



BIC Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-Used Languages Work Sector

Ministerial Meeting

20 October 2023, Jersey

Communiqué

The British-Irish Council (BIC) held an Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-Used Languages (IML) Ministerial Meeting today hosted by the Government of Jersey. In advance of the Ministerial Meeting, Ministers and officials participated in the ‘*Jersey Language Policy for Education Impact Event*’. A full list of Ministerial participants is attached.

Discussion on Work Sector Activity

Ministers discussed the Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-Used Languages Work Sector Policy Report 2023 which outlines the work undertaken by officials over recent years. Ministers thanked officials for producing the papers, and agreed they demonstrated the value for all Member Administrations participating in the work sector. In discussion, Ministers highlighted the importance of providing enabling environments for IML languages to be used and considered a number of relevant initiatives underway across BIC Member Administrations. Ministers also considered the linkages between Early Years policy and IML language acquisition, highlighting a joint event held in 2021.

Future Work Plan

Ministers also discussed the proposed Forward Work Plan for the Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-Used Languages work sector. Agreeing that this was an area where Member Administrations should continue to collaborate through the BIC, Ministers agreed that the IML Languages Forward Work Plan for the period 2023-25 should focus on three themes:

- Social Use of Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-Used Languages;
- Linguistic Infrastructure; and
- Culture.

Ministers noted that the next BIC Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-Used Languages Ministerial Meeting will be hosted by the Government of Guernsey.

**BIC Secretariat
20 October 2023**

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List of Ministerial Delegates

Government of Ireland	Patrick O'Donovan TD, Minister of State for the Gaeltacht
Isle of Man Government	Claire Christian MHK, Political Member for Education, Sport and Culture
Government of Jersey	Kirsten Morel, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture
Scottish Government	Jenny Gilruth MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
UK Government	Jacob Young MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Levelling Up)
Welsh Government	Jeremy Miles MS, Minister for Education and Welsh Language