

Michel Barnier
Task Force on Article 50 Negotiations with the United Kingdom
Building BERL, 1049 Bruxelles,
Belgique

michel.barnier@ec.europa.eu

29 March, 2017

Dear M. Barnier,

Movement of accredited archaeologists between UK and Ireland following Brexit

The Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland (IAI) is the primary all-island professional organisation representing archaeologists working in Ireland and Northern Ireland. It aims to support a vibrant and sustainable archaeological profession that actively contributes to the protection of our archaeological resource which in turn contributes to the social and economic wellbeing of the entire community. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA) is the leading professional body representing archaeologists working in the UK and overseas. It promotes high professional standards and strong ethics in archaeological practice, to maximise the benefits that archaeologists bring to society. In 2016 the two institutes signed a Memorandum of Understanding, marking the beginning of a strategic partnership between the two organisations.

Our Institutes recognise that one of the consequences of Brexit may be that there is no longer complete freedom of movement of labour across UK-EU borders. We welcome the Article 50 statement by PM May and the stated intention of the UK Government to maintain the Common Travel Area with Ireland and its commitment to seek to guarantee the rights of EU citizens who are already living in Britain, and the rights of British nationals in other member states, as early possible. We note and welcome the UK Government's intention to seek to ensure that workers' rights are fully protected and maintained.

We believe that it is of considerable economic, cultural and social importance to ensure that skilled archaeologists are able to move freely between the UK and Ireland and work in both jurisdictions. There is a long tradition of mobility, with many archaeological practitioners, academics and businesses regularly working in both jurisdictions.

With a strengthening construction sector in Ireland and a planned programme of major infrastructure in the UK there is a high demand for skilled archaeologists which will outstrip supply unless the archaeology sector on both islands is able to react

flexibly and creatively. In addition to the strong business case for an East-West and North-South border that remains porous to the skilled, professional archaeologist, a less collaborative approach would damage the presently strong links on the island of Ireland, where researchers cooperate to discover and explain a shared prehistory and history, engaging communities in exploration of a common past.

We realise that archaeology is but one profession with concerns about the movement of skilled labour, and that decisions will be taken in a broad context. Nonetheless, we urge you to ensure that the needs of archaeology, as one of the skilled professions, are addressed in any negotiations. If agreement in principle can be achieved, the framework for implementation exists. Both our professional institutes have accreditation processes with systems for accrediting archaeological competence and professionalism and each has members in Ireland and in the UK (CifA has members in over 30 countries). We are examining the scope for read-across between our two approaches, and we are confident that we could develop a robust, reliable, fair and transparent scheme for mutual recognition of professional qualifications.

We were grateful for the opportunity to attend a recent event held by Ireland's Department for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs last month. Similarly, CifA was pleased to be invited to meet with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in London last year. We were able to report a number of our concerns at these meetings, where we asked for;

1. archaeology to be considered in discussions about free movement of skilled labour across the UK-EU border in Ireland
2. recognition that archaeology is a valuable profession contributing to economic, cultural and environmental sustainability
3. identification of our two institutes as the appropriate organisations to advise on and develop a mutual recognition scheme for professional qualifications in archaeology
4. a commitment to engaging with us at the appropriate time.

In the meantime, if there is anything further that we can do to assist, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Michael MacDonagh
MA MIAI
Chair, IAI
iaiarcheology@gmail.com



Peter Hinton
BA MCifA FRSA FSA FIAM FSA Scot
Chief Executive, CifA
peter.hinton@archaeologists.net

CC: Katherine Licken (*Dept. for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, IE*)
Leo O-Reilly (*Dept. of Communities, NI*)
Giles Smith (*Dept. of Culture, Media and Sport, UK*)
Nimra Zaheer (*Dept. of Culture, Media and Sport, UK*)
Adrian Corley (*Dept. of Culture, Media and Sport, UK*)
Sarah Healey (*Dept. for Exiting the European Union, UK*)
James Chapman (*Dept. for Exiting the European Union, UK*)
Brexit@taoiseach.gov.ie
allislanddialogue@dfa.ie