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23 August 2021

Annwyl / Dear Nicola

On behalf of the Welsh Government, I am very pleased to invite you to the **thirty sixth Summit meeting of the British Irish Council which will be held at St Fagans National Museum of History in Cardiff on Friday 19th November 2021**. Given the recent relaxation of many Covid-19 restrictions we are planning for the event to take place in person. Clearly we will need to keep Covid-19 under review and be ready to respond accordingly if restrictions were to become necessary again in the future.

As well as the usual opportunity for a general update on issues, the Summit will focus on supporting early years education and childcare within Minority, Indigenous and Lesser Used Language communities. For our part, we will showcase the Welsh Government's pioneering work on early years language education and we look forward to celebrating with you the rich linguistic diversity from across these islands.

In keeping with the theme of this Summit, and in line with the way we work in Wales as a bilingual nation and Government, my intention as chairing host is to use both English and Welsh in our contributions to proceedings; simultaneous interpretation will be made available in a way which is entirely normal to our ways of working in Wales. In keeping with the spirit of the conference I want to make a similar offer to colleagues from administrations who may also want to use another language in addition to English.

The arrangements for your delegation's attendance will be organised through the BIC Co-ordinators network. The provisional itinerary and agenda have been shared with your officials.

I look forward to welcoming you to Wales in November.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Yours sincerely / Yr eiddoch yn gywir

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

MARK DRAKEFORD