



COMMUNIQUÉ

Ministerial meeting of the Demography work sector 9th December 2016

The British-Irish Council Demography work sector held its second Ministerial meeting today, hosted by the Scottish Government at General Register House, Edinburgh. Ministers were welcomed by Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs on behalf of the Scottish Government.

The British-Irish Council, established in 1999, is a forum for its members to discuss, consult and use best endeavours to reach agreement on co-operation on matters of mutual interest within the competence of its Member Administrations. The Demography work sector is led by the Scottish Government and has been a constructive forum for facilitating evidence exchange and practical collaboration since it was established in 2006. The meeting today focused on the demographic drivers for the redesign of public services with a particular focus on population ageing.

The meeting was chaired by Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs on behalf of the Scottish Government, and also attended by Maureen Watt MSP, Minister for Mental Health in the Scottish Government. The UK Government was represented by Tamara Finkelstein, Director General for Community Care at the Department of Health. The Irish Government was represented by Helen McEntee TD, Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People. The Welsh Government was represented by Rebecca Evans AM, Minister for Social Services and Public Health. The Northern Ireland Executive was

represented by Paul Givan MLA, Minister for Communities, and Megan Fearon MLA, Junior Minister in the Executive Office. The Isle of Man Government was represented by Chris Thomas MHK, Minister for Policy and Reform. The Government of Jersey was represented by Deputy Susan Pinel, Minister for Social Security. The Government of Guernsey was represented by Deputy Michelle Le Clerc, President of the Committee for Employment and Social Security.

POPULATION-AGEING-SOCIETY: the Policy Implications

Ministers welcomed the constructive and practical achievements of the work sector in sharing policy good practice. They noted the positive and dynamic relationships which had been established through the group's work over the last two years. They also commended the development of the innovative strategic framing tool, the 'Rapid Reflection' model, which is being made available to Member Administrations to support further policy discussions taking account of population ageing.

Ministers noted that through its work the group has identified a set of challenges which may have policy implications for work being taken forward in other Council workstreams. They agreed that the Council Secretariat and Coordinators should explore these matters further through relevant BIC work sectors.

Ministers noted that, in line with the Council's task and finish process, the work sector will conclude following presentation of this report and strategic policy model. They mandated the Council Secretariat and Coordinators to ensure that any future opportunities for demographic collaboration across these islands are brought forward for consideration at Summit level.

BIC Secretariat

9 December 2016

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**BRITISH-IRISH COUNCIL
DEMOGRAPHY WORK SECTOR**

Scottish Government

Ms Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
Ms Maureen Watt MSP, Minister for Mental Health

UK Government

Ms Tamara Finkelstein, Director General for Community Care, Department of Health

Irish Government

Ms Helen McEntee TD, Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People

Welsh Government

Ms Rebecca Evans AM, Minister for Social Services and Public Health

Northern Ireland Executive

Mr Paul Givan MLA, Minister for Communities
Ms Megan Fearon MLA, Junior Minister in the Executive Office

Isle of Man Government

Mr Chris Thomas MHK, Minister for Policy and Reform

Government of Jersey

Deputy Susan Pinel, Minister for Social Security

Government of Guernsey

Deputy Michelle Le Clerc, President of the Committee for Employment and Social Security