



Political Programme and Constitution of the Irish Freedom Party

1. Name: The name of the party in English shall be “Irish Freedom Party” and in Irish, “Cumann na Saoirse”

2. Objectives

“Irish Freedom Party” is a political party and a national movement of the Irish people which has as its primary objective the re-establishment of the national independence and sovereignty of Ireland and the restoration of national democracy to be achieved through leaving the European Union.

We believe that an exit from the European Union will permit the Irish People to take back control of

- Law-making
- Citizenship
- Currency
- Trade policy
- Borders and immigration policy
- Taxation and budget policy
- Sea-fisheries and marine resources
- Human rights under the Irish Supreme Court
- Foreign and security policy and enable the maintenance of a meaningful military neutrality.

Irish Freedom Party supports all democratic endeavours to achieve the consent of the voters of Northern Ireland for a re-united and independent Ireland under the control of the Irish people and not that of either London or Brussels.

Ireland is necessary to prevent a second Partition of Ireland being implemented by the addition of new EU dimensions to the North-South border and the consequent creation of major new obstacles in the way of securing consent to future Irish reunification.

3. Principles

The secondary objectives of Irish Freedom Party are contained in the following principles:

1. Irish Freedom Party will support all efforts to strengthen the Irishness of Ireland, in particular its language and distinctive cultural and historical traditions;
2. We believe in a society of liberty with a free and diverse media which supports free speech,

freedom of association and freedom of religion;

3. We believe in reduced taxation on Irish citizens and less wasteful government spending;
4. We believe in a progressive tax system rewarding work, initiative and merit;
5. We defend the separation of powers in the State and oppose the political / media hegemony that allows political and institutional corruption to flourish;
6. As no nation has a future without children, as a patriotic party we are pro-natalist and supportive of stable families for the procreation, education and rearing of children;
7. We believe in the equality of all Irish citizens before the law, oppose racism and sexism and the dominance of public policy by vested interests and privileged “golden circles”;
8. As Irish people have no land to call their home but Ireland, we believe in the protection of the the Irish language, culture and the natural environment. We hold that Ireland is our home, not an economic hostel, and that the Irish diaspora has a special part to play in building up our country;
9. We believe that Ireland’s natural and financial resources should be utilised for the betterment of the life of the Irish people;
10. We believe that the Irish people should have the right to control our currency, our laws and our borders;
11. We believe that no institution or government except Dáil Éireann should make the national laws, approve the budget applicable to the people of Ireland;
12. We hold that the power to implement democratic change should be returned to the Irish people from the European Union and we are supportive of direct democracy including referenda for important public decision-making to the greatest practicable extent in our constitutional democracy.

4. Methods

Irish Freedom Party shall seek to promote these objectives by:

- Winning majority support for them amongst the Irish people so that they become the policy of an Irish Government;
- Organising local Cumainn in support of them;
- Publishing material, holding meetings, engaging in national and social media and encouraging public discussion in support of them;
- Contesting where appropriate local, national, presidential and European elections by nominating candidates;
- Participating and campaigning in national referenda where appropriate;
- Co-operating with other organisations in matters of common concern and accepting affiliation from appropriate bodies as may be decided;
- Supporting the democratic principle of the self-determination of nations on a European and world scale and cooperating with democratic parties, movements, organisations and institutions in other countries that share similar objectives;
- Raising funds and inviting contributions from legal or natural persons to the extent and limits established by law.

Rules of Irish Freedom Party

1. Organisation:

The organisation of the Irish Freedom Party shall comprise

- The Ard Chomhairle or the National Executive
- Cumainn or local branches
- The Ard Fheis or Party Conference

2. Membership

Membership of Irish Freedom Party shall be open to

- All Irish citizens who are bona fide supporters of its aims, objectives and methods;
- Persons who agree in writing to its founding programme and to abide by the terms of this Constitution and pay the annual subscription fee as set by the Ard Chomhairle and remain 'members in good standing' in the judgement of the Ard Chomhairle (National Executive Council)

Members who are "in good standing" shall receive a membership card and Party newsletter and shall be entitled to vote in all relevant internal Party elections or ballots. By entering into membership the Member agrees with the founding political programme and that he or she will abide by the terms of this Constitution and the Rules of the Party.

All matters of party membership, expulsion and suspension shall be decided by the Ard Chomhairle. The Cathaoirleach (Chairman or woman) of the Ard Chomhairle may make these decisions initially and there will be a right of appeal to the full Ard Chomhairle.

Associate Membership

Persons who are supportive of Irish Freedom Party and who do not wish to become active members of the organisation may be enrolled as associate members of a Cumann in the Constituency in which they reside.

Associate members may also pay a regular contribution to the funds of the Cumann in accordance with national legislation, and when called upon give such active assistance as possible.

Associate members shall not have a vote in party elections, nor can they stand for Party office.

Persons irrespective of nationality or residence supportive of Irish Freedom Party may also become associate members.

3. The Ard Chomhairle (National Executive Council)

The Party's members and Cumainn shall all be represented collectively on the Party's Ard Chomhairle (National Executive Council), the Party's senior executive body, which shall take key strategic and organisational decisions for the Party and be elected at the Party's Ard Fheis.

The Ard Fheis or Annual Conference of members shall elect an Ard Chomhairle of not less than seven members which shall meet at least four times a year and be responsible for the management of the affairs of the organisation between annual Ard Fheiseanna. Only members of six months standing shall be eligible for election to the Ard Chomhairle for two years after the foundation of Irish Freedom Party.

The Ard Chomhairle may delegate its functions to such officers and sub-committees as it may decide, one of the latter being a National Standing Committee which shall function on behalf of the Ard Chomhairle between its meetings.

The Ard Chomhairle shall be assisted by a Constituency Delegate Committee which shall consist of two delegates from each Dáil and Northern Ireland constituency elected by members or local branches in these constituencies when these are established. Such delegates may meet twice a year or more often to advise and assist the Ard Chomhairle.

The Ard Chomhairle may co-opt members to fill the places of those unable to continue to serve on it. Sub-committees may co-opt such additional members as may be necessary for the conduct of their work, subject to the general control of the Ard Chomhairle.

4. Cumainn

Irish Freedom Party shall be organised on the basis of local branches known as Cumainn. Each Dáil and Northern Ireland constituency shall have at least one Cumann when established. It shall be the duty of a Cumann and the members thereof to:

- Abide by the spirit of the Constitution and the Rules of the organization;
- Promote the ideals and interests of Irish Freedom Party in its area, and secure public support for its programme;
- Endeavour to increase its membership to include all supporters of Irish Freedom Party in its area;
- Help to carry out specific instructions as may from time to time be transmitted to it from party bodies with authority to do so.

Cumann Officers:

Cumann of the party shall consist of a minimum of 10 members situated in one locality, seven of whom shall be the Branch officers. Cumainn shall be set up under the direction of the Ard Chomhairle.

They shall be elected at a general meeting of all the cumann members which shall be held each year

The Cumann Committee, hereafter referred to as the Coiste, shall consist of the following officers:

- An Cathaoirleach (Chair)
- An Rúnaí Oinigh (Secretary)
- An Cisteoir Oinigh (Treasurer)

and the following ordinary members:

- An Leas-Chathaoirleach (Vice-chair)
- An Leas-Rúnaí (Assistant Secretary)
- Oifigeach an Chaidrimh Phoiblí (Public Relations Officer)
- Oifigeach Baillríochta agus Siamsa (Membership and Entertainment Officer)
- Oifigeach Ginearálta (General Officer).

The Cumann may also elect an honorary president.

Cumainn may also be established in countries outside of Ireland to support the work of Irish Freedom Party at home, on such a basis as may be directed by the Ard Chomhairle.

An ordinary meeting of a Cumann shall be held at least once a month.

Duties of Cumann Officers:

Cathaoirleach (Chair):

The Cathaoirleach (Chair) shall oversee the general running of the Cumann and shall be answerable to the Coiste. The Cathaoirleach shall be ex-officio chair of all Cumann sub-committees, in which case the Cathaoirleach may delegate to a sub-committee vice-chair.

Rúnaí Oinigh (Secretary)

The Rúnaí Oinigh (Secretary) shall be responsible for the correspondence of the Cumann and shall keep a record of it, and shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Cumann and the Coiste. All Cumann records, including minutes of meetings and membership data, shall be kept by the Rúnaí Oinigh.

The Rúnaí Oinigh shall procure guest lecturers for Cumann meetings to encourage political discussion among its members and shall inform members of upcoming events and co-operate with the Oifigeach Chaidrimh Phoiblí in representing the Cumann to the press and in maintaining and operating the Cumann Website/Facebook page.

Cisteoir Oinigh (Treasurer)

The Cisteoir Oinigh (Treasurer) shall be responsible for the collection of subscriptions and the maintenance of accounts and shall have the duty of conducting routine communications on financial matters including the provision of estimates of expenditure.

The Cisteoir Oinigh, the Rúnaí Oinigh and the Cathaoirleach shall be jointly responsible for the financial affairs of the Cumann.

The Cisteoir Oinigh shall close the accounts on March 31st of each year and thereafter as soon as may be possible shall arrange for the accounts to be audited.

All cheques and withdrawal forms from the Cumann's bank account shall be signed by two of the designated officers: the Cathaoirleach, the Cisteoir Oinigh and the Rúnaí Oinigh.

Duties of ordinary members of the Coiste

The ordinary members of the Coiste shall be delegated any other duties by the Cathaoirleach as may be seen fit.

- The Leas-Rúnaí (Assistant Secretary) shall assist the Rúnaí in all of their above listed duties.
- The Leas-Chathaoirleach (Vice-chair) shall chair meetings of the Cumann and the Coiste in the absence of the Cathaoirleach and maintain and operate the Cumann library and records.
- The Oifigeach Chaidrimh Phoiblí (Public Relations Officer) shall publicise events for the Cumann and in co-operation with the Rúnaí Oinigh shall represent the Cumann to the press and maintain and operate the Cumann Website/Social Media page. The Oifigeach Chaidrimh Phoiblí shall have at their disposal the assistance of the Oifigeach Ginearálta in executing their responsibilities if so required.
- The Oifigeach Baillríochta agus Siamsa (Membership and Entertainments Officer) shall take responsibility for recruitment to the Cumann throughout the year, and shall in association with the Oifigeach Chaidrimh Phoiblí develop the presence of the Cumann in the local area. He/She shall also have special responsibility for the integration of new members into the Cumann. He/She shall also organise social events during the year internally and shall represent the Coiste in organising social events with other Cumann and societies, subject to the discretion of the Coiste.

- The Oifigeach Ginearálta (General Officer) shall assist all members of the Coiste in the execution of their responsibilities, and may be delegated other duties not specifically listed here by the Cathaoirleach.

5. The Ard Fheis

Control of the organisation shall be vested in its members through an Ard Fheis, an annual Delegate Conference based on representation from the Cumainn.

Policy resolutions relevant to the organisation's objectives shall be decided by majority vote of the Ard Fheis.

Voting at the Ard Fheis shall be restricted to representative delegates of the Cumainn of the party. At the first Ard Fheis in 2018 all ordinary members of Irish Freedom Party may vote.

Following the Party's first Ard Fheis where all ordinary members may vote, at subsequent Ard Fheiseanna voting will be restricted to Cumainn delegates. The party officer positions will be voted upon at each annual Ard Fheis.

Cumainn of the organisation shall send voting delegates to the annual conference in proportion to the number of their members, this proportion being decided for each annual conference separately according to circumstances.

Individual members may attend annual conferences, but after the 2018 founding Ard Fheis non-delegates may not vote except where they represent districts where no Cumann is established, where they may be grouped with other individual members as a constituency Cumann for voting purposes.

Affiliated organisations may send observers

The founding Ard Fheis shall elect persons to the following positions:

- Uachtarán (President)
- Cathaoirleach (Chairman or chairwoman) of the party,
- Rúnaí Oinigh (Secretary)
- Cisteoir Oinigh (Treasurer)
- Director of Communications
- National Organiser
- Other officers as it considers appropriate.

Duties of the Elected Officials

Uachtarán:

The elected Uachtarán shall have the freedom to appoint the party Leas-Uachtarán (deputy president);

He or she shall make or approve national statements of the Party's policies and the manner of their communication and shall have full responsibility for publicly communicating Irish Freedom Party policies with the help of the Director of Communications and others whom the Uachtarán shall appoint as spokesmen and women on various topics;

He or she shall have the right to be a full member of all sub-committees and working groups set up by the Ard Comhairle.

Cathaoirleach:

The Cathaoirleach shall chair the Ard Chomhairle meetings and ensure that these are properly conducted;

He or she shall be responsible for maintaining accurate databases of membership and for safeguarding such databases within the terms of data protection legislation;

The Cathaoirleach shall be responsible for the exclusion, suspension and expulsion of party applicants or members under the supervision of the Ard Chomhairle to which appeals on such matters may be made.

He or she will direct the national organiser in setting up Irish Freedom Party Cumainn around Ireland; The Cathaoirleach shall be responsible for ensuring that all efforts are made to have an active and properly constituted organisation of the Party in every constituency, financially able to support election campaigns.

Rúnaí (Secretary):

The Party secretary will be responsible for receiving and sending correspondence about internal party matters, especially concerning membership and events. He or she shall keep a record of all important correspondence.

Cisteoir (Treasurer):

The accounts of the organisation shall be audited annually and be the responsibility of the Treasurer. The Treasurer may be assisted in account administration and fund-raising activities by others whom he or she may call on. The party in Northern Ireland shall be legally and financially distinct from that in the South for the sole reason of the requirement of legal recognition in each part of Ireland.

Director of Communications

The Director of Communications shall develop, coordinate and manage all public, general and media communications under the direction of the Uachtarán;

National Organiser

It shall be the role of the National Organiser under the direction of the Cathaoirleach to help build up the structure of Cumainn around Ireland.

Honorary Chairperson:

An Honorary Chairperson of the party may also be elected at the Ard Fheis in recognition of their national achievements or notable abilities. This person may attend National Executive meetings in an advisory capacity but shall not have a vote or any Executive function.

6. Discipline

All applications for membership shall be subject to the approval of the Ard Chomhairle after the first Ard Fheis and onwards. In the event of any member, branch or group of members acting in a manner detrimental to the organisation or in such a manner as to bring it into public discredit, the Ard Chomhairle may intervene and suspend or expel such a member or group of members.

The Cathaoirleach has the right to suspend or expel a member or group of members, who in turn have the right of final appeal in writing to the Ard Chomhairle.

7. Change of constitution

The provisions of this Constitution may be altered by a two-thirds majority vote of any Ard Fheis or of a special Conference that may be called for this purpose. The interpretation of these provisions and the making of arrangements for matters not specifically laid down in them shall be the responsibility of the Ard Chomhairle.

8. No-confidence motions

A motion of no-confidence in an Ard Chomhairle office holder may be proposed before the Ard Chomhairle. For it to pass no less than half the members of the Ard Chomhairle shall vote in favour of the motion. The Party Cathaoirleach (Chairman) shall have a casting vote in the normal way.

In the event of a motion of no-confidence in the Uachtarán being passed by the Ard Chomhairle, the Party Secretary shall call an EGM of members of the Party, such EGM to be held within 28 days of the passing of the motion. The Ard Chomhairle may from time to time make Rules as to the conduct of such an EGM. Such an EGM shall have as its only business a motion to endorse or to reject such a vote of no-confidence in the Uachtarán by the Ard Chomhairle, and elect a new Uachtarán.

9. Approved candidate lists

The Party shall establish lists of approved candidates for election to public office. The Ard Chomhairle may from time to time make such rules as it deems fit for the establishment of such lists. Persons holding elective office shall have no automatic right to reselection or to a place on such approved candidate lists.

10. Deposit of constitution

This Political Programme and Constitution of Irish Freedom Party, hereafter referred to as the party Bunreacht, shall be placed on the party web-site and all members shall be regularly informed of its existence and provisions.

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