



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref: DC/JJ/00529/21

John Griffiths MS - Chair
Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee
Welsh Parliament

SeneddCommunities@senedd.wales

03 March 2021

Dear John,

I am writing in accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement to let you know that the British-Irish Council (BIC) Digital Inclusion Work Sector Ministerial Meeting will be held this week on Friday 5 March. Member Administrations have agreed to hold a virtual meeting which will be hosted by the Isle of Man. As the Minister with responsibility for digital inclusion, I will be representing the Welsh Government.

The meeting is an opportunity for Member Administrations of the BIC to discuss digital inclusion, a key social justice and equalities issue, and the activity ongoing across administrations to ensure people are able to, engage with, and benefit from the rapid pace of technological change taking place in society. Furthermore, it will provide an opportunity to discuss the impact the pandemic has had on the digital inclusion agenda and the critical role we must continue to play to help citizens become digitally confident, a combination of motivation, basic digital skills and access.

The meeting will provide an opportunity for Ministers to reflect ongoing wider work across the sectors on the theme of online safety, while also agreeing the Forward Work Plan.

A communiqué will be agreed by the council at the meeting and I will update the Committee about its publication and the outcome of the meeting, in due course.

I have written in similar terms to the chairs of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, Mick Antoniw, MS, Children, Young People and Education Committee, Lynne Neagle, MS, Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee, Bethan Sayed, MS, and Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee, Russell George, MS.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie James AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government