



Housing Work Sector – Ministerial Meeting

**Department of Communities and Local Government, Eland House,
London, 30th October 2013**

COMMUNIQUÉ

The British-Irish Council Housing Work Sector held its third Ministerial meeting at the Department of Communities and Local Government, Eland House, London, on 30th October 2013.

The Housing work sector, established in 1999 and led by the Northern Ireland Executive, seeks to share information, knowledge and best practice between Member Administrations on a number of areas including, supply and allocation of social housing, housing benefit and affordable housing.

Representatives

The meeting was chaired by Nelson McCausland, MLA, Minister for Social Development in the Northern Ireland Executive. Minister McCausland was accompanied by Carál Ní Chuilín MLA, Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure.

The UK Government was represented by Kris Hopkins MP, Minister for Housing and the Irish Government was represented by Jan O'Sullivan TD, Minister for Housing and Planning at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

The Scottish Government was represented by Margaret Burgess MSP, Minister for Housing and Welfare and the Jersey Government was represented by Deputy Andrew Green MBE, Minister for Housing. The Isle of Man Government

was represented by the Hon. Chris Robertshaw MHK, Minister for Social Care and the Welsh Government was represented by John Howells, Director of Housing and Regeneration.

As well as sharing information on the housing market conditions in their respective jurisdictions, Ministers had a detailed exchange of views on increasing housing supply, in particular on issues of access to funding and affordability. To inform their discussions Ministers received a presentation from leading housing economist Professor Christine Whitehead of the London School of Economics. Ministers asked their work sector officials with the assistance of the Secretariat to continue exchanging information and examining current and evolving policy and practice from across the eight Administrations on these issues.

In the context of the British-Irish Council's commitment to prioritise the issue of youth employment, Ministers also looked at the potential of the housing sector to generate jobs for young people and asked officials to share policy initiatives and innovations where appropriate.

Officials will meet in Belfast in January 2014 to take this work forward.

BIC Secretariat, 30th October 2013