

Mark Daly, Submitted as evidence to the Working Group on Unification Referendums on the Island of Ireland, based at the UCL Constitution Unit – 5 December 2019

Conor,

Below the summaries and links we spoke about, let me know if you need any more information on any of this.

Brexit and the Future of Ireland: Uniting Ireland & Its People in Peace & Prosperity

This is the first ever report by a Dáil and Senate Committee on the issue of Uniting Ireland and its People in Peace & Prosperity, which I was tasked with compiling for the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement. The all-party committee adopted the report unanimously, along with its 17 recommendations. I have been working on these recommendations with appropriate experts in their fields to ensure progress. The link to the full report is <https://senatormarkdaly.org/uniting-ireland-in-peace-prosperity/>

Unionist Concerns and Fears of a United Ireland: The Need to Protect the Peace Process & Build a Vision for a Shared Island & a United People

This report is the result of 18 months of research and conversations with members of the protestant, unionist and loyalist communities and includes contributions from Reverend Kyle Paisley, the son of the founder of the DUP Reverend Ian Paisley, Trevor Ringland, former Ireland rugby international, Michael Nesbitt, leader of the UUP (2012-2017) as well as former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Dr Norman Hamilton OBE, unionist politicians and community activists. Dr James Wilson, a former member of the British army who served in Northern Ireland during the Troubles, was commissioned to conduct focus groups with members of the Independent Orange Order, a Loyalist Flute Band, UDR/Irish Regiment Veterans and East Belfast Mission.

The research identified 7 key areas of Unionist Concerns and Fears regarding a United Ireland:

1. Loss of Identity and the place of unionism within a united Ireland
2. Triumphalism by Nationalist
3. Retribution on former members of the RUC, British Army and Prison Officers
4. Land being taken from unionist farmers
5. A Return to Violence
6. Returning to the European Union after voting for Brexit
7. Healthcare, Welfare and the Economy

<https://senatormarkdaly.files.wordpress.com/2019/07/unionist-concerns-fears-of-a-united-ireland-the-need-to-protect-the-peace-process-build-a-vision-for-a-shared-island-and-a-united-people.pdf>

The Calling of a Referendum on a United Ireland by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

A research report on who will be allowed to vote in a referendum on a United Ireland and how it will be called by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland as provided under the Good Friday Agreement. The research shows that not only does the Secretary of State decide when a referendum is held, but also who is allowed to vote. The report is available in full at the link

<https://senatormarkdaly.files.wordpress.com/2019/10/the-calling-of-a-referendum-on-a-united-ireland-by-the-secretary-of-state.pdf>

Northern Ireland's Income & Expenditure in a Reunification Scenario

One of the key recommendations in the 2017 Joint Committee report was to ascertain the true level of income and expenditure for Northern Ireland. In 2018 I compiled a research

Submitted as evidence to the Working Group on Unification Referendums on the Island of Ireland, based at the UCL Constitution Unit – 5 December 2019

report with Gunther Thumann, the Senior economist at the German desk of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) during German reunification. Our report shows that Northern Ireland starts on a near balanced budget in a unification scenario. The link to the full report is <https://senatormarkdaly.files.wordpress.com/2019/01/research-on-northern-ireland-income-and-expenditure-1.pdf>

Northern Ireland Returning to Violence as a Result of a Hard Border due to Brexit or a Rushed Border Poll: Risk to Youth

The Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement's other recommendations included 'Establish an international task force with experts in security so that plans to meet any risks may be devised and implemented.' In February of 2019 I worked on compiling a report with UNESCO Chairs Professor Pat Dolan and Professor Mark Brennan, both of whom are experts in the areas of Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) and Counter Terrorism, along with Michael Ortiz who was appointed by the US State Department in the Obama Administration as the first US diplomat on countering violent extremism (CVE) policy.

The conclusion of this scoping report is that 'there will also be a return to violence in the event of a rushed border poll on the island of Ireland. The only question...will be the scale of the violence.' The report is available in full at the link <https://senatormarkdaly.files.wordpress.com/2019/02/unesco-professors-report-on-return-to-violence.pdf>

Submission to the National Risk Assessment 2019 Void due to Omission of Possible/Probable Referendum on a New Agreed Ireland

The submission compiled by Deputy Seán Fleming, Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee and I to the Taoiseach's 2019 Draft Risk Assessment highlighted the need to include a possible referendum on a United Ireland in our National Risk Assessment. There was no mention of the possibility of a referendum on a New Agreed Ireland uniting the people of Ireland in the 2019 Draft National Risk Assessment. Meanwhile, topics as diverse as global warming, cybersecurity, terrorism, the healthcare crisis, the housing crisis and even the possibility of another referendum on Scottish independence are included. The Taoiseach's response was that "a border poll would not be regarded as a risk, and the very important and sensitive policy issues related to it would not be dealt with in the Risk Assessment process".

https://senatormarkdaly.files.wordpress.com/2019/06/submission-to-draft-nation-risk-assessment-2019.asd_.pdf

If you have any queries or if I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Is mise le meas,

Senator Mark Daly

Seanadóir Marcus O'Dalaigh

Co Convenor of the Ireland United States Friendship Parliamentary Group

Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Teach Laighean,
Sráid Cill Dara,
Baile Átha Cliath 2.

Tel: +353 (0)1 618 3830

Fón: +353 (0)1 6183830

Mob: +353 (0)86 803 2612

Fón Póca: +353 (0)86 803 2612