

SUBMISSION TO THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
CONSTITUTION UNIT:

WORKING GROUP CONSULTATION ON THE

SECTION 1 – COMMENTARY FOR DISCUSSION

October 7, 2015 – *‘The weight of the words that dominated Brian Friel’s social insight was – and remains – monumental. The playwright’s voice spoke aloud sentiments that others could only ever feel innately or think abstractly... In ‘Translations’, Hugh says: “But remember that words are signals, counters. They are not immortal. And it can happen – to use an image you’ll understand – it can happen that a civilisation can be imprisoned in a linguistic contour which no longer matches the landscape of fact.” In contemporary Ireland and Britain, Hugh’s words aren’t merely relevant to the legacy of colonisation in spoken language – English dominating an Gaeilge. As our Irish-Anglo relationship (why is that phrase normally reversed?) has changed and developed in the interim 35 years, the meaning and metaphor of Hugh’s words also touch the very values which underlie our public and political discourse. The extent to which words have become “imprisoned in a linguistic contour which no longer matches the landscape of fact” is frequently evidenced by the disjoint between that political rhetoric and public reality. So often the political imperative is to frame and ‘spin’ the meaning of words*

4. The 1998 Agreement's heart will always remain sacrosanct in historical spirit but, ever

options, assuming they avoid the 'Project Fear' approach which marked the Brexit debate. With the Good Friday Agreement as the background template, the uncertainties and complexities of Brexit c

two states, one system

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October 19, 2016 – *‘As the impact of Brexit unfolds and the next phase in Ireland’s historical growth develops, we should start opening up ideas and discussions about our individual and collective sense of Irishism. At a macro political level, there will probably be a new Irish-Anglo agreement... Joint administration, not joint authority, will pave the path. This may result in one major agreement, or several consequential interlocking agreements. Steady work is ongoing between Irish and British officials with their European counterparts. Political discourse in the north needs to be increasingly thoughtful and measured. Broad agreement will likely see greater all-Ireland information and security cooperation with Britain, alongside enhanced all-island economic cooperation between north and south (potentially such as Euro currency arrangements). The territorial jurisdictions of Northern Ireland*

