

THE CASE FOR



The facts

Purchases (GB) Imports (ROI)

In May 2020 the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency published its Broad Economy Sales and Exports Statistics for 2018. These figures showed that:

- Imports from the Republic of Ireland were estimated to be worth £2.8 billion
- Imports from rest of EU were estimated to be worth £2.6 billion
- Imports from the rest of World were estimated to be worth £2.4 billion
- Purchases from Great Britain were estimated to be worth £13.4 billion

Purchases from Great Britain dwarfed imports from the Republic by almost 5 to 1.



In fact, purchases from Great Britain were over 70% greater than those from the rest of the world combined!

Sales (GB) Exports (ROI & Rest of the World)

Over the same period

- Exports to the Republic of Ireland were estimated to be worth £4.2 billion
- Exports to the rest of the EU were estimated to be worth £2.5 billion
- Exports to the rest of the world were estimated to be worth £4.5 billion
- Sales to Great Britain were £10.6 billion.

Sales to Great Britain dwarfed sales to the Republic by 2.5 to 1.



In fact, sales to Great Britain accounted for £3 billion more in sales than the Republic and the rest of the EU combined.

There is no economic logic or reason for the Irish Sea border. There certainly are no opportunities. Its motivation is purely political. The purpose is clear. It is designed to annex Northern Ireland from the UK and detain it within the EU customs and single market. This is hugely damaging to our economy.

Mission statement for InterTrade UK

TUV suggests the following as a mission statement for InterTrade UK:

“The promotion of free trade and business within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, overcoming all hindrances to internal UK trade and the enhancement of the global competitiveness of the whole UK economy in light of opportunities.”

Structure, accountability and funding

InterTrade UK would be put on a statutory footing and would operate under the direction of the Secretary of State for Business at Westminster and the Minister of the Economy in Northern Ireland. It would have a board made up of appointees from the Secretary of State for Business, the Minister for the Economy in Northern Ireland, the Welsh Economy Minister and the Scottish Secretary for the Economy.

The body would be based in offices in Northern Ireland and be staffed by a workforce tasked with easing the flow of trade within the UK.

InterTrade UK would be funded by Westminster.

An unequal situation

InterTrade Ireland is one of six all Ireland bodies established as a result of the Belfast Agreement. Its function is “The promotion of trade and business on an all-island and cross-border basis and the enhancement of the global competitiveness of the all-island economy to the mutual benefit of Ireland and Northern Ireland.”

According to its 2018 annual report, the most recent one to be published, InterTrade Ireland has:

- A workforce of 44
- The remuneration for senior management staff was over £277,000
- A total income of over £12.2 million

It is a shocking commentary in itself on the destructive impact of the Protocol that an internal U.K. body now urgently needs to be got off the ground so as to ease the flow of trade within the UK.

There is no parallel body working to assist our economy to function on an East-West basis even though the flow of trade between Northern Ireland and Great Britain is now more seriously impeded than trade between Northern Ireland and the Republic ever was.

