

Message from the Party Leader, *Robin Swann MLA*

This will be our last weekly bulletin for the summer months. However we will update you if there are any major political developments.



under the three stranded approach and any departure from that would be totally unacceptable to the Ulster Unionist Party. The UK Government and especially those in the NIO need to remember that.

They should be focussing on having talks in Belfast to restore devolution. But perhaps the choreography on display is an indication that they intend to follow the path of previous failed talks processes where the Government sits on the sidelines, waiting outside the door as the DUP and Sinn Fein are left to their own devices. We shall see. We've set up a number of working groups to engage across the community. Last week we met the Orange Order to discuss a number of issues including legacy and the NIO consultation.

And this week I attended the Pink News event in Parliament Buildings on Thursday night as part of an ongoing engagement with the LGBT community. I said in my speech that I would not stand by and allow unionism to become a by-word for intolerance and that I wanted to demonstrate that Unionism can be a home for everyone no matter what your sexual orientation is or indeed your religious affiliation. Unionism must be a comfortable home for everyone. And I intend to sell that message in the coming months. You can read my speech here:

<https://uup.org/news/5607/Robin-Swann-Pink-News-summer-reception-speech#.WzY5OoonblU>

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy a wonderful summer, that the good weather continues and that we have a peaceful and enjoyable Twelfth.

Robin

What is clear is that there are choreographed political moves afoot. Whilst media attention was elsewhere on Thursday night, the UK Government and Irish Government sneaked out the announcement of a British Irish Intergovernmental Conference (BIIGC) to be held in London on 25 July. They've put the cart before the horse. This has been a long dormant structure but looks to have been revived as a sop to the Irish Government, Sinn Fein and the SDLP. Let's be absolutely clear. The BIIGC as defined in the Belfast Agreement can ONLY deal with non-devolved issues

This week's top news

Beggs shocked at the announcement of closure of Larne Danske Bank

East Antrim Ulster Unionist MLA, Roy Beggs, has expressed his shock at the news that the Larne branch of the Danske Bank is to close. Full story [here](#)

Barton welcomes progress on post-primary transfer test

Ulster Unionist Education Spokesperson, Rosemary Barton MLA, has welcomed the agreement reached on proposals for a common post-primary transfer test. Full story [here](#)

Chambers congratulates Drew Harris on his appointment as new Garda Commissioner

The Ulster Unionist Party's Policing Spokesperson, Alan Chambers MLA, has congratulated the PSNI's Assistant Chief Constable Drew Harris on his appointment as the new Garda Commissioner. Full story [here](#)

Beattie responds to McDonald's comments about the RUC

The Ulster Unionist Party's Justice Spokesperson, Doug Beattie MC MLA, has responded to comments in the Dail today by Sinn Fein's Mary Lou McDonald in which she disparaged the RUC. Full story [here](#)

Budget welcome but further cuts likely - Aiken

Ulster Unionist Finance Spokesperson, Dr Steve Aiken MLA, has welcomed the introduction of the latest Northern Ireland Budget Bill but has warned that the state of local public finances remains so precarious that a round of in-year funding cuts are still likely in the autumn. Full story [here](#)

Nicholson discusses Brexit with Secretary of State in Brussels

Ulster Unionist MEP Jim Nicholson today met with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP, in Brussels to discuss Brexit issues ahead of this week's European Council summit. Full story [here](#)

UUP's ongoing engagement with LGBT+ community is about building meaningful relationships - Beattie

Ulster Unionist MLA, Doug Beattie MC, has said that the Ulster Unionist Party's ongoing engagement with the LGBT+ community is about building meaningful relationships. Full story [here](#)



Party Leader Robin Swann with our five new Mayors. L-R – Howard Thornton, Chair of Fermanagh and Omagh; Julie Flaherty, Lord Mayor of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon; Paul Michael, Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey; Lindsay Millar, Mayor of Mid and East Antrim; Richard Smart, Mayor of Ards and North Down

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