Item 4a: Northern Ireland Report UCML July 2022

Disagreement over the Northern Ireland Protocol has meant that the Northern Ireland assembly, elected in May 2022 cannot appoint a new Executive. Therefore, no new policy can be developed and no change can be made to policy direction.

However, in the Queen’s Speech, plans were announced to legislate for Irish and Ulster Scots language and cultural rights as outlined in the existing New Decade New Approach Agreement (2020). This includes an Office of Identity and Cultural Expression to promote respect for diversity, as well as an Irish Language Commissioner and a commissioner to develop language, arts and literature associated with Ulster Scots.

The work of the CCEA Languages Programme Board is ongoing.

UCML Chair Professor Emma Cayley and Sharon Jones met informally in June during Emma’s visit to the conference of the Society for French Studies at Queen’s University Belfast. It was a delight that this meeting could take place in person. The conversation was very helpful.

Sharon Jones
UCML NI Representative
12/07/22