

JMC Annual Report 2013-2014

Introduction

The Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC) comprises the UK Government, the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and the Northern Ireland Executive and is at the centre of formal relations between these administrations. The JMC meets in Plenary, Domestic and European formats. Procedures for the operation of the Joint Ministerial Committee are set out in the Memorandum of Understanding.

This document outlines the activities of the JMC since the last meeting of JMC in plenary format in October 2013 and will be published on the websites of the four administrations.

JMC Plenary

The Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC) met in plenary format on 16 October 2013. A discussion took place on the economic climate, including the recent signs of improvement, and the state of the public finances. Ministers also considered migrants' access to public services. Major cultural and sporting events were reviewed with Ministers acknowledging the benefits of joint working to ensure the continued success of such events. Amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding were agreed. Ministers noted that the disagreement on Northern Ireland's capital allocation had been resolved.

Domestic policy discussions

The JMC met in Domestic format on 26 March 2014 when the challenges of an aging population and the trade and investment opportunities linked to major events were discussed.

Discussion of European issues

The JMC met in European format on five occasions during the year to discuss current European Union (EU) business in which the Devolved Administrations have an interest; and to facilitate their input to the UK Government's negotiating stance prior to European Councils.

On 2 December 2013 it discussed:

- Better Regulation and Competitiveness;
- Youth Unemployment;
- Promoting EU Careers; and
- Preparations for the December European Councils.

On 19 March 2014 it discussed:

- 2030 Framework on Climate and Energy Policies;
- Upstream Engagement
- Devolved Ministers' attendance at Council of Ministers meetings; and
- Preparations for the March European Council.

On **16 June 2014** it discussed:

- Promoting EU Careers;
- EU Institutional Renewal;
- Preparations for the June European Council; and
- JMC(E) organisation.

On **13 October 2014** it discussed:

- EU Institutional Renewal;
- Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership; and
- Preparations for the October European Council.

On **8 December 2014** it discussed:

- Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T);
- State Aid Prioritisation;
- President Juncker's €315bn Investment Plan for Jobs and Growth; and
- Preparations for the December European Council

Disputes

There were no differences between the administrations referred for consideration by the JMC during the year.

Discussions on the Economy and Public Finances

The key forum for consideration of financial and economic matters is the Finance Ministers' Quadrilateral which met once during the period.

On **18th November 2013** it discussed:

- General economic updates from each administration;
- Forward look to Autumn Statement 2013;
- Agreement on treatment of Financial Transactions Capital including arrangements for budget exchange carry-forwards; and
- Handling of funding announcements.

Treasury Ministers and Finance Ministers from each of the devolved administrations also maintain regular contact throughout the year covering a range of matters of mutual interest.

JMC Joint Secretariat
December 2015