

Northern Ireland political party agrees to end 2-year boycott that caused the government to collapse

The breakthrough came after the U.K. government last week gave Northern Ireland politicians until Feb. 8 to restore the collapsed government in Belfast or face new elections.

Northern Ireland's largest British unionist party has agreed to end a boycott that left the region's people without a power-sharing administration for two years, it said Tuesday — a breakthrough that could see the shuttered Belfast government restored within days.

After a late-night meeting, Democratic Unionist Party leader Jeffrey Donaldson said the party's executive has backed proposals to return to the government. He said agreements reached with the U.K. government in London "provide a basis for our party to nominate members to the Northern Ireland Executive, thus seeing the restoration of the locally elected institutions."

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