
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*"Joint Authority"*

*"Joint Sovereignty"*

*Joint Rule*

These phrases are best avoided as likely to infuriate Unionists. The New Ireland Forum Report (1984) proposed "joint authority" between the "Irish and British Governments as a way of administering Northern Ireland. But anything which implied a joint exercise of power would be seen as derogating from UK sovereignty; and, indeed as the Agreement itself says, there is no such derogation.

*"Security co-operation" without mentioning other forms of co-operation.*

The Irish are sensitive about the idea that we are only interested in security co-operation, an idea which can cause them difficulties domestically. It would be desirable also to mention other forms of co-operation, such as economic.