



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

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The Lord De Mauley
Chair of the International Relations and
Defence Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0AA

30 September 2024

Dear Lord Chair,

We are writing to you as the Ministers responsible for the Overseas Territories and Latin America at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, to provide additional information about the Foreign Secretary's meeting with Argentine Foreign Minister Diana Mondino in New York on 24 September. Given that this meeting took place during Parliamentary recess, we wanted to ensure you had the information required to enable you to fulfil your important role of scrutinising the Government's foreign policy.

During their meeting, the Foreign Secretary and his Argentine counterpart announced a new package for practical cooperation on the South Atlantic. It will pave the way for the restoration of an additional weekly flight between the Falklands and South America (São Paulo), the sharing of scientific fisheries data between Argentina and the Falkland Islands, and the restarting of negotiations on humanitarian work to identify the remains of Argentine combatants laid to rest in the Falkland Islands in 1982.

Increased practical cooperation between the UK and Argentina in the South Atlantic is a significant achievement. It is fundamental to the economic development of the

Falkland Islands and demonstrates the importance and value of the UK maintaining a mature and constructive relationship with Argentina.

We would like to reassure you that the newly announced package of cooperation in the South Atlantic was, at every stage of the process, progressed with the consent of Members of the Legislative Assembly in the Falkland Islands and in line with this new Government's commitment to engage with the democratically elected bodies and governments of our Overseas Territories in an inclusive and respectful way about key matters impacting on their future. As the UK Government improves its relationship with Argentina, we will remain steadfast in our commitment to UK sovereignty in the Falkland Islands and to defending the Falkland Islanders' right of self-determination.

We have also written to the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee for their awareness. Officials from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office will separately be engaging the Chairs of relevant All-Party Parliamentary Groups to offer a full briefing at their convenience once the House has returned after recess.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Doughty MP
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