



**36th British-Irish Council Summit, Welsh Government
19 November 2021**

Communiqué

The British-Irish Council (BIC) held its 36th Summit meeting today hosted by the Welsh Government. The heads of delegation were welcomed by the First Minister of Wales, the Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS, who welcomed the opportunity to use Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-Used (IML) Languages in this Summit meeting. First Minister Drakeford extended a particular welcome to Jane Poole-Wilson MHK who attended her inaugural British-Irish Council Summit as Deputy Chief Minister of the Isle of Man. A full list of Ministerial participants is attached.

Latest Political Developments

The Council reflected on the latest political developments across their jurisdictions, and took the opportunity to engage on a number of topics of mutual interest, including the economy, trade, ongoing relations with the EU and the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26). Ministers discussed the continuing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the progress of post-pandemic recovery programmes.

Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-Used Languages (IML) and Early Years Policy

In advance of the Summit meeting, Ministers with particular responsibility for IML languages met to discuss IML language acquisition in the early years. The Council held a further discussion on IML Languages and Early Years Policy during the Summit meeting to reflect on challenges and opportunities for policy approaches in this area. The Council also took the opportunity to discuss the recent work of the Council across all of its work sectors and to take note of the ongoing collaborative work being carried out by officials.

British-Irish Council reforms

The Ministers took note of the progress made in the implementation of proposals agreed at the 35th BIC Summit in Northern Ireland in June 2021, including the formation of a Senior Officials Group, and adoption of a protocol for extraordinary Summit meetings.

Next Summit Meeting

The Council noted that the next BIC Summit will be hosted by the Government of Guernsey.

BIC Secretariat

19 November 2021

List of Ministerial Delegates

Welsh Government	
First Minister	Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS
Minister for Education and Welsh Language	Jeremy Miles MS
Government of Guernsey	
Treasury Minister	Deputy Mark Helyar
Irish Government	
An Taoiseach	Micheál Martin TD
An Tánaiste	Leo Varadkar TD
Isle of Man Government	
Deputy Chief Minister	Jane Poole-Wilson MHK
Government of Jersey	
Chief Minister	Senator John Le Fondré
Minister for External Relations	Senator Ian Gorst
Northern Ireland Executive	
Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs	Edwin Poots MLA
Minister for the Department for Communities	Deirdre Hargey MLA
Junior Minister in the Executive	Gary Middleton MLA
Scottish Government	
First Minister	Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy	Kate Forbes MSP
UK Government	
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and Minister for Intergovernmental Relations	Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State for Wales	Rt Hon Simon Hart MP
Minister of State for Northern Ireland	Conor Burns MP