

## Consular Luncheon with Senior PSNI Officials

23 May 2012

**Belfast, NORTHERN IRELAND:** The Consular Association/Corps of Northern Ireland (CA-NI) held a luncheon for its Members with guest speakers Deputy Chief Constable (DCC) Judith Gillespie OBE, Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) George Hamilton and Superintendent Alan Skelton at the Ramada Plaza, Shaw's Bridge.



(C): DCC Judith Gillespie OBE, ACC George Hamilton and Superintendent Alan Skelton with Members of the Consular Association of Northern Ireland (CA-NI)

Discussion focused around the themes of hate crime, trafficking, trends, minority ethnic communities and specific issues, policing in the community, 2013 Police and Fire Games, and improving the engagement between CA-NI and the PSNI. It was also highlighted that with devolution to fully utilise the various Consuls, being official representatives of their foreign government/country and Nationals within Northern Ireland.

The Consular Association of Northern Ireland serves all Foreign Consular Officials (Career and Honorary) in Northern Ireland, with 32 countries formally accredited to Northern Ireland through their "Sending State's" Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the "Receiving State" - Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the UK.

The objectives of CA-NI are to bring its Members together in close and friendly co-operation, for the development and protection of their mutual interests, as well as, representing the Consular Association to Government Departments, other central/local authorities, and internationally within the framework of Consular activities.

**ENDS**

## **NOTES:**

For more information please visit our website: [www.ca-ni.org](http://www.ca-ni.org)

- **President:** Lord Diljit Rana MBE – Hon. Consul for India to Northern Ireland
- **Vice President:** Mrs Regine McCullough – Hon. Consul for France to Northern Ireland
- **Secretariat:** Dr Christopher Stange – Hon. Consul for St. Vincent and the Grenadines to Northern Ireland
- **Treasurer:** Mr Donald Price – Hon. Consul for Denmark to Northern Ireland
- Consuls are appointed to further the interests of the country they represent by encouraging commercial, academic and cultural activities. They also endeavour to assist, and protect the interests of their nationals. All their work is done within the terms of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (VCCR), an International Agreement which was drafted and agreed by the International Law Commission, and signed by the respective Governments on 24th April 1963.
- Consul Generals, Consuls, and other Consular Officials in Northern Ireland, whether they are Career Consuls or Honorary (Hon.) Consuls, are all appointed by the Governments of the Sending States to the Receiving State in the United Kingdom via the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Each official receives a Letter of Commission which is recognised by the Government of the United Kingdom as conferring Consular standing in accordance with the VCCR.