

Northern Ireland forms new govt 1 tweet at a time

May 14 2011

(AP) -- Chalk up another first for Twitter: It's now helped to form a whole government.

The five parties in Northern Ireland's government took turns Friday picking the government departments they want to lead for the next four-year term. And they announced their choices to the world and each other live via the social [media platform](#).

The major Protestant party, the Democratic Unionists, went first and chose the powerful Finance Department. The Irish nationalist Sinn Fein went second and chose Education. Within a half-hour all 10 government ministries were parceled out.

It's reckoned to be the first time that any government has used [Twitter](#) as the vehicle for managing its formation.

More information: Northern Ireland Executive live picks, [http://twitter.com/\(number sign/hash\)!/niexecutive](http://twitter.com/(number sign/hash)!/niexecutive)

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