

Minimalist version (based on PD proposal).

1.2     *The people of Ireland [the Republic of Ireland] hereby proclaim their firm will that the whole island of Ireland, its islands and territorial seas, be reunited in harmony and by consent. The laws enacted by the Parliament established by this constitution, until the achievement of unity may otherwise require, shall have the like area and extent of application as the laws of the Parliament which existed prior to the adoption of this Constitution. Provision may be made by law to give extra territorial effect to such laws.*

Radical version:

1. *The name of the state shall be The Republic of Ireland, or in the Irish language .....*

2. *The Republic of Ireland is a sovereign, independent, democratic state.*

3. *Recognising that Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom by virtue of the choice of the majority of the people there, and that any change in the status of Northern Ireland can and should only come about with the consent of the people of Northern Ireland, the people of the Republic of Ireland hereby affirm and proclaim their firm desire that the island of Ireland be re-united in harmony.*

4. *Until the achievement of such unity shall otherwise require the laws enacted by the Parliament established under this constitution shall have the like area and extent of application as the laws of the Parliament which existed prior to the adoption of this constitution. Provision may be made by law to give extra-territorial effect to such laws.*

*Continue. Old 6 becomes new 5, etc.*

Notes:

Article 1 is the old 4, with 'The Republic of Ireland' inserted for 'Eire', which no one uses, and with 'Ireland', which is unclear in its context, dropped.

Article is the old Article 5, ( which says much the same as the old Art 1 in rather fewer words), with 'Republic of Ireland' inserted for 'Ireland'.

Article 3 is wholly new, and replaces the old 2.

Article 4 is more or less the old 3, less the reference to 'the national territory'.

Old Article 1 is replaced by new Article 2.

Old Article 2 is out.

Old Article 3 is ( slightly modified) new Article 4.

Old Article 4 is new Article 1.

Old Article 5 is (slightly modified) new Article 2.

Old Article 6 become new Article 5 etc.

The existing preamble is not very important and has not been dealt with here; it could readily be improved on.

SMcB.