

23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2015

Ambassador Dominick Chilcott  
British Ambassador to Ireland  
c/o The British Embassy  
29 Merrion Road  
Ballsbridge  
Dublin 4

Dear Ambassador Chilcott

I am writing to you to express the deep concerns of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions in relation to the provisions of the Trade Union Bill in the United Kingdom.

Congress wishes to add our voice to the very serious concerns already raised by the Trades Union Congress, in this regard.

As you may be aware, Congress is the sole trade union federation on the island of Ireland and represents working people in both jurisdictions and in all sectors of both economies.

While we take note of the commitment that the provisions of the bill will not be enacted in Northern Ireland, Congress nevertheless believes that some of the proposed changes will negatively impact – directly or indirectly – on the conditions and protections enjoyed by working people across the island.

Congress has broken a precedent of its own and, as far as I am aware, for the first time in our history has made submissions to the consultation process on the Trade Union Bill, being operated by the Department of Business, Innovation & Skills.

Our submissions relate specifically to the provisions in the bill on the setting of ballot thresholds for 'important public services' and proposed restrictions on the right to strike and protest.

Submissions have also been entered through the Northern Ireland Committee of Congress and individual affiliated unions in that jurisdiction.

Congress is of the view that the proposed changes are fundamentally undemocratic and run counter to the UK's commitment to key principles of human rights, and will be seen as such globally.

To that end, we would request a meeting at your earliest possible convenience in order to highlight our very real concerns on this key matter.

Yours sincerely



Patricia King  
GENERAL SECRETARY

pk/es