

JMC Communiqué Commitments 2014: UK Progress Report

The UK and Overseas Territories Governments made a number of commitments to action in the Joint Communiqué issued after the Joint Ministerial Council in December 2014. This report summarises work undertaken by the UK Government to carry out those commitments.

<p>1. Joint work to share best practice on the formulation and communication of mid- to long-term economic plans, including enhancing competitiveness and increasing diversification across and within sectors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infrastructure UK has advised on proposed airport developments in Cayman, Bermuda and BVI. The UK has also offered support to develop a business plan for the reconstruction of the main jetty in Anguilla. - The FCO is in talks with the Cayman Islands Government to see where the UK can offer assistance (e.g. in exchange of best practice) in its preparation of a refreshed economic strategy in 2016. - Bermuda is considering a UK offer of assistance in refreshing its economic development strategy. The UK has reiterated its offer to provide assistance in this area for all of the Territories. - United Kingdom Trade and Investment (UKTI) reiterated its offer to help constitute a National Business Council on Montserrat and has drawn up terms of reference. - The Department for Business together with the OECD has provided help to St Helena on Investment Climate Benchmarking. - An offer to work with all of the Overseas Territories on a tourism promotion strategy was not taken up. However, facilitated by DfID and FCO, St Helena is seeking assistance from long established tourist bodies in other territories to help develop its nascent tourist industry. - The UK continues its support of the BVI Hong Kong Office as it seeks new markets for its financial services industry. - UKTI has provided training to the Government Inward Investment officer from Anguilla who is preparing a new investment strategy.
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<p>2. Overseas Territories governments in those Territories that have not already done so to develop and publish Territory investment plans or sector specific plans as appropriate, with UK support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Overseas Territories are taking forward this work. The FCO has offered to provide advice where needed. - The Inward Investment officer of the Anguillan government received training from UKTI in London in support of a new investment strategy which is currently being drawn up. - UKTI provided support in drawing up terms of reference for the establishment of a Business Council in Montserrat.
<p>3. Joint work to raise international standards to tackle money laundering, tax evasion, illicit finance and corruption, leading by example given the importance of our financial centres to the international financial system. We agree to meet again ahead of the G20 meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in February to agree a way forward on implementation of the G20 principles on beneficial ownership.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intensive discussions have been underway throughout the year on the establishment by those Overseas Territories with financial services sectors of mechanisms for making available information on company beneficial ownership. - At the Joint Ministerial Council held in London in December the Overseas Territories agreed to hold such beneficial ownership information in their respective jurisdictions via central registers or similarly effective systems. It was agreed that practical implementation would be discussed as a matter of urgency, including through technical dialogue with UK law enforcement authorities on developing a timely and secure information exchange processes for the purposes of law enforcement. - 70 delegates including representatives from Anguilla, Cayman Islands and Montserrat took part in UK organised Anti-Bribery workshops in Bermuda on 21 and 22 January 2015 and Turks and Caicos Islands on, 27 and 28 January. Following this, the Turks and Caicos Integrity Commission has confirmed it will recommend to Cabinet stand alone bribery legislation. The Ministry of Justice has provided draft bribery legislation for TCI's consideration and Bermuda has confirmed that it plans to update bribery/corruption legislation. - We have worked with the Overseas Territories in having key conventions on international standards in the financial sector extended to

	<p>them. For example, in 2015 the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime was extended to Anguilla and the UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime was also extended to the Turks and Caicos Islands.</p>
<p>4. Joint work to deepen cooperation in tackling organised crime, including exploring options for legislative provision in the Territories for lawful intercept where such provision doesn't already exist and improved sharing of information across jurisdictions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has signed 5 Information Sharing Agreements to allow the OTs to link into the UK Police network. - ACPO is investing £20k into all of the Caribbean territories through an FBI/UK National Crime Agency initiative on a child pornography tool. - ACPO is working with the Southern Oceans to move their sex offenders onto the VISOR register - A Police Chiefs conference was held in UK in July 2015 to enhance cross territory cooperation.
<p>5. Joint work to deliver a strategic approach to prison management and to promote greater sharing of information and best practice between the Territories and the UK, including through UK advisory visits to Territory prisons and inward secondments to the UK.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OT Prison Superintendents met FCO and NOMS officials in London on 9/10 February 2015 to share information and inform our criminal justice strategy and agree cooperation and UK support for prison management in the OTs. A follow up meeting was held in November to discuss progress and agree priorities for the coming year. - The OT prisons Prison Advisor visited prisons in the Turks and Caicos Islands, Montserrat and the Cayman Islands. - We have worked with the OT Prison Advisor and National Offender Management Service (NOMS) to deliver a training and mentoring programme for OT prison staff was agreed and delivered. Several secondments have taken place, both to the UK and between OTs. - A Memorandum of Understanding between the FCO and NOMS on support to Overseas Territories is under active discussion and

	should be finalised shortly.
<p>6. Joint work to establish Territory led working groups, supported by the UK, to share best practice in border security management, combating immigration abuse and irregular migration. The UK will work in partnership with the Territories to ensure effective arrangements are in place for the issuing of British Overseas Territories Citizen passports during the centralisation programme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The FCO and HM Passport Office (HMPO) have worked closely with the OTs throughout 2015 to ensure centralisation of Overseas Territory passport issuing in the UK ran smoothly. - FCO and HMPO have worked closely with US officials to get agreement that the new OT Emergency passports will be a recognised travel document when used for travel to/from US.
<p>7. Overseas Territories to produce environmental road maps by May 2015 where they have not already done so, setting out plans to implement environmental commitments agreed at the JMC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support and advice has been provided to Territories in how to produce the roadmaps, suggested priority areas, measures, risks/barriers and how the priority actions contribute to environmental commitments outlined in the JMC communiqué. - Environmental Roadmaps have been received from all Territories except Anguilla, Bermuda, Turks and Caicos Islands and British Virgin Islands. - To assist with long-term sustainable environmental management of the of the Territories FCO, DEFRA and DfID committed £2m to support environmental and climate change projects through the Darwin Plus scheme, supporting projects ranging from habitat restoration to mapping marine habitats.

<p>8. Joint work to ratify multilateral environmental agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity where these are of benefit to the Territories. Where multilateral environmental agreements are already in place we commit to work together to ensure that implementation standards are robust.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FCO and DEFRA are continuing to collaborate on this work. The Convention on Biological Diversity was extended to South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands in April 2015. - We have provided support to OTs who have not already implemented legislation to comply with CITIES – Convention on International Trade In Endangered Species All OT parties are now compliant except four, who have not passed legislation to comply with CITIES. Anguilla, Bermuda, Turks and Caicos Islands and British Virgin Islands.
<p>9. The UK government to explore with international partners such as the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) how the Territories can engage directly to commission technical and policy support to introduce renewable energy sources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Statement at IRENA Council secured to agree IRENA’s Global Renewable Energy Islands Network (GREIN) to support OTs and Territories have been briefed on the level of assistance that IRENA can provide. - All Caribbean OTs attended IRENA Conference in Martinique in June 2015. - FCO support helped to organise a dedicated session for Territories at the Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum - FCO has facilitated ongoing support from the Carbon War Room to British Virgin Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands and Anguilla offering both legal and technical support. - UK successfully negotiated for Renewable Energy to be a subject of cooperation for the Regional programme of the European Development Fund.
<p>10. Joint work to extend to the core UN Human Rights Conventions to the</p>	<p>We have continued to work closely throughout the year with the OTs to progress the extension of the following international human rights conventions:</p>

<p>Territories, where these have not been extended already. UK Government to ensure that pending requests from the Territories are taken forward as soon as possible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UN ICCPR and ICESCR (Anguilla) – Ministry of Justice - UN CEDAW (Anguilla, Bermuda, Cayman Islands and Gibraltar) – Government Equalities Office - UN CRC (Gibraltar) – Department for Education - This year, the OTs contributed towards the examination of the seventh periodic report of the UK under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in July 2015.
<p>11. Overseas Territories governments to work to develop Overseas Territories’ codes of conduct for Ministers, parliamentarians and public servants, where these are not already in place, with support from the UK where appropriate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The UK hosted a conference of OT Heads of Public Service in March 2015 which included discussions facilitated by Cabinet Office on implementation of OT codes of conduct. Further UK support was offered to the OTs if needed. - The UK hosted a meeting of Overseas Territories Human Resource Directors in October 2015 which also included discussions on dealing with breaches of codes of conduct in the public service.
<p>12. UK to provide support for the rule of law in the Overseas Territories, including advice and practical help in the drafting of legislation and assistance to prosecutors’ offices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The UK Solicitor General chaired a successful conference of Overseas Territory Attorneys General. The conference provided an important forum for encouraging progress on UK priorities for the OTs and delivering our obligations for supporting the rule of law and administration of justice. AGs explored how to create a mutual support network for sharing template legislation, protocols and good practice.
<p>13. The UK to work with Territories to develop measures to support implementation of the World Health Organization International Health Regulations, review existing NHS quota arrangements and to continue work on the procurement of</p>	<p>The Department of Health and Public Health England have continued throughout the year to engage with the Overseas Territories on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building capacity to implement the International Health Regulations - Improving systems for delivering the OTs’ NHS treatment quotas - Running a pilot programme for procurement of vaccines - Considering ways of improving access to training and to professional development for

<p>medicines and vaccines and education and training.</p>	<p>health workers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing advice during the global ebola crisis
<p>14. Joint work to improve child safeguarding, with UK support for Territories to consider undertaking child safeguarding reviews where these are not already in place, and the establishment of a child safeguarding group to improve coordination, enhance capacity and exploit existing frameworks for best practice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Foreign and Commonwealth Office established a Child Safeguarding Unit (CSU) in February 2015 to work in partnership with Territory governments to support their efforts to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the Overseas Territories. The Unit will coordinate UK Government actions arising from the JMC 2014 and 2015 communiqués. - The Minister for the Overseas Territories continued to encourage the OTs to undertake child safeguarding reviews (CSRs). A commitment from OT leaders to complete these by the end of 2016 was subsequently agreed and reflected in the Communiqué of the UK-Overseas territories Joint Ministerial Council of 2 December 2015. - Through the Department for International Development’s Safeguarding Children in the Overseas Territories programme (SCOTT II) UKG has facilitated CSRs in Montserrat, Tristan da Cunha and The Pitcairn Islands. The recommendations arising from these will be taken forward by respective OT governments. - The CSU has initiated a programme of engagement with key OT sectors on child safeguarding and has held specific sessions at FCO-organised events including OT Heads of Public Service Conference, Governors’ Conference, Police Commissioners’ Conference, Attorney Generals’ Conference and the Joint Ministerial Conference 2015. - The FCO will be hosting a conference for OT Directors of Children’s Services in March 2016, from which a cross-OT child safeguarding group will be formed.

<p>15. UK to work with the Commonwealth to explore associate membership for the Overseas Territories</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Director, Overseas Territories met the head of the Commonwealth Secretary General's Office in May 2015 to press the case for deepening engagement with the Overseas territories. The Commonwealth Secretariat suggested they would welcome a paper on this subject following the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta. - The FCO has continued to facilitate attendance by Overseas Territory Ministers at appropriate Commonwealth ministerial meetings including education finance and law officers. The FCO invited Baroness Scotland, the Secretary-General elect to meet territory leaders at the reception for the Joint Ministerial Council in December.
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Overseas Territories Directorate,
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