



Communiqué

26th Summit – Crowne Plaza Hotel, Glasgow, 17 June 2016

The British-Irish Council held its 26th Summit meeting today hosted by the Scottish Government in Glasgow. The heads of delegation were welcomed to the Crowne Plaza Hotel by the First Minister of Scotland, the Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP, on behalf of the Scottish Government.

The Irish Government delegation was led by An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD. The UK Government delegation was led by the Rt Hon David Mundell MP, Secretary of State for Scotland. The Northern Ireland Executive's delegation was led by the First Minister, Mrs. Arlene Foster MLA and the deputy First Minister, Mr. Martin McGuinness MLA. The Welsh Government delegation was led by First Minister, the Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM. The Isle of Man Government delegation was led by the Chief Minister, Hon Allan Bell MHK. The Government of Jersey delegation was led by the Chief Minister, Senator Ian Gorst, and the Government of Guernsey by the Chief Minister, Deputy Gavin St Pier. A full list of delegation members is attached.

The British-Irish Council (BIC) was established under the 1998 Multi-Party Agreement and plays a unique and important role in developing and furthering links between its Member Administrations. It provides a forum for exchange of information and collaboration on matters of mutual interest and it fosters positive, practical relationships across these islands.

The Council observed a minute's silence following the death of Jo Cox, MP for Batley and Spen, and offered condolences to her family.

Priorities for Member Administrations

The Council reflected on recent elections across a number of Member Administrations, and discussed how the Council could continue to promote cooperation on issues of mutual interest such as economic progress in Member Administrations, education and closing the attainment gap, housing and healthcare. The Council also noted there might be scope for new areas of cooperation based on emerging priorities across these islands. The Council discussed the forthcoming referendum on the UK's membership of the EU.

Carers: Supporting people who provide unpaid care in the home

Ministers with particular responsibility for unpaid carers met in advance of the Summit to consider a detailed paper prepared by the Council's Social Inclusion work sector. The discussion was then taken forward by Heads of Administration, where the Council agreed that carers are an integral part of society, caring for family, friends and neighbours affected by physical or mental illness, disability, frailty or substance misuse. The Council noted that whilst caring can be a positive and rewarding experience, high-intensity caring in particular can result in poor carer health, both physically and mentally. Across Member Administrations, carers' policy sits within a wider context of tackling economic, health and social inequalities and, with regard to young carers, within the holistic, child-at-the-centre approach. The Council reflected on the benefits of preventative approaches rather than crisis-led responses, as well as greater integration of services at a local level.

The Council agreed that further action is required to support carers. Member Administrations committed to working together in order to further their knowledge and understanding of good practice in supporting carers, especially with regard to young carers and older carers; carer identification; and telecare, telehealth and assistive technology. Member Administrations will work with partners in the statutory and third sectors, in communities and in academia to take forward this agenda. The work sector paper will be published on the BIC website.

BIC Review

The Scottish Government updated the Council on the work done in advance of the Summit to take forward the BIC Review. The Council agreed to examine whether there are common policy objectives in emerging and established Programmes for Government across Member Administrations and whether there is scope for further collaboration. The Council also agreed the introduction of a Task and Finish approach to the work of the current BIC work sectors to ensure continued relevance and endorsed the Forward Work Plan agreed by Collaborative Spatial Planning work sector. Work on the review will now be progressed by the Welsh Government in advance of the next Summit.

BIC Secretariat

The Council noted the Secretariat's end of year report and agreed a new Council Communications Plan for the period 2016-18. It welcomed the publication of the BIC Annual Report 2015.

Date and Location of the Next Summit Meeting

The Council noted that the next BIC Summit would be hosted by the Welsh Government.

BIC Secretariat

17 June 2016

List of Ministerial Delegates

UK Government	
Secretary of State for Scotland	Rt Hon David Mundell MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland	Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP
Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP	Minister of State for Community and Social Care
Irish Government	
An Taoiseach	Mr Enda Kenny TD
Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People	Ms Helen McEntee TD
Northern Ireland Executive	
First Minister	Mrs Arlene Foster MLA
deputy First Minister	Mr Martin McGuinness MLA
Junior Minister, The Executive Office	Ms Megan Fearon MLA
Scottish Government	
First Minister	Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs	Ms Fiona Hyslop MSP
Minister for Public Health and Sport	Ms Aileen Campbell MSP
Welsh Government	
First Minister	Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM
Minister for Social Services and Public Health	Ms Rebecca Evans AM
Isle of Man Government	
Chief Minister	Hon Allan Bell CBE MHK
Minister for Health and Social Care	Hon Howard Quayle MHK
Government of Jersey	
Chief Minister	Senator Ian Gorst
Assistant Chief Minister	Senator Paul Routier MBE
Minister for External Relations	Senator Sir Philip Bailhache
Government of Guernsey	
Chief Minister	Deputy Gavin St Pier
Assistant Chief Minister for Social Policy	Deputy Jane Stephens