

Role of the Northern Ireland Executive

How is the Northern Ireland Executive selected?

- Under the Good Friday Agreement after the Assembly elections ministers for the Executive are appointed by the Assembly using the d'Hondt System, which allocates seats on the Executive based on the number of seats parties win in the Assembly elections.
- The more MLA's a party has, the more Ministers it can appoint, with the largest parties getting the first choices when it comes to ministerial roles on the Executive.
- The Justice Minister is not appointed using d'Hondt but is elected by the Assembly and must have cross-community support, ie, from both unionists and nationalists.

What is the role Northern Ireland Executive in decision making?

- The Executive Committee meets in Stormont Castle. Its work is co-ordinated by the First and deputy First Minister.
- Ministers are responsible for day to day government decisions within their own areas of responsibility.
- They meet as the Executive Committee to draw up the draft Budget and the draft Programme for Government (PfG) which have to be approved by the Assembly.
- Ministers on the Executive are responsible for decision making in Departments which include:

Executive Office - First Minister and deputy First Minister

Department for Communities, Department for the Economy, Department of Health, Department of Education

Department of Finance Department of Justice, Department for Infrastructure

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Who has sat on the Northern Ireland Executive?



Michelle McIlveen
Agriculture/
Environment
2016-2017



Peter Weir
Education
2016-17



Michelle O'Neill
Health
2016-2017



Claire Sugden
Justice
2016- 2017

Leaving Certificate Politics & Society

Stand I: Power and Decision Making

Topic 2: Power and Decision Making at National and European Level.

Learning Outcome 2.2: Describe the way in which the Northern Ireland Executive is selected, and the ministers' roles .