

UCML Winter Plenary 2020

Friday 17 January 2020 10.00–16.00

The Reading Room, British Academy,
10–11 Carlton House Terrace,
London SW1Y 5AH



BUSINESS MEETING

Item 5a: Report on N. Ireland

In preparing this report I was in contact with the subject leads for Spanish, French and Irish at Queen's University Belfast and Ian Collen, NICILT (The Northern Ireland Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research) as well as Professor Janice Carruthers (AHRC Leadership Fellow, Modern Languages) and Isabel Torres (Director of Research) both in the School of Arts, English and Languages at Queen's University Belfast).

At present, there are no new matters to report. Colleagues who were not at the last meeting may be interested to note the following recent positive developments:

- There has been much more robust engagement on the part of the Department of Education with the issues around languages in recent months, as a result of a number of triggers - including AHRC Policy Workshops, BBC survey and Language Trends.
- As part of the Leadership Fellowship and MEITS policy work, Wendy Ayres-Bennett and Janice Carruthers will be doing some training for the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) Policy Leads on the relevance of languages for their portfolios. They also had a very productive meeting with David Sterling, Head of the NICS about the importance of languages for business, health, culture, communities etc. The first session is in March 2020.
- Ambassadors scheme is now up and running now in regions connected to the four OWRI projects (London, Manchester, Oxford, Cambridge) and the Leadership Fellowship (NI). Teresa Tinsley doing the evaluation in Spring 2020.

Details of the new UCML Small Grants fund were circulated to colleagues.

Sarah Bowskill, Jan 2020