

Chancellor Rachel Reeves meeting with Tánaiste Simon Harris

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Readout of a meeting between UK Chancellor Rachel Reeves and Irish Minister for Finance & Tánaiste Simon Harris who met in London today.

Chancellor Rachel Reeves and Tánaiste and Minister for Finance Simon Harris held a warm and constructive meeting in London today where they reaffirmed the close and enduring relationship between the United Kingdom and Ireland and the importance of sustained positive cooperation between our two countries.

They discussed the budgetary and economic outlook in both countries and the wider global environment, including the economic implications of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

They noted that the current conflict has already contributed to volatility in global energy markets and rising inflationary pressures. They reiterated the importance of diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions and mitigate the wider economic impacts on households and businesses.

The Tánaiste and the Chancellor noted the deep economic interdependence between Ireland, the United Kingdom and the European Union. Both ministers agreed that maintaining sustainable public finances while supporting growth, investment and competitiveness remains a shared priority. They discussed opportunities for deeper cooperation in areas including trade, financial services, energy security and the green transition.

The Tánaiste and the Chancellor reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening Ireland-UK relations, including through the British-Irish institutions established under the Good Friday Agreement. They noted the successful outcome of the second UK-Ireland summit held in Cork last Friday. They welcomed the continued positive momentum in bilateral engagement.

Looking ahead to Ireland's forthcoming Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the Tánaiste outlined Ireland's priorities, including strengthening economic resilience, enhancing European competitiveness, and deepening international partnerships.

The Chancellor and the Tánaiste agreed to remain in close contact and to continue working together to strengthen the economic partnership between Ireland and the United Kingdom in the months ahead.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-rachel-reeves-meeting-with-tanaiste-simon-harris>