



Press Release

BRITISH-IRISH PARLIAMENTARY GROUP TO MEET IN THE ISLE OF MAN

The British-Irish Inter-Parliamentary Body was set up in February 1990 and originally brought together Members of the Irish Parliament, the Oireachtas, and the United Kingdom Parliament at Westminster. Expansion of the BIIPB in 2001 brought in the devolved parliaments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, together with the Court of Tynwald and the States of Jersey and Guernsey.

Currently, the Isle of Man is represented by the Hon Steve Rodan, the Speaker of the House of Keys, and Steve Rodan is also a member of the BIIPB's Steering Committee representing the three Crown Dependencies, the Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey.

At the recent meeting of the BIIPB in Wexford, Ireland, Steve Rodan as the Isle of Man's representative took part in the newly introduced procedure of questioning the Ministers of the British-Irish Council, and successfully pressed the Irish Government for its future support in relation to Sellafield. Mr Rodan has now invited the BIIPB Steering Committee to hold its next meeting in the Isle of Man between Sunday 22nd and Monday 23rd June. The Committee will be meeting in the Villa Marina for their main business session, having a tour of the Legislative Chambers led by the President of Tynwald, and a meeting with Members of Tynwald before returning home that afternoon.

Mr Speaker Rodan comments:

“The British-Irish Inter-Parliamentary Body, like the British-Irish Council, is proving a very useful forum for the Isle of Man to make its views and concerns on matters concerning the Island known, and to exert its influence. We are very glad to host this meeting of the Steering Committee, which meets for the very first time outside the United Kingdom or Ireland. This is an excellent opportunity to promote the Isle of Man and provide the Body's members with an insight into our own unique parliamentary tradition.”

Notes for Editors

The members of the British-Irish Inter-Parliamentary Body's Steering Committee are:-

Co-Chairmen

Mr Niall Blaney TD and Rt Hon Peter Hain MP

Vice-Chairmen

Mr Seymour Crawford TD, Rt Hon Michael Mates MP,
Mr Sean O'Fearghail TD and Rt Hon Lord Dubs

United Kingdom

Mr Robert Walter MP

Ireland

Mr Jim O'Keeffe TD

Scotland

Mr Alastair Morgan MSP

Wales

Mrs Rosemary Butler AM

Northern Ireland

Dr Alasdair McDonnell MP, MLA/Mr Barry McElduff MLA

Crown Dependencies

The Hon Steve Rodan SHK

Secretariat

Sir Michael Davies KCB & Ms Alda Barry (UK)
Mr Eoin Faherty & Ms Jullee Clarke (Ireland)

27th May 2008

ENDS