

Official



Ministerial Meeting of the Energy Work Sector

St Andrews House, Edinburgh, 15 June 2018

COMMUNIQUÉ

The British-Irish Council¹ (BIC) Energy work sector today held a Ministerial meeting hosted by the Scottish Government at St Andrews House, Edinburgh. Ministers approved the Forward Work Plan of the sector.

The meeting was jointly chaired by Paul Wheelhouse MSP, Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy in the Scottish Government and Lord Duncan of Springbank, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Scotland and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The Irish Government was represented by Seán Kyne TD, Minister of State, Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment. The Welsh Government was represented by Lesley Griffiths AM, Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs. The Isle of Man Government was represented by Geoffrey Boot MHK, Minister of Department of Environment Food and Agriculture. The Government of Guernsey was represented by Deputy Mark Dorey, Deputy

¹ The BIC, established under the Agreement reached in the Multi-Party Negotiation in Belfast on Good Friday 1998 is a forum for its eight Member Administrations to exchange information, discuss, consult, and use best endeavours to reach agreement on co-operation on policy areas of mutual interest.

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Minister for the Environment. Official observers attended on behalf of the Government of Jersey and the Northern Ireland Executive.

Energy: Towards a Clean, Green Economy

BIC Ministers discussed and reviewed the briefing prepared by BIC Energy officials. Ministers welcomed the briefing, which highlighted energy policy developments in each of the eight Member Administrations. Ministers noted that all eight Administrations share the ambition to decarbonise the economy; to maximise the benefits offered by low carbon technologies; and to ensure secure, clean and affordable energy supplies for consumers. Ministers also noted that all Member Administrations face common challenges including the threat of climate change, the desire to make greater progress in energy efficiency, and the need to ensure energy security. Ministers recognised that the path each Administration is taking towards a low carbon future varied according to regional strengths, availability of natural resources and political priorities but noted that by sharing information and experiences the British-Irish Council Energy Work Sector continued to bring important benefits and opportunities for all of its members.

Ministers thanked the work sector officials in each of the Administrations for their active engagement in the preparation of the briefing and endorsed the Forward Work Plan for the BIC Energy Work Sector.

BIC Secretariat

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