

Northern Ireland Advisory Committee

Role of Chair

The role of the Chair is to advise the Country Director in a non-executive capacity to maximise the impact that British Council can make in and for Northern Ireland. The Chair leads the Northern Ireland Advisory Committee to fulfil its purpose and objectives as set out in the Terms of Reference.

Main Duties:

- Leading the Committee to fulfil its purpose and objectives outlined in the Terms of Reference
- Chairing Committee meetings, normally three a year
- Acting as an advocate for the British Council's work in Northern Ireland and in the UK as a whole
- Hosting and speaking from time to time at events organised by British Council Northern Ireland
- Attending other relevant British Council meetings and functions
- Reviewing the papers for six Board of Trustees meetings a year and providing comments to the Chair of one of the three Country Advisory Committees currently serving on the British Council's Board of Trustees
- Attending the annual meeting of the Chairs of the three Country Advisory Committees with the Chair of the British Council

The Chair is appointed for a three-year term, renewable for a further three years. Country Advisory Committee Chairs are co-opted on a rotating basis to serve on the British Council Board of Trustees for a two-year period, representing all three Country Advisory Committees (this may at times be virtually). Roles on the Northern Ireland Advisory Committee are not remunerated but reasonable expenses will be reimbursed at standard British Council rates.

When serving on the Board of Trustees, the duties are:

- Preparing for, and full participation, in six Board of Trustees meetings a year in London (at times meetings may be held virtually) and an away day
- Acting in a representative role by consulting the Chairs of the other two Country Advisory Committees in advance of Board of Trustees meetings (virtually or otherwise)
- Presenting a short note summarising key opportunities, risks and issues arising from each Committee at Board of Trustees meetings. This note is included in the Chair of the British Council's written report to the Board of Trustees
- Making a brief report during Board of Trustees meetings and feeding back to the Chairs of the other two Country Advisory Committees

Person specification

- Experience of a senior role within a major private, public or voluntary sector organisation in a management and/or Board capacity
- Significant recent experience in one or more of the three pillars (core business areas) of British Council activity – Arts & Culture, Education, and English and Exams
- Varied range of contacts in Northern Ireland
- Belief in, understanding and knowledge of, what Northern Ireland can contribute on the world stage
- Capacity to act as a 'critical friend' to Northern Ireland Country Director
- Highly effective communication skills
- Understanding and knowledge of one or more of the main geographical regions in which the British Council works
- Strong international background and/or interests
- Excellent interpersonal skills