



40th British-Irish Council Summit, Government of Ireland

24 November 2023

Communiqué

The British-Irish Council (BIC) held its 40th Summit meeting today hosted by the Government of Ireland. The meeting was chaired by Taoiseach Leo Varadkar on behalf of the Government of Ireland. A full list of Ministerial participants is attached.

Latest Political Developments

In the year of the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, Ministers took the opportunity to reflect on the lasting impact of the agreement, and the importance of the British-Irish Council as one of the interlocking and interdependent institutions established under the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement.

The Council also reflected on the latest developments across their administrations, and took the opportunity to engage on a number of topics of mutual interest including the situation in Israel and occupied Palestinian territories, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, shared climate objectives, the EU-UK relationship and the cost of living.

The Council discussed political developments in Northern Ireland and looked forward to the restoration of enduring devolved power-sharing institutions in Northern Ireland as soon as possible.

Transforming Children's Lives: Tackling Child Poverty and Improving Wellbeing

The Council discussed the importance of tackling child poverty and improving child wellbeing. In discussion, Heads of Administration considered a range of initiatives underway across the administrations to address the interlinked issues and efforts towards ending child poverty and fostering children's well-being. The Council discussed how these issues can help to achieve broader economic and social benefits.

The Council noted the recent Ministerial meetings of the BIC Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-Used Languages and Early Years work sectors. Ministers also endorsed proposals on the reform of the thematic activity of the Council, and discussed the importance of sharing experience on community cohesion.

Next Summit Meeting

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

**BIC Secretariat
24 November 2023**

BIC OFFICIAL

List of Ministerial Delegates

Government of Ireland	
Taoiseach	Leo Varadkar TD
Tánaiste	Micheál Martin TD
Isle of Man Government	
Chief Minister	Hon Alfred Cannan MHK
Government of Jersey	
Chief Minister	Deputy Kristina Moore
Scottish Government	
First Minister	Rt Hon Humza Yousaf 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 Northern Ireland	Rt Hon Chris Heaton-Harris MP
Welsh Government	
First Minister	Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS