

Annex B

DoF PRIVATE OFFICE - NOTE OF MEETING

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KN REF:	INV-0122-2025		
TITLE/ORGANISATION:	Introductory mtg with Consulate General of P.R.China Mr Li Nan		
DATE AND TIME:	8 th May – 11:00 to 11:45		
VENUE:	<input type="checkbox"/> PB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clare House	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Boardroom
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minister	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SpAd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PS	<input type="checkbox"/> APS <input type="checkbox"/> Office Manager
OFFICIALS / OTHER	Leander Harding Redacted Section 40(2) Redacted Section 40(2)		
KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED:			
<u>Welcomes and introductions</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Consul General (CG) congratulated the Minister on his new appointment to Finance portfolio and provided an overview of the events and meetings he has attended since his appointment as CG. – There was discussion of the importance of relationships between China and NI and the significant contribution of Chinese community resident in NI to the economy. 			
Discussed a number of businesses including:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Thompson's Aerospace</u> which is located in Minister's constituency – Minister confirmed he had visited the company last year. CG updated the Minister on developments withing Thompson's Aerospace and confirmed the business is growing and developing. CG invited the Minister to accompany him on another visit to Thompson's which Minister agreed to. • <u>Confucius Institute</u> is now based in UU and undertaking work within cultural exchange programme between China and NI. 			
– Discussed possibility of the Minister visiting China in the future – CG explained visa arrangements for UK and Irish passport holders had been updated to facilitate ease of travel. There are a number of significant events held in China that may be beneficial for future collaboration.			

- CG briefed on positive relations between China and the UK which are improving on a range of matters. UK PM has met Chinese Prime Minister and there are likely to be a number of international visits arranged in the near future.
- China wants to make trade agreements with UK counterparts.
- CG advised US has made contact with China for further discussions on tariff arrangements. Door to negotiations is open.
- Discussed the imposition of tariffs on NI and what it means for the country. Minister advised Economy Minister is best placed provide more detail on consequence of US tariffs.
- Agreed on the importance of nations talking as international trade links are hugely important to all countries as nations today operate in a global market.
- CG also confirmed relations are improving between China and Europe.
- Discussed the unique position of dual market access in NI and highly skilled educated workforces well placed for employment in tech and many other sectors which China has an interest in.
- Role of NI Bureau in China – promotion of investment in NI.
- CG wants to attract inward investment to China and rules have changed around manufacturing sector to facilitate this.
- CG referred to the agreement signed by CX on import/export checks to China which includes Irish whiskey.
- CG advised tenth anniversary of consulate established in NI **Redacted Section 27(2)** - a number of events will be arranged.
- Minister advised Invest NI is the best contact to engage re partnership arrangements for autumn fair in September.
- Minister and Consul General exchanged gifts in accordance with Chinese custom.

ACTION POINTS / ISSUES AGREED & OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE – N/A

NOTE WRITTEN BY:

Paula Dawson

DATE:

8 May 2025