

## Written evidence from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (SOT91)

### Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee

### The Status of the UK's Overseas Territories in the 21st Century inquiry

#### Introduction

1. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) welcomes the inquiry from the Committee and the chance to provide written evidence.
2. The constitutional arrangements between the UK and the British Overseas Territories (OTs) are not static – they must respond to change. The Government considers that the principal benefit of the current constitutional arrangements, described in more detail in the sections below, is that they allow for changes to suit the need of each Territory.
3. These changes can manifest at the local level in individual inhabited Territories, where constitutions can be reviewed and local legislation enacted – no two OT constitutions are exactly the same, and this is also true of the bilateral relationships between the UK and each OT.
4. Changes are also proposed by the UK, as part of the Government's ongoing effort to ensure that constitutional and bilateral arrangements are 'stress-tested' and fit for contemporary challenges. The Government would direct the Committee to the recently agreed UK-Overseas Territories Joint Declaration: A Modern Partnership for a Stronger British Family attached as Annex A.
5. Following the agreement of this Joint Declaration, the FCDO is leading work on a new Overseas Territory strategy. The strategy will be published as soon as possible in 2024 following substantive consultation with the OTs. As set out in the Joint Declaration, the UK will then seek to agree individual partnership compacts with each Territory (described in more detail at paragraph 15) which will define agreed priorities and mutual expectations.
6. This paper will now address in turn each of the questions set out in the Committee's Call for Evidence.

#### **Are the UK's current constitutional arrangements as regards the Overseas Territories satisfactory and appropriate in the 21st Century?**

7. The UK Government believes in a modern partnership with the OTs, which form an integral part of the British Family. At the November 2023 UK-OT Joint Ministerial Council – the annual gathering of the leaders of the OTs with UK Ministers – the UK Government agreed a Joint Declaration with the elected Governments of the OTs, titled *A Modern Partnership for a Stronger British Family* (Annex A).<sup>1</sup> This Joint Declaration sets out the

UK and OTs' vision for a modern partnership, based on shared values, that is fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It includes commitments to strengthen the partnership, promote transparency, and ensure that the UK-OT relationship is responsive to the needs and aspirations of the OTs.

8. The UK and OTs, together with the Crown Dependencies, form an undivided realm. While the UK Parliament retains unlimited power to legislate for the OTs, the UK Government has a policy to respect and empower the institutions in the Territories. Each OT has its own unique constitution which sets out the powers and responsibilities of the institutions of Government, including the Commissioner (in uninhabited OTs) or the Governor or Administrator (inhabited), any elected legislature, and executive (in most cases ministers or councillors). The FCDO has been working to help strengthen local democracy in the OTs, notably by funding the work of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to improve scrutiny and the OTs' legislatures.
9. In responding to the question of whether the constitutional arrangements are fit for this century, the UK Government would reflect that a key benefit of our arrangements is that they allow for change. The UK believes that the fundamental framework for our constitutional relationships with the OTs is the right one. Powers are devolved to the governments of the OTs to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the UK retaining those powers necessary to discharge its sovereign responsibilities. The UK has affirmed in its Joint Declaration with the OTs (paragraph 5 at Annex A) that it will work with those OTs that wish to take on additional powers and devolve those further responsibilities where it is appropriate to do so. Significant packages of constitutional reform were recently completed in the Cayman Islands and St Helena, and productive talks are underway with the Turks and Caicos Islands.
10. The UK Government's fundamental responsibility and objective is to ensure the security and good governance of the OTs and their peoples. This responsibility flows from the UK's shared history with the OTs and our political commitment to the wellbeing of all their people.<sup>2</sup> The UK's responsibility also stems from international law, including from Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations<sup>3</sup>. The 2021 Integrated Review reiterated the UK Government's responsibilities<sup>4</sup>, as did the 2023 Integrated Review Refresh, which stated that "the government's first duty is to promote and protect the United Kingdom's core national interests: the sovereignty, security and prosperity of the British people, ensuring that our borders are secure and that the UK and its Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies are free from coercion, protected from harm, and able to maximise our economic and social wellbeing".<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> The Joint Declaration was agreed by the elected leaders of the inhabited OTs.

<sup>2</sup> The Overseas Territories: Security, Success and Sustainability, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, June 2012, p.13: [The Overseas Territories \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text>

<sup>4</sup> Global Britain in a Competitive Age: the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy, 2 July 2021: [Global Britain in a Competitive Age: the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

<sup>5</sup> Integrated Review Refresh 2023: Responding to a more contested and volatile world, March 2023, [assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1145586/11857435\\_NS\\_IR\\_Refresh\\_2023\\_Supply\\_AllPages\\_Revision\\_7\\_WEB\\_PDF.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1145586/11857435_NS_IR_Refresh_2023_Supply_AllPages_Revision_7_WEB_PDF.pdf),

11. As a consequence of these responsibilities, the UK carries significant contingent liabilities with respect to the OTs. These liabilities are wide-ranging and can relate to: economies and fiscal responsibility; response to natural disasters; crime and justice; and, climate change impacts. For example, the UK may be at risk of financial or reputational costs following the collapse in public order and through a perceived lack of action to address criminal activities such as drugs trafficking.<sup>6</sup> It is therefore appropriate and necessary that mechanisms are in place which allow the UK Government to prevent the actions of one Territory from disadvantaging the UK or other Territories and to minimise the UK's exposure to risks in relation to these liabilities. As set out the 2012 White Paper: "The Government has a duty to manage these liabilities effectively and therefore maintains certain residual powers to ensure it is able to discharge this duty."<sup>7</sup>
12. The UK has overall responsibility for OTs' external relations. This includes OTs' compliance with international obligations. Ultimately, the UK is liable and answerable in respect of challenges brought under international law for failure of an OT to comply with international obligations. For example, in a 2019 judgment, the Court of Justice of the European Union concluded that the UK was liable to the EU for actions of the Anguillan authorities in issuing export certificates in breach of EU law.<sup>8</sup> A current case is the claim brought against the UK in the European Court of Human Rights, in relation to the revocation of the right to same-sex marriage in Bermuda.<sup>9</sup> The UK is therefore accountable for breaches in OTs' compliance with international law and with respect to applicable treaties.
13. Building on firm constitutional foundations, the UK is working closely with the OTs to modernise the structure of the constitutional relationships, responding to requests from the Territories. The Declaration reaffirms the UK Government's commitment to "continue to engage closely and proactively with each British Overseas Territory where the democratically elected Territory Government seeks engagement on reviewing their constitution" – ensuring that the current constitutional arrangements can be altered in future (paragraph 6 at Annex A). The Declaration affirms the UK Government's enduring commitment to the principle of self-determination of peoples of the OTs, as enshrined in the UN Charter.
14. This refresh and modernisation of the relationships between the UK and OTs will continue with the ongoing development of a new UK strategy for the OTs, building on the 2012 White Paper. The FCDO is leading the development of the strategy to be published as soon as possible in 2024, in collaboration with other UK Government Departments and in consultation with the OTs.

---

<sup>6</sup> Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Managing risk in the Overseas Territories, November 2007, p.18: <https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2007/11/07084.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> The Overseas Territories: Security, Success and Sustainability, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, June 2012, p. 13: [The Overseas Territories \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

<sup>8</sup> European Commission v. United Kingdom, case C-391/17 <https://curia.europa.eu/juris/liste.jsf?language=en&num=C-391/17>

<sup>9</sup> Ferguson and others v. United Kingdom, application no. 35043/22 <https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#%7B%22appno%22:%5B%2235043/22%22%5D,%22itemid%22:%5B%22001-225580%22%5D%7D>

15. Following the publication of the revised strategy, and as set out in the Joint Declaration, the UK will also seek to develop partnership compacts with each OT with the aim to improve transparency and focus on priorities. These will set out in practical terms, on a bespoke basis for each OT, the responsibilities of the UK Government, elected OT governments, and the Governor. Further, we would seek to agree expectations of ways of working on areas where there are overlapping responsibilities. For instance, on issues of internal security, responsibilities for police funding, police commissioning, internal security and overall OT good governance may be spread across local governments, the Governor and the UK. Additionally, we will seek to use these partnership compacts to agree priority areas of work and to set out specific expectations on the relevant UK Government Department and each Territory to deliver them.

**What is the Government's relationship with the Overseas Territories, including:**

- **Does the UK Civil Service engage effectively with the Overseas Territories?**
- **Are the Overseas Territories appropriately considered with different departments across Whitehall?**

16. The UK Government's relationship with the OTs is based on mutual benefits and responsibilities. The domestic affairs of each OT are the primary responsibility of OT governments. The UK's fundamental responsibility is to ensure the security and good governance of the OTs and their inhabitants. This requires the UK to engage and collaborate with OT governments to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of their communities.

17. OT Governors also have specific responsibilities set out in the constitutions of each OT, including for defence, external relations and internal security, including in some cases policing and aspects of the local public service. Governors are appointed by the Sovereign, with the advice of the UK Government, as the Sovereign's representative in the OT.

18. The 2012 White Paper sets out that each UK Government Department retains responsibility for engaging and supporting the OTs, as needed, in matters falling within their own areas of competence and expertise. The Joint Declaration affirms a commitment to consult OT governments on new primary legislation that will extend to the OTs (paragraph 8 at Annex A).

19. The UK engages directly with OT governments to support their development and collaborate on areas of mutual interest. Overall, the FCDO acts as the convenor and coordinator of the UK's relationship with the Territories. This includes the delivery of the annual UK and Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council (JMC). The JMC is the highest forum for political dialogue and consultations between UK Ministers and elected leaders and representatives of the OTs for the purposes of providing leadership and promoting good cooperation in areas of mutual interest. The dialogue is the main forum to discuss issues of mutual interest and to agree actions to tackle shared challenges.

20. The Prime Minister last year asked that each UK Government Department nominates a Minister with responsibility for the OTs, in support of the long-standing position that each Department should engage and support the OTs in their areas of responsibility.<sup>10</sup> These Ministers meet as a Ministerial Group, chaired by the FCDO Minister for the Overseas Territories, to update on priority areas of work progressed by their departments and discuss issues that require cross-Departmental resolution. The Group first met in June 2023 and has agreed to meet quarterly, continuing to ensure that the UK Government discharges its responsibilities towards the OTs.
21. In addition to the Ministerial Group, the UK's governance structure includes a Directors' Board. The Board is chaired by the FCDO's Director for Overseas Territories and Polar Regions and sees cross-departmental Directors meet quarterly to agree and oversee delivery of strategy, assign actions and review progress against them. The Directors Board also acts as the Regional or Portfolio Board for the OTs Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) programmes, providing authority for programme spending and enabling alignment between agreed policy objectives and programme delivery.
22. Overall, other UK Government Departments are expected to ensure that they deploy the resources necessary to engage and support the OTs in their areas of responsibility. The Joint Declaration sets out that the UK Government will "build collaborative links between our governments and public services to assist the greater transfer of technical support and wealth of experience and knowledge (paragraph 21 at Annex A). Resourcing constraints can impact the extent to which other UK Government Departments can engage with OTs across their portfolios. The FCDO works closely with Departments to ensure that priority areas are addressed where there are potential resourcing constraints. For example, we are working with the Home Office and Ministry of Defence on longer term capability and capacity building for law enforcement and border security agencies in the OTs through CSSF-funded programmes. With respect to support for the natural environment, Defra has invested over £47m in more than 260 projects in the OTs through the Darwin Plus programme to support biodiversity and conservation.
23. The new strategy for the OTs will further outline how UK Government Departments will deliver on their responsibilities as part of a collaborative effort to ensure that the UK Government upholds its commitments and obligations to the OTs.
24. The UK's support to the OTs during the COVID-19 pandemic, was a good example of a coordinated UK Government effort. This was led by the FCDO, and involved a range of departments and agencies which saw the OTs provided with vaccines, expert support, PPE and medical equipment throughout the crisis.

**What is the UK Parliament's relationship with the Overseas Territories, including:**

- **Does the legislative process in the UK currently operate effectively in relation to Overseas Territories, both in theory and in practice?**

---

<sup>10</sup> House of Commons Debate, 11 May 2023, vol. 732: <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2023-05-11/debates/CCC3D872-ADFF-4439-A7C4-7AFA81EBF33/OverseasTerritories>

- **Are the interests of the Overseas Territories effectively represented within the UK Parliament?**

25. In the UK-Overseas Territories Joint declaration, the UK committed to ensure there is, at a minimum, an effective mechanism to consult OT governments in the exceptional cases when proposed new UK primary legislation would, when enacted, extend to the OTs. The FCDO will work with Cabinet Office to update guidance so that it is always standard procedure to consult, in good time, with OTs. In doing so, the UK will also work with OTs to make sure the consultation approach is meaningful and timely.

26. When UK Acts are extended to the OTs, this is rarely done on the face of the Act. It is more common for UK Acts to confer powers to make subordinate legislation allowing the Act, and legislation made under it, to be extended to the OTs as appropriate (for example to comply with treaty obligations). This allows for an OT to decide to request the extension of legislation at a later date. Otherwise, the UK generally looks to the OT, its elected officials and legislature to make its own legislation. UK Ministers (principally the Foreign Secretary) are held accountable by Parliament for what happens in the OTs.

27. OTs do not have a Member or Members of Parliament in Westminster. We note that there may be concern that formal representation might risk compromising the fundamental relationship between the UK and OTs. Such an approach may not bring about substantial benefit if representation were through only a small number of MPs. No Territory has raised the idea of formal representation in UK Parliament. The UK Government is therefore not currently considering this approach.

**How is legislation made in the Overseas Territories and what role does the UK Government and UK Parliament have in these processes?**

28. Legislative authority resides both in the UK and in each OT. The UK role is set out above. Each OT has its own legislature established by the OTs' constitution.

29. In OTs with smaller populations, namely Ascension, Tristan de Cunha and Pitcairn, the Governor acting in consultation with the Island Councils is the legislature. In OTs without permanent populations: South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, the British Antarctic Territory, and the British Indian Ocean Territory the Administrator or Commissioner is the legislature. For the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia, the Administrator is the legislature.

30. All of the permanently inhabited OTs have locally elected legislative bodies. This legislative body along with The Sovereign, as represented by the Governor, makes up the legislature. The Constitutions of Anguilla, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar and Turks and Caicos Island, and the British Virgin Islands confer legislative reserved power on the Governor. This reserved power is rarely used, and often requires the Governor to have the approval of the Foreign Secretary before exercising the power.

31. In accordance with the Colonial Laws Validity Act 1865 and the sovereignty of Westminster Parliament, all laws made by a Territory legislature which are incompatible with an Act of the UK Parliament are void.
32. The law-making power of a local legislature is one conferred by the constitution of the OT, and its exercise must conform with the constitution.
33. The power of His Majesty to disallow a law enacted by the legislature of an OT is retained in the Constitutions of some OTs<sup>11</sup>. The power of disallowance grants His Majesty the power to disallow a law enacted by the legislature of an OT. This power is exercised extremely rarely.

**Are effective mechanisms in place for the interests of the Overseas Territories to be represented internationally?**

34. As the OTs are not sovereign states, they are not as a rule accepted as full separate members of international organisations such as the United Nations or the Commonwealth. OTs have become associate members of some international organisations, for example, UNESCO. As set out at paragraph 11, the UK has overall responsibility for the external relations of the Territories and for their compliance with obligations arising under international law.
35. The OTs are Territories for which the UK is responsible in international law. As such, they cannot sign international agreements in their own right but can have the UK's ratification of such instruments extended to them. In certain circumstances, the UK Government has supported the OTs to conclude international agreements and has granted entrustment to provide authority. For example, Montserrat, the Cayman Islands, Bermuda and the British Virgin Islands have been given general entrustments giving them greater scope to engage, both with other governments and in multilateral fora, on areas such as trade and tourism. The FCDO has also supported OT government to open offices in foreign countries and attend international conferences.
36. As set out in the Joint Declaration, the UK Government will continue to promote the UK and OTs' interests in international fora (paragraph 9 at Annex A). The UK will also support closer links between the Territories and the Commonwealth, and we will work together to examine options for the greater participation of the OT governments and peoples in its organisations. For example, at COP28 DESNZ welcomed a large cohort of OT Ministers and representatives as part of the UK delegation. The OTs led their own event in the UK Pavilion (as they did at COP26 in Glasgow), on climate adaptation and resilience.

---

<sup>11</sup> The exception is Gibraltar. In Bermuda the scope of the power of disallowance is limited to certain laws relating to government stock. Ian Hendry and Susan Dickson, *British Overseas Territories Law*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Hart, 2018, p.79.

**Are the rights and interests of British Overseas Territories Citizens effectively protected by the current constitutional arrangements?**

37. The nature of the constitutional arrangements between the UK and OTs allows a balance: the OTs have a substantial degree of internal self-governance, and have chosen to maintain their connection with the United Kingdom through a contemporary partnership grounded in shared values and the principle of self-determination.
38. The current constitutional structure balances the UK's sovereign responsibilities and the democratic rights of the OTs and their inhabitants. The new UK Government strategy for the OTs, along with the partnership compacts to be agreed individually with each Territory, will ensure that this balance is maintained in line with the aspirations and interests of the OTs, their inhabitants, and the UK's constitutional obligations.

*January 2024*



## **ANNEX A**

### **Joint declaration of Governments of the United Kingdom and British Overseas Territories: a modern partnership for a stronger British family**

Published 14 December 2023

We, the Government of the United Kingdom, and democratically elected Governments of the British Overseas Territories of Anguilla, Ascension, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, Pitcairn Islands, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, and Turks and Caicos Islands met on 14 to 15 November 2023 to decide this Joint Declaration.

We noted progress and challenges since the publication of the 2012 white paper – The Overseas Territories: Security, Success, and Sustainability, and reaffirm that each UK Government Department is responsible for supporting the British Overseas Territories as needed, within its areas of competence and expertise. We acknowledge the political, economic, and technological shifts which have created a more complex international environment for the United Kingdom (UK) and British Overseas Territories to navigate.

Against this backdrop, we reaffirm the deep, historic, and enduring partnership between the United Kingdom and the British Overseas Territories.

We recognise and celebrate the diversity of the UK and each British Overseas Territory, our communities and cultures. We are family, united by shared values and working together to deliver for our peoples and overcome collective challenges. We reaffirm the unique and intricate bond between our communities.

We affirm the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples of the British Overseas Territories, as enshrined in the United Nations (UN) Charter, and re-state our enduring commitment to countering hostile sovereignty claims.

We are proud of a relationship that delivers for our peoples, conscious of the historical and profound cultural ties which connect us.

#### **I. Stronger global family**

i. We uphold the strong democratic values which underpin our global British family: free and open democracies that respect human rights and the rule of law.

ii. We reaffirm our commitment to maintain, defend, and respect the rules-based international system.

iii. We believe that the strongest, safest, and most prosperous societies are those in which all people can live freely without fear of unlawful discrimination and play a full and active part in society.

iv. The UK will support closer links between the British Overseas Territories and the Commonwealth, and we will work together to examine options for the greater participation of the Territory Governments and peoples in its organisations.

## **II. Empowering Territory Governments**

v. The UK will support democratically elected British Overseas Territory Governments to accept additional responsibilities and greater autonomy, alongside accountability, where they wish to. The UK would take such steps in line with its sovereign responsibilities and international law, while ensuring that obligations are met under the UN Charter and relevant international conventions, as well as under each British Overseas Territory's constitution.

vi. The UK will continue to engage closely and proactively with each British Overseas Territory where the democratically elected Territory Government seeks engagement on reviewing their constitution.

vii. For those British Overseas Territories with permanent populations who wish it, the UK will continue to support requests for the removal of the Territory from the United Nations list of non-self-governing territories. The UK will also support Territories to provide updates to the UN's Decolonisation Committee.

## **III. Mutual expectations and responsibilities**

viii. The UK will ensure there is, at a minimum, an effective mechanism to consult British Overseas Territory Governments in the exceptional cases when proposed new UK primary legislation would, when enacted, extend to their Territories. This does not affect any established practice in individual British Overseas Territories on the mechanism for the extension or application of UK primary legislation to that Territory.

ix. We will promote our collective interests in international fora. The UK will improve its processes for consulting and informing British Overseas Territories regarding new international obligations.

x. We respect the constitutional roles of elected Governments, legislatures, the UK, and Governors. In the spirit of family, we affirm the need for transparency and for swift discussion and resolution at the right level when challenges arise.

xi. We will develop bilateral Compacts between the UK Government and each British Overseas Territory that wishes to, reflecting shared priorities and objectives and detailing how both parties will achieve them. These Compacts will also set out the responsibilities of the UK, elected Governments and Governor, consistent with each British Overseas Territory's constitution.

xii. We will support the development of bilateral Compacts between individual British Overseas Territories. Where appropriate, the UK will support Territories to enter into bilateral agreements with independent nations and other bodies, and to strengthen links with regional and international organisations.

xiii. As members of the British family, we will all practise the highest standards of governance, including in the areas of human rights, rule of law, integrity in public life and financial management.

#### **IV. Sustainable development**

xiv. It is in all our interests to develop thriving and resilient communities and economies and to pursue the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We will continue to work together to build local resilience, capacity, and capability of British Overseas Territories Governments.

xv. The UK, in collaboration with the British Overseas Territory Governments who are not financially self-sufficient, will continue to prioritise financial support to enable the development of their economies in accordance with the UN Charter. British Overseas Territories in receipt of budgetary assistance are committed to reducing their reliance on UK aid, where there are viable options through which to do so.

xvi. For those British Overseas Territories not eligible for Official Development Assistance, the UK will consider their vulnerability when making decisions on financial support to them.

xvii. The UK will continue to work with the British Overseas Territories to develop the provision, transparency, and sustainability of financial support available.

xviii. We will strengthen our partnership to protect and manage sustainably our unique and globally significant environments and tackle climate priorities, recognising the global environmental importance of the British Overseas Territories, their vulnerability to the effects of climate change, and their value to international environmental science.

#### **V. Excellence in public service**

xix. We will support each other whether through prosperous or difficult times. Whilst we face many challenges that are unique to each British Overseas Territory, those that we share will require collective, committed, coordinated approaches, and focused partnership to resolve.

xx. We will strengthen and improve our public institutions, across all areas of responsibility, to ensure they deliver good governance for all, manage public finances effectively, and are at the cutting edge of worldwide efforts to combat illicit finance and corruption including increasing transparency, implementing and upholding global standards and ensuring the implementation and enforcement of effective sanctions regimes.

xxi. We will build collaborative links between our governments and public services to assist the greater transfer of technical support and wealth of experience and knowledge, and to mitigate threats such as cyber-crime.

## **VI. Implementation and oversight**

xxii. The Joint Ministerial Council (JMC) remains our highest forum for political dialogue and consultation. We will strengthen collaboration and communication between our governments, whether through changes approved at the JMC or through other fora.

xxiii. We will hold ourselves accountable to implement this Declaration through the JMC. The UK will set out how it will deliver on its commitments through a published strategy, the development of which will include meaningful collaboration with the democratically elected Governments of the British Overseas Territories.

We are united by these shared values and commitments. We will work together to achieve our collective ambition through our global partnership to deliver a prosperous and secure future for our peoples.

Agreed by:

- the Honourable Dr Ellis L. Webster, Premier of Anguilla
- Councillor Laura Shearer, Ascension
- the Honourable E. David Burt JP MP, Premier of Bermuda
- the Honourable Dr. Natalio D. Wheatley, Premier of the British Virgin Islands
- the Honourable Juliana O'Connor-Connolly JP, MP, Premier of the Cayman Islands
- the Honourable Mark Pollard MLA, Chair of the Falkland Islands Legislative Assembly
- the Honourable Fabian Picardo KC MP, Chief Minister of Gibraltar
- the Honourable Joseph E. Farrell, Premier of Montserrat
- Mr Simon Young, Mayor of Pitcairn Islands
- the Honourable Julie Thomas, Chief Minister of St Helena
- Councillor James Glass, Tristan da Cunha Chief Islander
- the Honourable Charles Washington Misick, OBE, JP, Premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands
- David Rutley MP, Minister for the Overseas Territories, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

London