

Northern Ireland Network



DECEMBER 2013

One of the union's straplines is 'together we are stronger' and this is something that Northern Ireland representatives are putting into practice.

The Park Avenue Hotel in Belfast saw the launch of the 'Prospect Northern Ireland Reps Network'. Nineteen reps from employers as diverse as NATS, AES, NIE, BT and the National Trust met to launch a network for the benefit of the union's local members. Three Prospect visitors took part in the meeting – Clive Scoggins (Negotiations Officer covering many N.I branches) acted as chair, Mike Graham (the union's Head of Organisation and Development) led a discussion on "Building Prospect" and Carol Quinn shared experiences from the union's Wales Network. The aim is that the network will meet three times a year, supplemented by other events such as conference calls on specialist subjects.

The network is intended to enable local reps and relevant union employees to pool our knowledge and resources so that they are in a better position to represent members' very specific needs in Northern Ireland. It should also give the union more capacity to tackle local political and economic issues that affect members. Reps often work in isolation within their own employers and some reps aren't well aware of other employers located close by where Prospect has a voice.

This network should help address that in Northern Ireland.

Get involved - become a rep. Find out more at:-
[www.prospect.org.uk/
becoming_a_member_or_rep](http://www.prospect.org.uk/becoming_a_member_or_rep)



The event covered a wide range of subjects of relevance to local reps. Philip O'Rawe (Communications, Media and Digital Sector Executive member and the union's Northern Ireland Lead Rep) discussed the important developments in connection with the consultation on employment law that took place in Northern Ireland and how organising as a local network Northern Ireland members can better counteract these attacks on employees, share knowledge, resources and think collectively. The union has recently made a submission to the consultation – this can be found via the union's Northern Ireland news page at

http://www.prospect.org.uk/select_an_industry/northern_ireland/



The President of the UK-wide National Trust Prospect Branch, Paul Stewart, highlighted Prospect's support for the successful National Trust-led opposition to the N.I Planning Bill and led a discussion on how Prospect reps from all employers can be encouraged as a group to influence on a wider range of political issues affecting their employers or their region and growing the union's profile and relevance in society.

Clive Scoggins updated those present on the Prospect Pledge (<http://www.prospect.org.uk/pledge>) whereby Prospect members will be encouraged to contact their MLAs and MP and ask them to sign up to policy pledges to help future government achieve stronger and fairer economy. The Pledge will be launched locally at Stormont in a lunchtime event on Tuesday 18th March 2014 and local members are welcome to attend.

The union's education programme was discussed. Those present welcomed the fact that a reps' training course had recently been run in Belfast. There is a clear demand for further training to be held locally, and it is intended to run further training in the early part of 2014

Prospect Branches in Northern Ireland:

**National Air Traffic Services (NATS)
Met Office
Big Lottery Fund
National Trust
Ministry of Defence (MOD)
Ascortiva
AES
Northern Ireland Electricity
SONI
BT
Flybe**

We also have Reps and members within the Northern Ireland Regional branches, sections Aspect, and ALAE.

Recruitment – Anyone can do it

Anyone can recruit new Members into Prospect. If you know of a colleague who isn't a Prospect Member, please talk to them about the Union and what it means to you – a personal recommendation is the best recruitment tool. Prospective Members can get more information and join on-line at:

www.prospect.org.uk/joinus



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