



to Mauritius during FY 2025/26. This funding is designed to support work on maritime and aviation security, climate change, debt sustainability, trade and governance, and law enforcement (including helping to establish a Mauritius National Crime Agency).

The Government has made significant efforts to ensure that the Treaty reflects the interests of all Chagossians. The Treaty includes provisions ([detailed in my statement in December 2025<sup>2</sup>](#)) such as a £40 million Trust Fund, administered “for Chagossians and by Chagossians”, and the opportunity for Mauritius to develop a resettlement programme on islands other than Diego Garcia. FCDO Ministers and Officials have always prioritised direct engagement with the Chagossian community to ensure their views are clearly heard. The FCDO holds regular meetings with representatives of the Chagossian community through the Chagossian Contact Group - to provide Chagossians with a formal role in decision-making on the UK Government’s support for their community.

The Contact Group has met five times since its creation last year, most recently on 3 June 2026. The Minister for the Overseas Territories has also met with Chagossian groups and individuals on five occasions since September 2024. The Government remains committed to building a respectful relationship with the diverse Chagossian communities and acknowledges that there are a wide range of views on both the Treaty and issues affecting Chagossian communities in the UK and abroad.

I will continue to keep Parliament updated on developments, as we have done frequently until now.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Stephen Doughty". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Stephen Doughty MP**  
**Minister of State for Europe, North America and UK Overseas Territories**

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<sup>2</sup> <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2025-12-15/hcws1166>



**Foreign Affairs  
Committee**

27 May 2026

**Stephen Doughty MP**  
**Minister of State for Europe, North America and Overseas Territories**

*Dear Stephen*

The Foreign Affairs Committee has been closely following the Government's plans to bring an end to UK sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territory, including holding an oral evidence session with you last year.

The Diego Garcia Military Base and British Indian Ocean Territory Bill would have implemented the treaty signed by the UK and Mauritius in May 2025. That treaty, which has not yet been ratified, states that Mauritius is sovereign over the Chagos Archipelago including Diego Garcia, while granting the UK rights to exercise authority over Diego Garcia for an initial 99-year period. As the Government has made clear, this Bill was essential to safeguard the future operation of the joint UK-US military base.

However, in April 2026 the Government confirmed that it would no longer proceed with this Bill, following the withdrawal of support for the deal with Mauritius by the US Administration under President Donald Trump. You explained in the House that such political support is required in order to update the relevant UK-US 1966 Agreement, necessary for ratification of the treaty.

In addition, Mauritian Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam has stated that Mauritius "shall leave no stone unturned until the issue of the Chagos archipelago is resolved, diplomatically or otherwise", indicating that further legal action may be considered if progress is not made.<sup>1</sup>

Given that the Government has not sought to include the Bill in the recent King's Speech, I am writing to seek clarification on a number of issues relating to the future of the British Indian Ocean Territory:

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<sup>1</sup> Bloomberg, [The Dispute Over a Remote African Island That Won't Die](#), 22 April 2026



## Foreign Affairs Committee

- Does the Government remain of the view that the Diego Garcia treaty represents the principal means of safeguarding the full operation of the military base in the future? Is this assessment shared by key allies, including Five Eyes partners?
- Does the Government intend to reintroduce the Bill to Parliament, and if so, on what indicative timeline?
- What contingency arrangements are in place to ensure uninterrupted operation of the Diego Garcia base should treaty ratification not proceed?
- What recent engagement has the Government undertaken with the United States and Mauritian Governments to secure the future of Diego Garcia?
- What recent engagement has the Government undertaken with the Chagossian community to ensure that their views are heard directly by Ministers?
- Have any funds been transferred to the Mauritian Government notwithstanding that the proposed legislation has not been passed?

I would be grateful for your response to this letter by 10 June. In line with usual practice, I will be placing a copy of this letter and your response in the public domain.

**Dame Emily Thornberry MP**  
**Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee**