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**Housing Ministerial Meeting, Belfast**

**20 September 2024**

**Communiqué**

The British-Irish Council[[1]](#footnote-1) (BIC) held a Housing Ministerial Meeting today in Belfast, hosted by the Northern Ireland Executive and chaired by Minister for Communities Gordon Lyons MLA and Junior Minister in the Executive Aisling Reilly MLA.

**Discussion on the recent activity of the Housing Work Sector**

Ministers reflected on a report on the recent activity of the work sector, covering a wide range of topics, including the approaches to design issues, accessing suitable and affordable housing and the linkages between homelessness and drug and alcohol consumption.

Ministers thanked officials for producing the report on the work sector activity, and agreed it demonstrated the value for all Member Administrations of participating through the Council as a forum for sharing information and experience in designing and delivering housing policy. Ministers also agreed that the report should be published.

**Discussion on Forward Work Plan**

In considering and approving the proposed Forward Work Plan of the work sector, Ministers agreed that focus should be on the following five themes:

**• Residential Retrofit**

**• Private Rental Sector**

**• Affordable Housing Models**

**• Attracting Private Sector Investment for Housing**

**• Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation**

**Presentation – Housing: A Whole System Approach**

Ministers also received a presentation on *Housing: A Whole System Approach* by Justin Cartwright of the Institute of Housing.

A full list of Ministerial participants is attached.

**BIC Secretariat**

**20 September 2024**

**List of Ministers attending**

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| **NIE** | *Minister Gordon Lyons MLA,* Department for Communities  *Aisling Reilly MLA*, Junior Minister in the Executive |
| **UK Government** | *Baroness Taylor of Stevenage*  Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Lords Minister for Housing and Local Government) |
| **Welsh Government** | *Jayne Bryant MS*  Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government |
| **Govt of Ireland** | *Alan Dillon TD*  Minister of State with responsibility for Local Government and Planning |
| **Scottish Government** | *Paul McLennan MSP*, Minister for Housing |
| **Government of Guernsey** | *Deputy Lindsay de Sausmarez*  President of the Committee for the Environment and Infrastructure |
| **Isle of Man Government** | *Hon. Tim Crookall*, Minister for Infrastructure |
| **Government of Jersey** | *Deputy Sam Mézec*, Minister for Housing |

1. The British-Irish Council, 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 cooperation on policy areas of mutual interest. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)