



**Mr Bertie Aherne** retired as Taoiseach (Prime Minister) in May 2008 having been a member of Dáil Éirann (the Irish Parliament) since 1977. He served in several ministerial posts, including Tánaiste (Deputy PM), before becoming Taoiseach in 1997. He also had the honour of serving as Lord Mayor of Dublin from 1986 to 1987.

It has often been stated that his finest achievement was the Good Friday Agreement in 1998, along with Tony Blair. His commitment to finding peace in Northern Ireland was unrelenting, and he witnessed power-sharing become a reality in the north as “The Troubles”, thankfully, became a distant memory.