



GOVERNMENT OF JERSEY LONDON OFFICE

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JERSEY HOSTS 29TH BRITISH IRISH COUNCIL SUMMIT

The 29th Summit meeting of the British-Irish Council (BIC) was hosted in Jersey by Chief Minister, Senator Ian Gorst on 10 November at the L'Horizon Hotel in St Brelade's Bay. Formed in 1998 as a direct result of the Good Friday Agreement, the British Irish Council is made up of eight member administrations: the UK, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey, working together on issues of common interest to citizens from across these islands.

Over 100 delegates, including Heads of Governments and representatives from the eight member administrations arrived in Jersey on 9 November to attend the Chief Minister's Reception and Welcome Dinner.

The following morning, Ministers representing the Creative Industries, met in advance of the Summit, to consider a report prepared by the BIC Creative Industries work sector, which is chaired by the Government of Jersey. The Creative Industries contribute approximately £98.6bn per year to the economies of the eight BIC member administrations. This meeting provided an important opportunity to look at examples of good practice in addressing the skills gaps within the sector and the relationship between grass roots culture and professional creative activity. Following these discussions, Ministers endorsed a proposal for future collaboration on a pipeline of development through education; measures to encourage diversity among employees within the sector, and initiatives to maximise inclusivity for audiences.

Creative Industries Ministers were also present at the Summit meeting and shared feedback on their discussions to Heads of Governments & Principals around the table. Next on the agenda was a discussion of political developments across the BIC administrations, including the ongoing dialogue between the power sharing parties regarding the restoration of devolved government in Northern Ireland and an update on Brexit developments. This was the first BIC Summit to be held since the UK's negotiations with the EU officially began earlier this year and was the first meeting attended by head of the Irish Government, Leo Varadkar TD, who replaced Enda Kenny as Taoiseach in June.

A [communiqué](#) was released at the conclusion of the meeting, reaffirming the Council's shared commitment to its role in promoting harmonious and mutually beneficial relationships across the British-Irish administrations, as set out in the 1998 Agreement.



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Local producers showcased

Event organisers were keen to ensure Ministerial delegates who travelled to Jersey for the BIC Summit were given a taste of the Island’s best produce. Ministers sampled local specialities including fresh seafood and Jersey black butter during their stay and were presented with gifts, sourced from Jersey-based businesses, to take away with them. This year, Jersey Sea Salt, the first producers of solar salt in Jersey for 300 years, stood out as a highlight. Creators David Miles and Matthew Taylor are the most Southerly solar salt producers in the British Isles. They produce

natural, unrefined sea salt without using artificial heat, which is free from chemical additives. They use low energy and low waste processes to turn local waters into pure salt crystals. BIC Ministers were each given a pot of Jersey Sea Salt to take home, along with a jar of La Cremière salted caramel and newly produced, Jersey hemp oil.



Credit: Jersey Sea Salt

Home-grown talent enjoyed by BIC delegates



Credit: Georgina Sutton

Drawing on the theme of the Creative Industries meeting, a number of cultural elements were incorporated into the BIC event, providing an opportunity to showcase some of Jersey’s local talent. Georgina Sutton, a celebrated concert pianist from Jersey who studied at the Royal College of Music - graduating with a BMus First Class Honours degree - played a mixture of classical, popular

songs and light jazz during the opening reception.

The Musical Original Singers, Jersey’s premier youth choir who were selected by the BBC to participate in the finals of the 2017 European Broadcasting Union’s international competition, Let the Peoples Sing in Helsinki, also performed for senior BIC delegates at the welcome dinner.

The evening concluded with an inspiring performance by Jersey poet Christian Foley who recited a piece he had written to mark the occasion. Heads of Government and Ministers from across the British Isles were entertained by Christian’s humorous and insightful take on the enormous value of strong and positive British-Irish relations, which left delegates enthused for their discussions the following day.

NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE APPOINTED



Credit: itv.com

The Government of Jersey will welcome a new Chief Executive in the New Year.

Charlie Parker, currently the Chief Executive of Westminster City Council, will officially take up the post in January 2018.

Mr Parker said “I am delighted to be taking up this unique opportunity as Chief Executive for the States of Jersey. I am looking forward to the exciting challenges of contributing to the continuing growth of the economy and supporting businesses in Jersey. I will continue the work of transforming the public sector to deliver great public services for the Island, maintaining Jersey as a prime tourist destination and supporting local communities.”

Mr Parker’s previous appointments have included Chief Executive of Oldham Council, Clerk to the Greater Manchester Waste Authority, Director of Finance and

Investment for English Partnerships, and Executive Director for Regeneration at Liverpool City Council.

The Chief Minister, Senator Ian Gorst, said of the appointment “Mr Parker brings with him a wealth of experience in successful leadership, transforming local government organisations and attracting inward investment. His proven success in running effective services for children and vulnerable adults and a high quality education service makes him a particularly suitable appointment at this time in Jersey’s history, when we have committed to working together to make substantial changes to our services and our organisational culture. Mr Parker has achieved these outcomes by building strong teams that work effectively together to achieve successful transformation.

“I am confident that with his record of leading successful public sector organisations, Mr Parker can support this government’s ambition to maintain Jersey’s successful economy, improve our productivity and invest in priority areas like health and social services and education to provide world class services for islanders.”

MINISTERIAL OVERSEAS TRIPS

Middle East

As part of the Government of Jersey's commitment to maintaining and developing its strong commercial links with the Gulf region, Chief Minister Senator Ian Gorst undertook his first official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kingdom of Bahrain in November. In Bahrain, the Chief Minister met with the Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain and the Minister of Finance, whilst in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia he held high-level meetings with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Vice-Minister of Finance. Discussions covered the positive existing commercial and regulatory cooperation between Jersey and the Gulf, as well as exploring possibilities for strengthening and developing these mutually beneficial relationships in the months and years ahead.

Washington

Following the success of his last visit in 2016, Chief Minister Gorst returned to Washington DC this autumn to represent Jersey at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Group annual meetings, attended by several thousand delegates, travelling from around the world.

In the margins of the main conference, the Chief Minister had the opportunity to meet with senior representatives of global banking groups, a number of which have banks residing in Jersey. The Chief Minister was also pleased to attend an official reception hosted by the UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond, and held bilateral meetings with the British Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Sir Kim Darroch KCMG, senior members of the US Administration, members of US Congress and

India

Jersey's Minister for External Relations undertook his first official visit to India earlier this month, travelling to New Delhi and Mumbai, to discuss the growing relationship between India and Jersey and the opportunities for developing closer ties. At present, Jersey has well-established commercial relationships with Indian businesses, and has in recent years, seen an increasing use of Jersey investment vehicles to conduit international capital into India for infrastructure projects. Jersey also hosts a number of successful companies of Indian origin including the Bharti Enterprise Group: Airtel Vodafone, Infrasoftware, and Minerva TCSP.

During his visit to New Delhi, Senator Bailhache was hosted by British High Commissioner to India, Sir Dominic Asquith KCMG. He met with government Ministers, senior officials and business



Jersey's Minister for External Relations & India's Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change

representatives, including those from the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of State, Culture and Tourism.

In Mumbai, the Minister participated in the 2017 International Taxation Conference, hosted by the Foundation for International Taxation and IBFD, in cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and met with companies in the banking and financial services industry.



Chief Minister Senator Gorst with Bonnie Watson Coleman, U.S. Representative for New Jersey's congressional district

government ministers from across the globe.

The Chief Minister also had the opportunity to attend the Annual Commonwealth Finance Ministers' Meeting which focused on the future of digitisation and economic development, exploring ways of boosting employment through innovation.

Brussels

As part of the Government of Jersey's continued commitment to maintaining close engagement and promoting Jersey's interests in Europe, Chief Minister Senator Ian Gorst and the Minister for External Relations, Senator Sir Philip Bailhache have conducted a number of visits to Brussels with their counterparts from Guernsey, including Chief Minister Deputy Gavin St Pier. During these high-level visits, the Channel Islands representatives met with the UK's EU Commissioner Sir Julian King, European diplomats and senior officials from the European Parliament, and the UK Permanent Representative to the EU, Sir Tim Barrow. Discussions covered Brexit and its implications for the Crown Dependencies.

The visits form part of a regular programme of engagement by the governments of Jersey and Guernsey with the EU Institutions and Member States' representatives, co-ordinated by the Channel Islands Brussels Office (CIBO), established in 2011 to strengthen the Channel Islands' direct engagement with the EU in order to better protect and promote joint interests.

JERSEY IN THE UK BREXIT EVENT

With the United Kingdom set to leave the European Union in under 18 months' time, the London Office held another successful panel discussion on Brexit and its implications for the Channel Islands, for members of the Jersey in the UK community.

The panel, led by Minister for External Relations, Senator Sir Philip Bailhache and



chaired by the Head of the Government of Jersey's London Office, included a number of senior officials from the Ministry for External Relations (ER) who look after Brexit co-ordination, Global Markets engagement and ER Communications. The Law Officer's Department, who are leading on Jersey's Brexit legislation, were also represented by Legal Adviser, Advocate Victoria Bell. The panel outlined the work being undertaken to ensure that Jersey's position and interests are being appropriately considered and represented throughout the UK's negotiation process with the EU. Lively and interactive discussions took place

with panel members fielding wide-ranging questions from the audience who were keen to understand the potential implications for Jersey of the UK's departure from the EU. There was also an opportunity for guests to network and to catch-up with other members of the Jersey diaspora in London.

The Jersey in the UK group will be meeting again for another event in March, so keep your eyes peeled for updates on the social media pages!

Follow the Jersey in the UK [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages for further updates and news about upcoming events.

DIGITAL JERSEY TO CREATE A NEW INTERNET OF THINGS 'LAB'

Digital Jersey has secured funding to create a dedicated 'Internet of Things Lab' which will aim to promote the growth of the local digital sector and create opportunities for innovative product development.

At its most simple, the Internet of Things is about connecting devices over the internet so that they are able to communicate with us, applications, and each other. An example of this is a thermostat in your home that is connected via Wi-Fi and controlled by an app on your phone. It learns when you're home and adjusts the temperature accordingly, and you can operate it from anywhere.

Digital Jersey has been working closely with its members to develop an IoT strategy to advance problem-solving capabilities, improve efficiencies and create a testbed for various new IoT initiatives in this area.

Tony Moretta, CEO of Digital Jersey said "We are delighted to be given the go ahead to create a facility that will offer a focal point for businesses to collaborate and share resources, apply research to real-life scenarios, and turn IoT ideas into commercial ventures. The IoT Lab will offer access to world-leading internet speeds, a data platform for analysing

large data sets collected from IoT sensors around Jersey, and communal workshop space for building and testing IoT devices".

Digital Jersey already has experience of developing and supporting other dedicated work spaces, including the Digital Jersey Hub and the Barclays Eagle Lab. By introducing an IoT Lab to complement these existing facilities, Digital Jersey is aiming to drive forward Jersey's proposition as a compelling and innovative digital business centre, providing an exciting environment for the development of new technology.

JERSEY SAILOR SECURES THIRD PLACE IN INTERNATIONAL BOAT RACE

Jersey-born sailor Philip Sharp and his Spanish co-skipper Pablo Santurde finished third in the 13th edition of the Transat Jacques Vabre, a 4,350 mile transatlantic race which traces a traditional coffee trading route from Le Havre in France to Salvador in the state of Bahia in Brazil.

The Transat Jacques Vabre course was drawn up in 1993 and the race, which takes place bi-annually, is seen as a major international event in the sport's schedule.

Sharp and Santurde and their zero emission

boat Imerys Clean Energy crossed the finish line at 04:33am after 17 days and 15 hours on the water. They led the race for 12 out of the 17 days and set a new boat speed record, powering Imerys Clean Energy to 25.5 knots.

Speaking after he'd crossed the finish line Sharp reflected on the 'incredible fight' that had taken place on the water over the previous two and a half weeks and

the battles that they had endured against the other boats and in facing some challenging weather conditions along the way!



Credit: Phil Sharp Sailing

SUPER LEAGUE TRIATHLON COMES TO JERSEY



Credit: Super League Triathlon

Earlier this year, Jersey was host to an exciting new sporting event, drawing top athletes from around the world. Following a successful debut in Australia in March the Super League Triathlon came to Jersey in late September.

Co-founded by two-time Ironman world champion Chris McCormack and businessmen Michael D'Hulst and Leonid Boguslavsky, Super League Triathlon has revolutionized the traditional swim, bike and run format of triathlon to create two days of short, fast racing. Over the course of the weekend, 50 of the world's leading male and female triathletes, including 25 Olympians, travelled to Jersey to compete for the Super League crown. Thousands of spectators turned out to watch the athletes, who included

Britain's Olympic silver medalist Jonny Brownlee and Jersey's own Dan Halksworth, as they took on the course at the Waterfront in St Helier. The competition was televised and streamed around the globe.

Norwegian triathlete Kristian Blummenfelt took the men's title, finishing just ahead of Jonny Brownlee, and Katie Zaferes of the USA topped the women's podium.

Jersey's Minister for Economic Development, Senator Lyndon Farnham said that he was delighted that Jersey was able to host such an exciting and entertaining event and the weekend was a huge success. He added that Jersey would be staying in close touch with organisers regarding opportunities to host again in the future.



Credit: Super League Triathlon

LEADER OF UK WOMEN'S EQUALITY PARTY GIVES TALK IN JERSEY



Credit: Getty Images

On Tuesday 28th November, Sophie Walker, the leader of the Women's Equality Party in the UK, gave a highly engaging talk at the Jersey's first Women in Politics event.

The event, held at the Royal Yacht Hotel in St Helier, was organised by the States of Jersey Diversity Forum and the Jersey Community Relations Trust. It provided a welcome opportunity to discuss the importance of equality in politics and to encourage a greater share of women to stand at Jersey's next General Election, which will next be held in

just a few months' time, in May 2018.

During her speech Ms Walker spoke passionately about the need to change politics positively by improving the gender balance in Government. She urged everyone to 'take action and make changes' in order to create an environment which makes standing for elections more accessible for women on the Island.

Ms Walker, a former journalist, became the leader of the Women's Equality Party in July 2015. The party was co-founded by Catherine Mayer and Sandi Toksvig in April 2015 when they concluded that there was a need for a UK political party to campaign specifically for gender equality. The party now has over 65,000 members and more than 70 branches across the

UK. The Women's Equality Party fielded seven candidates in the 2017 General Election, making gender equality a bigger part of the conversation and forcing the issue onto centre stage.

The Chief Minister, Senator Ian Gorst, who is a member of the States of Jersey Diversity Forum, a group recently established to encourage more women and people from minority backgrounds to stand for election in 2018, introduced the event. Recognising that there is work to do in raising awareness about this issue in Jersey and shifting the status quo, he commented: 'If we are really going to see progress and change, then we have to do it together as a community. We must do better.'