<u>Press release: PM call with Taoiseach</u> <u>Leo Varadkar: 15 June 2017</u>

The Prime Minister spoke to Leo Varadkar on the phone earlier today to offer her congratulations on becoming Taoiseach.

The Taoiseach expressed his deepest sympathies for recent tragic events and said the thoughts of the Irish people were with the people of London at this time.

Both leaders agreed on the importance of continued cooperation between the 2 countries and the Prime Minister said she was personally committed to a close and special partnership with Ireland as the UK embarks on leaving the European Union.

They also spoke about a crucial need for the parties in Northern Ireland to come together to form a fully functioning Executive by 29 June and how both leaders would continue to engage closely on this important issue.

The Prime Minister also emphasised her steadfast commitment to the Belfast Agreement and its successors and the two leaders agreed to meet in person at the earliest possible opportunity.