

North South Ministerial Council
Joint Secretariat



An Chomhairle Aireachta
Thuaidh Theas
An Chomhrúnaíocht

NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL TRADE AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MEETING NSMC JOINT SECRETARIAT OFFICES, ARMAGH

23 OCTOBER 2024

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

1. The twenty third North South Ministerial Council Trade and Business Development meeting was held in the NSMC Joint Secretariat Offices, Armagh, on 23 October 2024. The meeting was attended by Peter Burke TD, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Conor Murphy MLA, Minister for the Economy, and Gordon Lyons MLA, Minister for Communities. Minister Burke chaired the meeting.

INTERTRADEIRELAND PROGRESS REPORT

2. The NSMC welcomed the overall achievements of InterTradeIreland since the previous Sectoral meeting in April 2024, including achieving a Business Development Value of £82m/€94m, and providing crucial investor readiness supports.
3. The Council commended the valuable contribution that InterTradeIreland has made through its trade and development programmes for small and medium-sized companies trading across the border and in both jurisdictions, including supports through its *Collaboration Innovation Pathway*, and under the *Innovation Boost Programme*.
4. Ministers recognised the positive impact of the innovation and technology programmes administered by InterTradeIreland, and its support for building relationships between companies and researchers.

5. The NSMC noted InterTradeIreland's ongoing research work in 2024, which includes a study of the business supports ecosystem across the island, research into the changing nature of trade on the island and offshore wind and hydrogen energy, as well as the ongoing work of its quarterly All Island Business Monitor.
6. The Council welcomed the work of InterTradeIreland, alongside Enterprise Ireland and Invest NI, in developing a cross-border enterprise cooperation scheme, which was awarded €30m in Shared Island funding.

PRESENTATION – INTERTRADEIRELAND SUPPORTS AND CLUSTERS

7. Ministers welcomed the presentation from businesses on the benefits of InterTradeIreland's programme of supports.
8. The NSMC also welcomed the presentation from the Advanced Technologies in Manufacturing (ATIM) Cluster on the benefits of clustering and how development of the cluster was supported by InterTradeIreland.
9. The Council noted InterTradeIreland's strategic ambition in the area of clustering.

REAPPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF INTERTRADEIRELAND

10. The NSMC approved the reappointment of Margaret Hearty as Chief Executive Officer of the Trade and Business Development Body, InterTradeIreland, for a four year term with effect from 21 April 2025.

APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS TO INTERTRADEIRELAND

11. The NSMC appointed members to the Board of the Trade & Business Development Body (InterTradeIreland).

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

12. The Council agreed to hold its next NSMC Trade and Business Development meeting in Spring 2025

Joint Secretariat
23 October 2024

Website www.northsouthministerialcouncil.org