



38th British-Irish Council Summit, UK Government

11 November 2022

Communiqué

The British-Irish Council (BIC) held its 38th Summit meeting today hosted by the UK Government in Blackpool. The Prime Minister opened the 38th British Irish Council Summit Programme, welcoming delegates to Blackpool on Thursday. A full list of Ministerial participants at the Summit meeting is attached.

As part of the programme, Ministers were invited to visit local businesses to set in context discussions at the plenary meeting on sustainable local growth, which the Secretary of State for Levelling Up chaired.

Latest Political Developments

The Council reflected on the latest political developments across their administrations, and took the opportunity to engage on a number of topics of mutual interest. These included the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the impact of the rising cost of living, shared climate and decarbonisation objectives, and ongoing relations with the EU. The Council received an update on Northern Ireland and looked forward to the restoration of the devolved institutions.

The Council also noted that 2023 would mark the 25th anniversary of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, and underlined the importance of supporting the effective functioning of all of the agreement's institutions, including the British-Irish Council.

Sustainable Growth and Regeneration

The Council discussed the topic of sustainable growth and regeneration further during the Summit meeting, considering efforts underway across BIC Member Administrations to stimulate and support sustainable economic growth, the development of more inclusive communities, and to address pressures on housing in particular.

The Council took the opportunity to review recent thematic activity across the BIC's work sectors aimed at supporting thriving local economies and building sustainable and resilient communities. The Council also noted the recent Ministerial meeting of the BIC Social Inclusion work sector, which took place in Cardiff and where Ministers considered how best administrations can support the growth and development of the Social Enterprise sector.

Next Summit Meeting

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

BIC Secretariat

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List of Ministerial Delegates

Government of Guernsey	
Chief Minister	Deputy Peter Ferbrache
Government of Ireland	
Taoiseach	Micheál Martin TD
Isle of Man Government	
Chief Minister	Alfred Cannan MHK
Government of Jersey	
Chief Minister	Kristina Moore
Scottish Government	
First Minister	Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP
Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity	Lorna Slater 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