

## **Press release: UK and Iraq signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).**

On 5 March, Frank Baker, Her Majesty's Ambassador to Iraq, and Prof. Dr. Abdul Razak Abdul Jaleel Al- Essa, the Acting Minister for Finance, signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Under this new agreement, UK Export Finance (UKEF) will work closely with the Iraqi authorities to identify suitable infrastructure development projects to utilise UKEF's export finance support for UK companies.

This landmark agreement reaffirms the UK's commitment to its friendship with Iraq, and its support for continued economic cooperation and development. This particular MoU will support investment in critical infrastructure in Iraq. This infrastructure, like water and electricity, will improve the lives of millions of Iraqis. It will also help reinvigorate the private sector in Iraq, and may lead to new jobs for Iraqis.

UKEF is able to consider applications to support eligible infrastructure development projects in Iraq where the project sources goods and services from the UK. The support can take the form of loan guarantees or direct loans.

UKEF and the Government of Iraq are already exploring a number of projects for support under the MoU which will benefit from high-quality goods and services from the UK, and improve quality of life across Iraq.

---

## **Press release: New support to help workless families and improve children's lives**

[unable to retrieve full-text content] New plans to help workless families break the cycle of disadvantage have been announced, as part of building a fairer society.

---

## News story: UK-India economic and trade relations to take centre stage on two-day visit

[unable to retrieve full-text content] Philip Hammond will visit Delhi and Mumbai as part of the 9th UK-India Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD), hosted by Indian Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.

---

## Keir Starmer letter to David Davis raising ongoing concerns about the impact of Brexit on Gibraltar

### **Keir**

**Starmer MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Exiting the UK,** has written to

David Davis this evening to raise ongoing concerns about the impact of Brexit on Gibraltar.

### **Keir's**

letter follows a conversation with the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, Fabian Picardo, earlier today.

In

the letter Keir highlights three major concerns:

1.

The application of any new UK/EU trade deal on services to Gibraltar.

2.

Agreement on the continuation of access Gibraltar's access to the UK market.

3.

Agreement on the application to Gibraltar of any new trade deals the UK does with third countries.

### **Keir**

**Starmer said:**

"This afternoon I spoke with Fabian Picardo [Chief Minister of

Gibraltar] and it is clear there are serious and ongoing concerns about the situation in Gibraltar. The Government need urgently to address this and to provide clear reassurances for British citizens in Gibraltar.”

**Ends**

**Notes**

**to editors:**

.

Full

copy of the letter to David Davis below:

Dear

David,

After

discussions this afternoon with the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, Fabian Picardo, I am writing to raise a number of important issues concerning the ongoing situation in Gibraltar.

The

Chief Minister emphasised three outstanding concerns to me, all of which I hope

you will consider and respond to as a matter of urgency.

### **1: Application of any new UK/EU trade deal on services to Gibraltar**

A concern that the UK should be firm in continuing to defend the position that any new agreement which may emerge from these negotiations should cover Gibraltar.

The Chief Minister emphasised that the UK cannot just accept the Council's draft parameter, setting out Spain's position that any new trade deal can only apply to Gibraltar as a result of a bilateral agreement between the UK and Spain. A tough line needs to be taken and maintained.

### **2. Agreement on the continuation of Gibraltar's access to the UK market**

A concern that the Government of Gibraltar needs to be able to finalise the agreement with the UK to demonstrate that Gibraltar will have continued access to the UK market. This is important in respect of all services but in particular, in respect of financial services (especially insurance) and online gaming services. I am told that the wording used to date has been very helpful as political commitment but that a proposed one page agreement has not yet been finalised despite finding considerable favour and traction with colleagues in the Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC) from the

Department for Exiting the EU and the Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

### **3. Agreement on the application to Gibraltar of any new trade deals the UK does with third countries**

I understand that this is also agreed but that Gibraltar need a very clear public statement of this. Clear language from yourself and The Secretary of State for International Trade on this point would be helpful to Gibraltar.

As  
you and I discussed over the weekend, the sovereignty of Gibraltar should not be used as a bargaining chip in Brexit discussions. It is vital that the interests of British citizens in Gibraltar are protected and that ongoing uncertainty over Gibraltar is resolved urgently.

I look  
forward to your reply.

Yours  
sincerely,

**Keir  
Starmer QC MP**

**Shadow  
Secretary of State for Exiting the EU**

**MP  
for Holborn & St Pancras**

---

**[This announcement will do nothing to address the funding crisis facing schools across the country – Angela Rayner](#)**

**Angela  
Rayner MP, Labour's Shadow Education Secretary**, commenting on the Government's funding announcement for schools in England, said:

"None of today's announcement is new money. Seven years of Tory neglect has left our children in crumbling and overcrowded schools.

"The National Audit Office have

already told us that existing school buildings across the country are inadequate, while money has been ploughed into inefficient free schools and the Prime Minister's grammar schools vanity project.

"This announcement will do nothing to address the funding crisis facing schools across the country."