

Great Britain      England  
United Kingdom      Ireland  
Northern Ireland      Wales  
Republic of Ireland      Ulster  
Scotland      Commonwealth



1. Halbjahr 2025  
*English Intensive Week B1*  
251-40692, Mo-Fr, 08.45 – 14.00 Uhr



## Geographical

**Great Britain**, also known as **Britain**, is an island in the North Atlantic off the north-west coast of continental Europe. The island has an area of 229,848 km<sup>2</sup>, and is the largest island of the **British Isles**, the largest island in Europe and the ninth-largest in the world. With a population of about 67 million people, it is the third-most populous island in the world, after Java (Indonesia) and Honshu (Japan). It is surrounded by over 1,000 smaller islands. The island of **Ireland** lies to its west.



## Great Britain - Political

The island is part of the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**, constituting most of its territory: most of **England**, **Scotland**, and **Wales** are on the island, with their respective capital cities, **London**, **Edinburgh**, and **Cardiff**.





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## Ireland - Geographical

**Ireland** is an island in the North Atlantic to the west of Great Britain, from which it is separated by the North Channel, the Irish Sea, and St Georges Channel. It is the second-largest island of the British Isles archipelago. It is the third-largest island in Europe and the twentieth-largest island on Earth.



## Ireland - Political

Politically, Ireland is divided between the Republic of Ireland, which covers five-sixths of the island, and Northern Ireland (also called Ulster), a part of the United Kingdom, which covers the remaining area and is located in the north-east of the island. The population of Ireland is about 6.9 million. About 5 million live in the Republic of Ireland and just over 1.9 million live in Northern Ireland.



## The United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland - Heads of State -

### King Charles III



as the successor to Queen Elizabeth II Charles is the Head of State of the United Kingdom and as such the Head of State of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (Ulster) as well as 14 further sovereign states designated Commonwealth Realms and including Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

In addition, he is the Head of the Commonwealth of Nations comprising 56 states.

King Charles' family name is **Mountbatten-Windsor**. Mountbatten is the anglicised variant of his fathers family name Battenberg. The family name of Queen Elizabeth II was **Windsor**.

### Michael D. Higgins



is a member of the Irish Labour Party and has been the 9th President of the Republic of Ireland since 11 November 2011. In the Republic of Ireland the President is elected by the people, which is different from Germany where the President is elected by the Federal Assembly (Bundesversammlung) comprising all MPs and elected delegates from the German Länder.



## The United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland - Heads of Government -



As the successor to Rishi Sunak **Sir Keir Rodney Starmer** is the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and as such the Head of Government of the UK and England. Aged 62 he is a member of the British Labour Party.



**John Swinney** is the Head of Government of Scotland. Designated First Minister the title is a deliberate distinction from the Prime Minister, the head of government for the whole of the United Kingdom.

## The United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland - Heads of Government -



**Eluned Morgan**, First Minister of Wales, has been the Head of Government of Wales since August 2024. In the UK countries, all Heads of Government are appointed by the King.



First Minister **Michelle O'Neill**, a member of the Sinn Féin Party, is the Head of Government of Northern Ireland.



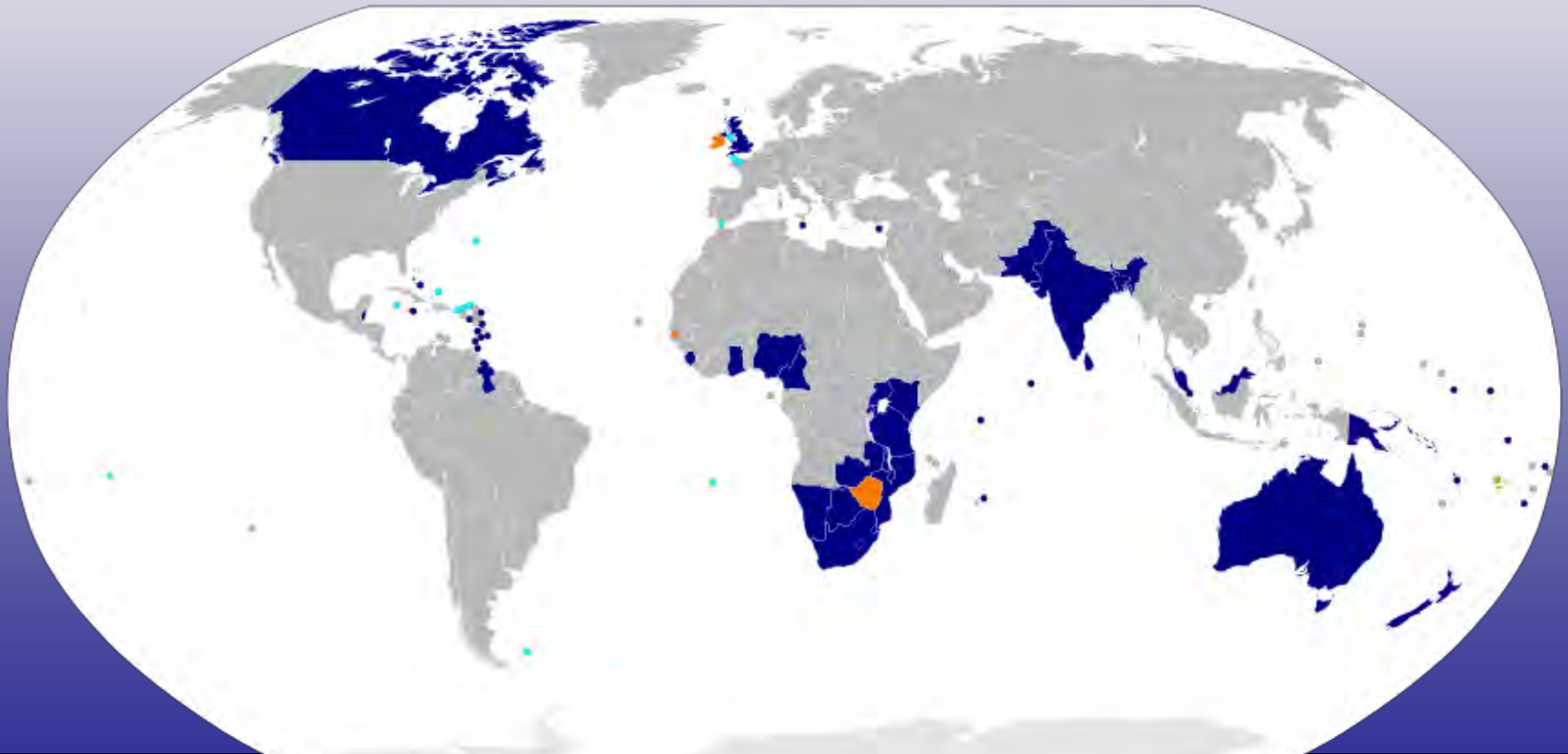
As the **Taoiseach** (pronounce: tea-shoch) **Simon Harris** is the Head of Government and Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland.

(Remember: The Republic of Ireland is an independent country and not a part of the United Kingdom.)

## **Commonwealth of Nations**



The **Commonwealth of Nations**, commonly known as **the Commonwealth** (formerly the **British Commonwealth**), is an intergovernmental organisation of 53 member states that were mostly territories of the former British Empire. The Commonwealth operates by intergovernmental consensus of the member states, organised through the Commonwealth Secretariat, and non-governmental organisations, organised through the Commonwealth Foundation.



The **Commonwealth** dates back to the mid 20th century with the decolonisation of the British Empire through increased self-governance of its territories. It was formally constituted by the London Declaration in 1949, which established the member states as "free and equal". The symbol of this free association is **King Charles III who is the Head of the Commonwealth**.

Member states have no legal obligation to one another. Instead, they are united by language, history, culture, and their shared values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.





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**Questions**

Which countries are part of Great Britain?

*England, Scotland and Wales*

Which countries are part of the United Kingdom?

*England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland/Ulster*

The German head of government is referred to as the Federal Chancellor. And the Welsh one?

*First Minister*

What is the capital of Scotland?

*Edinburgh*

Who is the head of state of Canada?

*King Charles III*

How many countries does the Commonwealth comprise?

*56*

What is the head of state of the Republic of Ireland referred to?

*President*

What is the family name of King Charles III??

*Mountbatten-Windsor*