



INDEPENDENT LOYAL ORANGE INSTITUTION

FOUNDED 1903



STATEMENT FROM INDEPENDENT LOYAL ORANGE INSTITUTION ABOUT THE NORTHERN IRELAND PROTOCOL

During the protracted Brexit negotiations, the EU, with the full encouragement of nationalists north and south, cynically used the Irish land border as a convenient weapon to make the UK's withdrawal as painful and difficult as possible.

Sadly, the British Government failed to stand up to this pressure and, in order to achieve Brexit in Great Britain, Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his cronies showed themselves quite prepared, without any embarrassment whatever, to deceive, and then betray, the Unionist people of Northern Ireland. As Rudyard Kipling said back in 1912, "What need of further lies? We are the sacrifice".

The Northern Ireland Protocol is one of the most serious threats to the Union in the past century. Not only does it create serious economic and trading barriers, but it fundamentally alters Northern Ireland's constitutional position within the United Kingdom. This is totally unacceptable.

We have been cut adrift in the Irish Sea by a Prime Minister who professes to be a Unionist but is nothing other than a charlatan and a conman. As so often in the past, it is imperative that Unionists unite in the face of such treachery. Petty squabbling and finger-pointing must be set aside and we must all stand together. We assure our leaders of our full support as they seek to deal with the challenges presented by this iniquitous Protocol.

The decision by the EU, albeit hurriedly withdrawn, to invoke article 16 of the Protocol in relation to Covid vaccine supplies, was a real wake-up call and a reminder of the utter selfishness and ruthlessness of the EU. Her Majesty's Government must now invoke that same article in the interests of the well-being of its citizens in Northern Ireland.

We are bemused by the patronising calls for calm from those who were in a frenzy over the possibility of an Irish land border, but, while we appreciate that the Unionist people are rightly angry, there can be no justification for any threat of violence. Paramilitaries, with their sinister agenda and tactics, need to stay out of this crisis, and leave it in the hands of our democratically elected politicians. They need our full support and prayers at this time.

Finally, we encourage people to sign the online petition to trigger article 16. This can be found at <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/573209>.

James Anderson
Imperial Grand Master
Independent Loyal Orange Institution

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Protestantism Not Politics! Principles Not Party!
Measures Not Men! No Surrender!
God Save The Queen!