



## **Communiqué**

### **24<sup>th</sup> Summit – Dublin Castle, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

The 24<sup>th</sup> British-Irish Council Summit was hosted by An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD on behalf of the Irish Government at Dublin Castle today. The UK Government delegation was led by the Foreign Secretary, the Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP. The Northern Ireland Executive was represented by the First Minister, the Rt Hon Peter Robinson MLA and the deputy First Minister, Mr Martin McGuinness MLA. The Scottish Government delegation was led by the First Minister, the Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP. 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 Jonathan Le Tocq. A full list of delegation members is attached.

The British-Irish Council (BIC), established under the 1998 Multi-Party Agreement, continues to play a unique and important role in furthering, promoting and developing links between its Member Administrations through positive, practical relationships and in providing a forum for consultation and exchange of information on matters of mutual interest.

#### **The Economy**

The Council discussed the continuing improving economic situation in Member Administrations, recognising the interdependence and links between their economies.

#### **Misuse of Alcohol**

The Misuse of Substances work sector presented a collaborative paper on the misuse of alcohol, focusing on the economic and social implications of alcohol abuse and the various measures planned to tackle the problem of excessive alcohol consumption. Responding to the paper from the Misuse of Substances work sector, the Council had a detailed discussion on the significant harm being caused by alcohol to individuals, families and society.

The Council agreed that continuing action is required across Member Administrations to protect the health and well-being of the wider public, and especially children, from alcohol misuse. The Council recognised the need for policies that foster protective environments for families and young people and to implement strategies which target high risk groups. There was an exchange of views and information on how Member Administrations are handling issues such as marketing and advertising, minimum pricing and licensing reform.

### **Review of Future Direction and Working of the BIC**

All Member Administrations reaffirmed their commitment to the British-Irish Council and to its key principle of facilitating the development of mutually beneficial relationships between these islands. They recognised the many positive achievements of the BIC to date and agreed that it was timely to update the working of BIC to ensure it best reflects shared priorities for the Member Administrations and delivers for citizens across these islands. They requested that officials, working closely with the Secretariat, review the work sectors' activities and report back on progress to the next Summit in November 2015, as well as review the working of the Council in general.

### **Update on Work Sectors**

The Council received an update on the work that had taken place across each of the twelve work sectors since the last Summit in November 2014. The Council looked forward to a number of Ministerial meetings at work sector level to be held later this year.

The Council also reviewed the latest youth employment statistics across the Administrations and welcomed the further progress being made in this important area.

### **BIC Secretariat**

The Council noted the Secretariat's end-year report against its business plan. It welcomed the publication of the BIC Annual Report 2014.

### **Date and Location of the Next Summit Meeting**

The Council noted that the next BIC Summit would be hosted by the UK Government in November 2015.

**BIC Secretariat**  
**19 June 2015**

### **List of Ministerial Delegates**

<b>Irish Government</b>	
An Taoiseach	Mr Enda Kenny TD
Minister of State for New Communities, Culture, Equality and Drugs Strategy	Mr Aodhán O Riordáin TD
<b>UK Government</b>	
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs	Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland	Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP
Minister of State for Policing, Criminal Justice and Victims	Rt Hon Mike Penning MP
<b>Northern Ireland Executive</b>	
First Minister	Rt Hon Peter Robinson MLA
deputy First Minister	Mr Martin McGuinness MLA
Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety	Mr Simon Hamilton MLA
<b>Scottish Government</b>	
First Minister	Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP
Minister for Public Health	Ms Maureen Watt MSP
<b>Welsh Government</b>	
First Minister	Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM
Deputy Minister for Health	Mr Vaughan Gething AM
<b>Isle of Man Government</b>	
Chief Minister	Hon Allan Bell MHK
Minister for Health and Social Care	Hon Howard Quayle MHK
<b>Government of Jersey</b>	
Chief Minister	Senator Ian Gorst
<b>Government of Guernsey</b>	
Chief Minister	Deputy Jonathan Le Tocq
Member, Home Department	Deputy Matthew Fallaize