Stratagem Guide to:
New Northern Ireland Government Departments

May 2016
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Introduction

New Northern Ireland Government Departments

The Stormont House Agreement of 23 December 2014 included a commitment that the number of Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) Departments would be reduced from 12 to nine, immediately following the next Assembly election.

The subsequent agreement, entitled, *A Fresh Start: The Stormont Agreement and Implementation Plan*, reached in December 2015 following a further round of inter-party talks, laid out the structures of the new departments. It was agreed by the Executive that the 2016-17 Budget would be agreed on the basis of the re-organised departmental model.

The Budget states: "This will be the most extensive reorganisation of the departmental structures since 1999. It provides an opportunity for improved cohesion between, and within departments and greater efficiency and transparency in public administration which will ultimately lead to improved services to citizens." Another key driver behind the restructuring is the belief that it will "create significant cost saving".

It should be noted that, despite such a major overhaul of government structures, no additional powers or functions have been created, no existing functions removed, and no policies terminated.

This guide lays out the structures of the nine new government departments, their core policy responsibilities, and key personnel within each department that became operational on 9 May 2016.
Source: Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, 2015
### Core Policy Responsibilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Core policy responsibilities</th>
<th>Formerly with</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)** | Primarily a renamed Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, with additional environmental responsibilities. DAERA will mainly work in the areas of agriculture, fisheries and industrial sectors, as well as the environment and rural needs. | - Animal health and welfare  
- Countryside management  
- Crops and horticulture  
- Fisheries  
- Food industries  
- Forestry  
- Livestock farming  
- Plant and tree health  
- Rivers and flooding  
- Rural development  
- Environmental functions including regulation | DARD |
| **Department for Communities** | The Department for Social Development is renamed the Department for Communities, but with a considerably wider area of policy responsibility. Some of the key objective and spending areas will be Employment and Social Security, Child Maintenance Service, Housing, Culture Arts and | - Housing  
- Urban regeneration  
- Benefits and pensions  
- Voluntary and community  
- Appeals Service  
- Culture, Arts and Leisure, PRONI | DSD |
|  |  |  | DCAL |

| Department for the Economy | Leisure, Community Cohesion and Regeneration and the North South Language Body. | Older People, Active Ageing Strategy. Sponsor branch for Commissioner for Older People with the exception of the appointment of the Commissioner  
Sponsor branch for Commissioner for Children and Young People with the exception of the appointment of the Commissioner  
Disability Strategy, Anti Poverty and Child Poverty  
Gender and sexual orientation  
Employment Service  
Economic Inactivity Strategy  
Local Government  
Built Heritage  
Financial Capability Strategy  
Debt advice | OFMdFM |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Department for the Economy** | The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment is renamed the Department for the Economy. The Department for the Economy is tasked with achieving the long term economic growth by improving competitiveness, and to build a larger and more export-driven private sector. | Consumer affairs  
Credit Unions and Societies  
Economic policy  
Energy  
European support  
Minerals and petroleum  
Telecoms | DETI |
| Department of Education | The name of the Department of Education is unchanged, but some additional responsibility regarding children’s services means that the department will have a new and wider remit. | • Curriculum and learning  
• Pupils and parents  
• Teaching staff  
• Non-teaching staff  
• Schools and infrastructure | DE |
| Department of Finance | The Department of Finance and Personnel is renamed the Department of Finance, and remains largely unchanged. The overall aim of the Department is “to help the Executive secure the most appropriate and effective use of resources and services for the benefit of the community”.  
**NB:** The Stormont House Agreement also made way for the establishment of a Fiscal Council, which will mirror the work of the Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR) in the UK. | • Public Finance  
• Procurement  
• Property rating and valuation  
• Land registration  
• Mapping and geographic information  
• Building Regulations and energy efficiency of buildings  
• Civil law reform  
• Account NI  
• Public sector reform  
• NI Direct Central Editorial Team  
• Government Advertising Unit | DFP |
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<tr>
<th>Department of Health</th>
<th>The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety is renamed the Department of Health and is unchanged in terms of policy responsibility.</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Health and Social Care (HSC) • Public Health • Public Safety • Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service • Finance, Procurement &amp; Support Services • Public health policy and advice • Pharmacy • Social services, including child protection</td>
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<td>DHSSPS</td>
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<th>Department for Infrastructure</th>
<th>The Department for Regional Development is renamed the Department for Infrastructure. The department is tasked with supporting economic growth and prosperity through developing infrastructure and having planning oversight, including rivers and waterways.</th>
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<td></td>
<td>• Roads and road improvement schemes • Transport initiatives • Public transport and Active travel • DRD procurement • Water and sewerage services • Ports • Regional development</td>
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<td>• Vehicle regulation, road safety &amp; Driver and Vehicle Agency • Strategic Planning</td>
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<td>• Rivers Agency</td>
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<td>• Inland Waterways and Waterways Ireland</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Crumlin Road Goal Programme-Project management • St Lucia ex-MOD site</td>
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<td>DRD</td>
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<td>OFMdFM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Justice</td>
<td>The name of the Department of Justice is unchanged by the Bill. The Department is responsible for the justice system and policing.</td>
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<td>• Justice and the law • Legal aid • Prisons • Youth justice • Forensic science • Policing and community safety</td>
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<td>• Planning Appeals Commission and Water Appeals Commission administration support</td>
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<td>DOJ</td>
<td>OFMdFM</td>
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<tr>
<th>The Executive Office (TEO)</th>
<th>The Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister is renamed The Executive Office, though a substantial number of policy areas of responsibility have been transferred to the other eight departments, notably the Department for Communities.</th>
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<td></td>
<td>• Delivering Social Change [Signature Programmes] • Social Investment Fund • Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) • Racial Equality Strategy • Minority Ethnic Development Fund • Crisis Fund • Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry • Victims and Survivors • International Relations • Infrastructure investment • Strategic Policy and Innovation Unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)</strong></td>
<td>Dundonald House Upper Newtownards Road Ballymiscaw Belfast BT4 3SB</td>
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<td><strong>Department for Communities</strong></td>
<td>Lighthouse Building 1 Cromac Place Gasworks Business Park Ormeau Road Belfast BT7 2JB</td>
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<td>Department for the Economy</td>
<td>Adelaide House 39-49 Adelaide Street Belfast BT2 8FD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Education</td>
<td>Rathgael House Balloo Road Bangor BT19 7PR</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Department of Finance | Clare House 303 Airport Rd Belfast BT3 9ED | David Sterling | Hugh Widdis – Head of Legal Services
Hugh.widdis@finance-ni.gov.uk |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                      |                                          |                | Colum Boyle – Chief Executive and Accounting Officer LPS
Colum.boyle@finance-ni.gov.uk |
|                      |                                          |                | Paul Wickens – Chief Executive Enterprise Shared Services
Paul.wickens@finance-ni.gov.uk |
|                      |                                          |                | Des Armstrong – Central Procurement Division
Des.armstrong@finance-ni.gov.uk |
|                      |                                          |                | Colin Lewis – Corporate Services
Colin.lewis@finance-ni.gov.uk |
| Department of Health | Information Office  
C5.20  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
Belfast  
BT4 3SQ | Richard Pengelly  
Richard.pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk | Dr Michael McBride – Chief Medical Officer  
Michael.mcbride@health-ni.gov.uk |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Colin Sullivan – Strategic and Policy Reform  
Colin.sullivan@finance-ni.gov.uk | Sean Holland – Social Policy  
Sean.holland@health-ni.gov.uk | Julie Thompson – Resources and Performance Management  
Julie.thompson@health-ni.gov.uk |
| Vacant – NI Statistics and Research Agency | Deborah McNeilly – Healthcare Policy  
Deborah.mcneilly@health-ni.gov.uk | Fiona McCandless – Strategic Planning, Planning Policy, DVA and Water Shareholder/Drainage Policy  
Fiona.mccandless@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk |
| Department for Infrastructure | Clarence House  
10-18 Adelaide Street  
Belfast  
BT2 8GB | Peter May  
Peter.may@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk | |
| Department of Justice | Block B Castle Buildings Stormont Estate Belfast BT4 3SH | Nick Perry | Lian Patterson – Justice Delivery  
Lian.patterson@justice-ni.gov.uk  
Or  
Lian.patterson@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk  
David Lavery – Access to Justice  
David.lavery@justice-ni.gov.uk  
Or  
David.lavery@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk  
Anthony Harbinson – Safer Communities  
Anthony.harbinson@justice-ni.gov.uk  
Or  
Anthony.harbinson@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk  
Sue McAllister – Reducing Officer  
Sue.mcallister@justice-ni.gov.uk  
Or  
Sue.mcallister@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk |
| The Executive Office (TEO) | Malcolm McKibbin  
Malcolm.mckibbin@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk | Stephen Grimason – EIS, British/Irish/International Relations, Executive Support and NSMC  
Stephen.grimason@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| GD36 Stormont Castle  
Stormont Estate  
Belfast  
BT4 3SH | Dr Mark Browne – Strategic Policy, Finance, Equality and Good Relations  
Mark.browne@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk | Brenda King – Office of the Legislative Counsel  
Brenda.king@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk |