

# The Four Corners

The quarterly Alumni Association newsletter

Issue 36:

June 2016



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## EDITORIAL

Message from  
the chairman



Welcome to the Summer edition of The Four Corners. It seems a long time now since the Alumni summer party in June.

As we absorb the implications of the referendum decision, many alumni will I am sure be concerned and engaged about what it will all mean for the future of the UK's role in foreign affairs and international development, as well as for the work they have done and are currently involved in. The newsletter provides some information and links. Members may well want to share thoughts, experience and ideas as we enter this new period of uncertainty and change. When Mark Lowcock next talks to the alumni in the autumn, he will doubtless give us an update on Government thinking and plans, and the seminar on the future of multilateral aid at the end of October will provide another occasion for us to reflect on the issues.

The Four Corners gives us a flavour of other developments around the world and a report on the anti-corruption summit, a subject which we discussed at the seminar with DFID last year. And we have personal news and reports on the Association's activities and plans. You will see from my note on the AGM that we are working to develop the new website [www.dfid-alumni.org](http://www.dfid-alumni.org). Please have a look at it and give us suggestions on how it can be developed. We want to include a password-protected area for discussion, to replace the current Dgroups discussion area.

Thanks to all those who have contributed to this edition. Please keep sending us your ideas and contributions for future editions. And thanks once again to Marc for putting this edition together. Best wishes for the summer break, if you are able to enjoy one.

Kind regards

*Simon Ray*

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Referendum

In a referendum on 23 June about the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union, a majority across the UK voted to leave. A majority in London, Scotland and Northern Ireland voted to remain in the EU. The Prime Minister David Cameron announced he will resign when his party has elected a new leader who is to be the next Prime Minister of the UK.

The United Kingdom is still a full member of the EU until the end of a two year process set out in EU treaty law. At the end of June 2016, the UK Government and Parliament had not decided when this process should begin.

The current Secretary of State and ministers for International Development remain in post. The Secretary of State Justine Greening campaigned to remain in the EU: one of her speeches is in The Back Pages of this edition.

## DIARY

### EVENTS AND MEETINGS

12 September: visit to The Freemasons' Hall

5 October - St. James' Place Presentation (venue to be confirmed)

31 October – Event on Multilateral Agencies

Autumn - lunchtime talk from Mark Lowcock.

13 December - Christmas Gathering at Marylebone Hotel from 6pm

Spring 2017 - seminar on Health Partnerships.

## ODI Debate: can Britain be a global leader outside the EU?

Before the EU referendum in June 2016, the Overseas Development Institute and Bond convened members of parliament and opinion leaders from all sides of the debate to explore how leaving the EU would affect UK's ability to achieve its foreign policy, development and security objectives. The ODI debate on 6 June was streamed live on-line. You can watch it by going to [this link](#).

For further debate and analysis of the impact on emerging economies, go to:

- The [ODI's](#) web site
- The IMF's [country reports](#)
- [European Commission](#) news

The policy positions taken by the opposing sides in the referendum are at [Vote Leave](#) and [Vote Remain](#).

The [UK Government](#) maintained a web site describing its position up to 27 May.

[Lord Ashcroft Polls](#) analysed the results.

## Implications of the vote to leave the EU

Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee held a one-off evidence session on 28 June on the implications for the UK's global role and for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

- [Watch Parliament TV: Implications of leaving the EU for the UK's role in the world](#)
- [Inquiry: Implications of leaving the EU for the UK's role in the world](#)
- [Foreign Affairs Committee](#)

**How will the referendum affect you and your work? Share your predictions and opinions in the next edition of The Four Corners, or by joining [referendum@dgroups.org](mailto:referendum@dgroups.org).**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM DFID IN APRIL TO JUNE 2016

### April

- DFID rebutted newspaper reports on British aid: see the Back Pages
- UK continued to support Nigeria's fight against Boko Haram
- UK will match public donations to Handicap International's 'Every Step Counts' appeal for Nepal until 18 July
- UK sent experts to support the response to the earthquake in Ecuador
- Justine Greening spoke about the referendum on leaving the EU at the London Business School: see the Back Pages

### May

- Minister Nick Hurd spoke at a meeting of the Global Campaign for Education
- Secretary of State Justine Greening spoke at the annual meeting of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- Minister Nick Hurd visited Sierra Leone
- Secretary of State visited a Birmingham school to support UNICEF's Day for Change and raise funds for Syria
- Secretary of State visited Manchester University to discuss how women's economic opportunities can be improved around the world.
- Secretary of State attended a World Humanitarian Summit
- Minister Nick Hurd represented the UK at the Annual Meeting for the African Development Bank

### June

- British government departments made no policy announcements in the weeks before the referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union which was held on 23 June.
- DFID and FCO Ministers marked London Pride 2016

## World Humanitarian Summit 2016



International Development Secretary Justine Greening speaking at the World Humanitarian Summit. Picture: UN

At a summit meeting in May, the UK committed an extra £30 million of support to help make sure no child misses out on an education in times of crisis. The Education Cannot Wait fund aims to help 13.6 million young people caught up in humanitarian emergencies such as conflict, natural disasters and disease outbreaks.

The pledge continues the UK's leadership in providing education for children in crises. More than two years ago, the UK launched the No Lost Generation Initiative with UNICEF, which has so far helped more than 250,000 children get an education in Jordan and Lebanon.

Speaking from the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, International Development Secretary Justine Greening said:

*"The first ever World Humanitarian Summit has been a watershed moment. Never has so much been at stake, with 60 million people forced from their homes and 37 million children out of school in conflict-affected countries.*

*The UK's ground-breaking work on jobs and education shows that we will continue to be a global leader on humanitarian responses. We are championing the rights of girls and women, we have reaffirmed our commitment to protect people living through conflict, and we are continuing to build on the legacy of the London Syria Conference. We are spearheading a new*

*approach to protracted crises and committing an extra £30 million of support to help make sure no child misses out on an education."*

*"As a global community it is time to recognise we need a new approach to preventing and responding to crisis. That's in everyone's interests, most of all those caught up in crisis, and this Summit has provided us with a compelling agenda for change. Now every country must step up and make good on their pledges so we can succeed in our ambitious aims."*

At the London Syria Conference in February, the UK agreed deals with Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan that are set to create at least 1 million jobs in countries around Syria so refugees have the opportunity of a livelihood close to home.

At the World Humanitarian Summit, the UK urged other countries and donors to step up to the plate and sign up to the Grand Bargain - an agreement between the largest donors, agencies and NGOs to improve efficiency in the humanitarian system. This agreement aims to put more money directly into the hands of people who need it most, stimulating local markets and economies.

There was also renewed political commitment to keep people safer, particularly in times of conflict, and to improve compliance with International Humanitarian Law. The UK also pushed forward implementation of global commitments to protect and empower women and girls in emergencies and reduce their vulnerability to violence and exploitation. The UK supports all the Summit's Core Commitments on women and girls and will play its part in delivering them.

### UK anti-corruption summit

The UK Government hosted a major anti-corruption summit in May. The UK invited G20 countries, the leading international organisations in this field including the UN, World Bank, OECD, and the IMF, and other countries which are leading the fight against global corruption or have a pivotal role to play in strengthening the international response to corruption.

International Development Secretary Justine Greening's spoke before the summit meeting on how civil society, business and government leaders can tackle corruption together.



### The cost of corruption

Thank you for that introduction and thank you to our hosts the Commonwealth Secretariat and Baroness Scotland.

I'm delighted to be able to join you today. This conference is an absolutely critical precursor to tomorrow's [Anti-Corruption Summit](#). I know there have already been some important and wide-ranging discussions over the course of today. I'm not going to take this opportunity to make a long and detailed argument about why corruption is a bad thing...

We know corruption is propping up failed and failing regimes, and providing cash for criminals and terrorists. We know how corruption is bad for global economic growth – and adds about 10% to business costs globally. We also know how, behind all the statistics, there are people... people being robbed of the life they might have had... women being sexually exploited when they try to get basic services like water and electricity. People who then have no chance to get justice from corrupt law enforcement officials.

Corruption hurts the poorest most – but in the end it is a threat to the national interests of every country. The brilliant '[Leaders Manifesto](#)' published by Transparency International today is an extraordinarily powerful call to arms for why we must take action now. Corruption is bad for people. Bad for development. And bad for business.

And yet – despite knowing how much it costs us - as a global community I believe we have been far too hesitant about getting to grips with corruption. It's too often been seen as too entrenched, too widespread, just too subsuming to knock down. So the questions we're left with are not whether corruption should be fought but whether corruption can be fought and whether we - as a global community - are prepared to fight it?

### Growing momentum

The answer to the first question is yes – yes, we can fight corruption and secondly yes, we can defeat it. Many brilliant examples of civil society, citizens, businesses and governments fighting corruption have been showcased here today. And for the last few years there's been growing momentum around this agenda.

The [Open Government Partnership](#), strongly championed by the UK and others as part of our role in driving forward a global movement on transparency, has grown from 8 to 69 countries since 2011. Greatly welcome President Buhari's commitment that Nigeria will join.

The [Sustainable Development Goals](#) agreed by the world last year acknowledged the vital importance of tackling corruption for defeating poverty - with Global Goal Number 16 committing us to reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.

I'm very proud of how the UK, led by our Prime Minister David Cameron, has seized the initiative on this these last few years. The government's [2010 Bribery Act](#) introduced some of the world's strictest legislation on bribery - making companies corporately liable to prosecution if they fail to prevent bribery. We are first major country in the world to establish a public central registry of who really owns and controls companies that will go live next month.

But we need to do more – and do more together. Which is of course the theme for today, and indeed for tomorrow, tackling corruption together – all of us, civil society, business, government leaders and citizens.



*Firstly, tomorrow's summit is about developed countries including the UK getting their own house in order and making key commitments.*

*In critical areas such as:*

- *Lifting the veil of secrecy over who ultimately owns and controls companies*
- *Denying the corrupt the use of legitimate business channels and ensuring anyone who launders the proceeds of corruption feels the full force of the law*
- *And ensuring the necessary laws are in place to expose and punish corruption, including working together across international borders to pursue and prosecute the corrupt.*

### **Exposing, punishing and driving out corruption**

*So is the world really prepared to take the comprehensive actions needed to stamp out corruption?*

*Tomorrow's [summit](#), hosted by our Prime Minister, is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to show that we are. The summit brings together world leaders from Afghanistan to Colombia to Nigeria to Norway, multinational companies, civil society groups, law enforcement bodies and multilaterals like the UN and the World Bank.*

*But whether or not this summit will truly be a turning point in the fight against corruption depends on whether this unique coalition will commit to practical, transformative steps that will expose corruption, punish the perpetrators and drive out entrenched corruption wherever it exists.*

*We all know the world we want – countries' resources being used to improve people's lives not stolen and squandered domestically or hidden abroad - the international legal system effectively recovering stolen funds and the perpetrators being punished - citizens being able to report and expose the corruption if they encounter it in their daily lives - businesses operating in a level playing field. So what needs to happen tomorrow to ensure that we get there?*

*Secondly, and just as crucially, tomorrow is about supporting change in developing countries, because tackling corruption is a two-way street – it's not 'us and them' or 'here and there', it's about sharing expertise, information and best practice – for our shared interests.*

*And that's why it's so important that developing countries, like Kenya, Afghanistan, Tanzania, Ghana and Nigeria will have a voice at the table tomorrow, so that we can work together, in partnership, to stamp out corruption in all its forms.*

*And let's be clear – supporting these countries to fight corruption should be an absolutely key priority for everyone working in development. In many of the poorest countries, the resources lost through corruption often far outstrip the aid flows they are receiving.*

*It's a key priority for the UK, as set out in our new [UK Aid Strategy](#). I've ensured that my Department for International Development has anti-corruption and counter-fraud plans for every country we give bilateral aid to. And we'll be saying more tomorrow about our commitment to boost partnerships between UK institutions and their counterparts in the developing world.*

*Of top concern to me is effective and transparent tax systems. I believe the [Addis Tax Initiative \(ATI\)](#) launched at Financing for Development last year has the potential to be really transformative. Countries like Ghana, Ethiopia and Tanzania are signing up to put a priority on developing their own sustainable tax administrations - while donor countries like the UK are providing the right support, we're doubling our support whether financial or technical assistance. It means as growth happens, these countries are better placed to reap the financial rewards. To date, 31 countries have committed to the ATI and over the course of this summit we want to see many more step up and make a public commitment to this crucial initiative.*

*Thirdly, this summit is not just about governments – we also want to see businesses really seizing the initiative on this. To me this is about much more than corporate responsibility – it's in businesses' best interests to join the fight against corruption. Corruption is bad for business. And in a recent survey of business attitudes to corruption – carried out by business risks consultancy Control Risks - 34% of respondents from Africa reported losing out on deals to corrupt competitors. That's why having a level playing field is so important.*

*So governments will play their part but the onus is also on businesses themselves to take action on transparency, on procurement and who they're working with - and it's crucial that we see more and more businesses adding their powerful voice to the anti-corruption agenda. And I want to see businesses engaged in a race to the top in terms of standards.*

*Fourthly, and importantly, tomorrow's summit must be about empowering citizens to fight corruption - with civil society playing a key role in this. This summit needs to offer new hope for citizens – a guarantee that when the dust settles it won't be business as usual and that corrupt leaders and officials will not have impunity. That means commitments for more opening up of government data to citizens, using the latest*

*technology to make it accessible and it means protections for whistleblowers.*

*Civil society will continue to have a vital role helping to mobilise citizens to monitor their governments using all the new data available. And I hope that even more civil society groups can play a role in changing attitudes, and changing public expectation over what can be achieved in the fight against corruption. I also want to see civil society organisations building innovative partnerships with other players...in particular working in partnership with businesses to stop corruption. I look forward to hearing from you on how this could work in the next session.*

### **Conclusion**

*So, in the end, this issue of tackling corruption is for everyone. Tackling corruption is not only morally the right thing to do – it's in our national interest, it's in every country's national interest. This week is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for developed countries to get their house in order and for developing countries who suffer the most from corruption – and have the most to gain by stamping it out.*

*There is no question that corruption matters wherever you are in the world, whoever you are and whatever field you represent. That's why this [Anti-Corruption Summit](#) needs to stick – it can't be a one-off, it has to be the start of a truly global movement to stamp out corruption. Governments need to live up to their promises – and civil society and businesses need to hold governments to account but also commit to learning and adapting from each other.*

*We won't eradicate all corruption at the summit tomorrow, but we are taking a crucial step in the journey. And I firmly believe that, with the right global effort, we can turn back the tide of corruption. We owe this to the poorest people in the world – we owe it to ourselves. The world and our global economy can't afford not to tackle corruption. The world needs to look very different by 2020. Let's make sure tomorrow's summit is the crucial step to driving just that.*

## Global partnerships to tackle corruption

At least 18 countries committed to international partnerships to drive up standards and integrity in government institutions and professional associations, as part of the Anti-Corruption Summit. The UK is to lead an international network of partnerships between countries and institutions to stamp out corrupt practices and strengthen the integrity of government institutions globally.

Drawing on development economist Professor Sir Paul Collier's "twinning" approach, the new 'Institutional Integrity Network' will see countries partnering up to share high professional standards and best practice in vital areas of government and in professional associations; including tax, budgets, natural resource management and accountancy. It aims to step up global action to expose, punish and drive out corruption. It will boost development opportunities and improve the delivery of life-saving services in many of the poorest countries.

As part of the international network of partnerships, Britain is sharing its own expertise through introducing a new 'GREAT for Partnership' initiative. International Development Secretary Justine Greening said:

*"Corruption is a menace that undermines all our efforts to end poverty and promote global prosperity – we must work together to win this fight by ensuring every country builds robust institutions and tax systems so they can stand on their own two feet. Our new UK-led partnership network will stamp out corrupt practices in international governments - which are a grave threat to the national interests of every country, including the UK."*

GREAT for Partnership will see UK bodies, such as the Office for Budget Responsibility, National Audit Office and National Crime Agency, partner with countries including Nigeria, Kenya, and Tanzania to embed integrity in their institutions and build a shared culture of honesty and probity. As well as prioritising anti-corruption, GREAT for Partnership will also establish partnerships with

## View from Nigeria

Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari said he did not want an apology from UK Prime Minister David Cameron, who described the African nation as "fantastically corrupt". The Nigerian leader, called on his counterpart to help repatriate stolen Nigerian assets stashed away in the UK.

*"No. I am not going to demand any apology from anybody. What I am demanding is the return of assets. What would I do with an apology? I need something tangible,"* Buhari said during a press conference on the eve of the summit, scheduled for 12 May.

*"By the end of our summit tomorrow, we should be able to agree on rules-based architecture to combat corruption. Corruption does not differentiate between developed and developing countries. It is a serious threat to good governance, peace and security. I call for establishment of an anti-corruption infrastructure that will trace and return stolen assets to their countries of origin,"* he continued.

*"Unfortunately, repatriating stolen assets is tedious, time-consuming, costly. It entails more than just signing of bilateral agreements. The anti-corruption agencies have been revitalised to tackle the monster. A radical departure from the past. Our administration has zero tolerance for corruption. We have strong reserve to tackle it, even if many feathers would be ruffled."*

The Nigerian leader previously said he was "deeply shocked and embarrassed" by Mr Cameron's remarks, suggesting the prime minister could have been referring to Nigeria's previous administrations, marred by corruption.

countries on health, extractives and a range of other sectors, including the rule of law, climate, infrastructure, education and digital.

New partnerships announced at the Summit include:

- The UK National Audit Office and Nigeria's Office of the Auditor General working together to strengthen organisational governance and compliance with international audit standards.
- The National Crime Agency partnering with relevant counterpart agencies in Tanzania, Kenya and Nigeria to strengthen their anti-corruption institutions.
- The UK committing to an institutional integrity partnership with Kenya to support the development of its financial regulatory bodies through provision of UK expertise.
- The Office of Budget Responsibility partnering with Georgia's Parliamentary Budget Office to strengthen budget transparency, including through improving the quality of economic and fiscal reporting.
- The UK stands ready to provide financial and technical assistance to the newly announced Afghanistan Anti-Corruption Justice Centre, including through work with UK institutions.

The UK is doing more than ever to tackle organised crime and corruption and already supports a large number of existing partnerships.

For example, the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and the Better Regulation Delivery Office helped the Bangladeshi government tackle weak building regulations following the Rana Plaza disaster.

The Crown Prosecution Service helped the Jamaican Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency to develop the tools and skills to investigate and prosecute corruption and other serious crime.

International partnerships commitments made at the Summit also included:

- Bulgaria and Afghanistan partnering to strengthen policing and anti-corruption units.
- Norway strengthening the integrity outcomes in its partnership with Ghana and Tanzania under its landmark Oil for Development programme.

- Through the International Bar Association's Programme for Excellence, the Georgian Bar Association and the Law Society of Kenya partnering with participating associations from other countries to enhance effectiveness in global legal services, the justice system and the rule of law.
- The Commonwealth Secretariat will establish new Anti-Corruption Networks, first in the Pacific and then Asia to promote practitioner partnerships.
- Australia's integrity-focused partnership in the Pacific.

The Network will be supported by a new Learning Exchange, hosted by the OECD, and funded by the UK government, linking to the expertise and experience of others, networks, professional associations and international organisations.

The countries who have committed to Institutional Integrity Partnerships include Romania, Mexico, Georgia, Switzerland, Afghanistan, Australia, Norway, UK, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Bulgaria, Netherlands, Ghana, Korea, Ukraine, Germany, USA – as well as the UN and Commonwealth.

The UK has partnered across 27 countries to improve healthcare for some of the world's poorest people, by twinning NHS and other UK health institutions with their counterparts in developing countries. The National School of Government International has helped over 15 countries with over 200 health cases since 2011, focused principally on centre of government improvement and support.

On 1 July 2016, a law came into effect in Switzerland, the world's largest offshore financial centre. Its government will be able to freeze assets and to confiscate and repatriate them, if another country lacks the means to investigate and prosecute, unless it can be shown the assets were obtained legally.

Britain has proposed introducing a burden of proof intended to ease asset recovery, using "unexplained wealth orders".



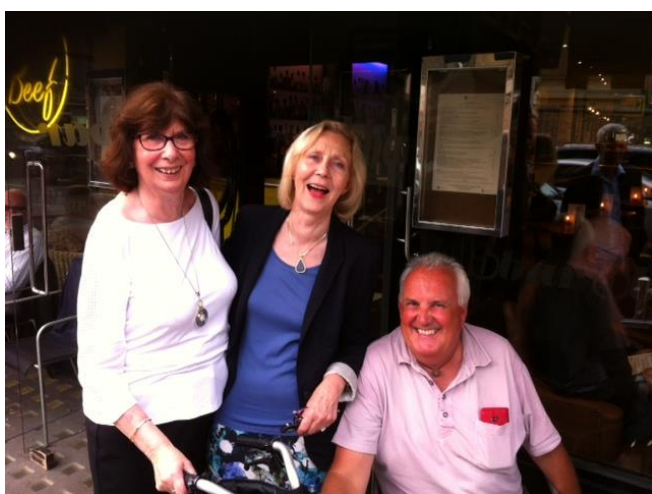
## EVENTS

### DFID Alumni Summer Party, London

A successful summer gathering was held at the BBar on Buckingham Palace Road on 7 June 2016. Around 50 members enjoyed drinks and nibbles and the opportunity to catch-up with old friends.

We used the occasion to hold the second draw for the 100 Club, which was drawn by Malcolm Bruce. The winners were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Michael Mosselmans;
- 2<sup>nd</sup>- Peter McLean;
- Joint 3<sup>rd</sup> –
  - Ian and Edna Brooks and
  - Martin Dinham.



### Proposed British Council/BCA joint workshop on Arts Work in Conflict Related Areas:

Scheduled for September 16th 2016

The aim of the workshop is to enhance the British Council's awareness of experience and potential for Arts work in conflict related areas in and around the Middle East by providing a forum at which current and former BC staff and key partners can share experience of Arts work in conflict related areas by examining a number of previous and current Arts projects in the area, and learning from these examples.

We see Conflict Related Areas as the spaces in and around conflict that allow for activity and influence; in the context of tensions among different communities with the potential for, or actual, sporadic conflict (e.g. Palestine, or Balkans); in working with refugees from conflicts (e.g. Syrians and others in Lebanon and elsewhere); in contexts where post-conflict reconciliation and development are taking place (e.g. Lebanon, Iraq and Afghanistan); or in zones of safety (e.g. Afghanistan's government safe area).

We have identified activity in Arts Work to use as examples in Bosnia, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Palestine, and are continuing to seek further examples in Palestine, Algeria and Lebanon. Full written and audio or video records will be kept to act as learning material. We welcome suggestions for possible examples.

Discussions with the British Council continue to finalize and agree the details of the Workshop, and Friday 16th September has been agreed as the putative date, probably from 11.30 until 4.00, though timing is not yet definite. We are providing advance notice in order that BCA members who might wish to attend have advance warning.

Further details for DFID Alumni will follow nearer the time.

## Cultural Dissonance: War Criminals vs Tree Huggers

Thursday, 9th June 2016

This was the ninth of the Alumni Seminars arranged by the British Chapter of the Association of World Bank Group Alumni (the 1818 Society), and the third in partnership with DFID. Our two speakers joined the marines on the same day in 1973 and have over 50 years of distinguished service between them.



Lieutenant General Sir Robert Fry KCB CBE was involved in military operations in Northern Ireland, the Gulf, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan. He has worked in the defence sector as an advisor to international companies, but

his main business interests lie in communications and finance. A talented essayist and columnist, Sir Robert is a visiting professor at King's College, London and a visiting fellow at Oxford University.



Simon Haselock is a pioneer in media intervention in countries emerging from violent conflict. He was the NATO Spokesman in Sarajevo, and then Deputy High Representative for Media Affairs in the Office of The High

Representative responsible for the public presentation of policy and media reform. He served in the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and went on to head the FCO Media Development and Regulatory Advisory Team in Iraq. He directed projects in Kosovo, Darfur, Lebanon, Afghanistan and Somalia and is an Associate of the Program for Comparative Media Law and Policy (PCLMP) at Oxford University.

Sir Robert discussed the role of the military in development and provided insights into the realities of military diplomacy. He stressed the importance of both “soft” and “hard” power, noting that the UK makes effective use of diplomacy in conjunction with non-governmental organisations, and usually partners with other

countries when it comes to boots on the ground. He supported the Remain campaign. Simon Haselock gave an overview of the importance of communication in times of conflict, and warned us of the need to exercise “media intelligence” in interpreting news stories. Their presentations stimulated a lively question and answer session and the seminar was declared to have been “excellent” “very articulate” and “thought-provoking” “mixed with humour”, and the speakers “highly intelligent and knowledgeable”.

*Nicki Marrian, the 1818 Society*

### Freemasons’ Hall: 12 September 2016

Janet Grimshaw has organised a tour for members of the DFID Alumni Association on 12 September. There are still a few places available. If you would like to join this visit please contact Janet: [janetgrimshaw@onetel.com](mailto:janetgrimshaw@onetel.com).

Freemasons’ Hall has been the centre of English freemasonry for 230 years. It is the headquarters of the United Grand Lodge of England, the oldest Grand Lodge in the world, and also the meeting place for over 1000 Masonic lodges. The building, which is listed Grade II\* was completed in 1933. The architects were H V Ashley and F Winton Newman. The interior of the building is richly decorated.

If you want to visit the Hall separately, the Library and Museum organises free tours of the Grand Temple and ceremonial areas. Freemasons’ Hall is not open on the Saturday preceding a Monday public holiday, nor on Sundays, public holidays or the Christmas/ New Year period.

See the exhibitions & events calendar for other major events but please be aware that events can be arranged at short notice and if you are making a special trip it may be advisable to telephone +44 (0)20 7395 9257 a couple of days ahead to confirm that tours will be running on the day of your visit.

## DFID Alumni Association Seminar

Monday 31 October 2016

13.30 to 1500 at DFID (22 Whitehall, London)

### The future role of multilateral development agencies

#### Aim

With agreement on the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015, debate has shifted to how these will be delivered and the role of multilateral agencies in the process. DFID is currently conducting its own multilateral aid review, which will look at questions of effectiveness, cooperation between multilateral bodies and how and where HMG can best invest in the multilateral system to achieve the greatest impact on the SDGs.

As we look ahead, it will be valuable to draw on the experience and expertise of those who are still working, or have worked in the multilateral system in the past. The seminar would bring together alumni with DFID staff currently responsible for policy in this area.

Questions to be addressed: how have the original roles of multilaterals changed over time and in what evolving political context? What contribution have they made in delivering global development goals? What lessons can be drawn from experience for their future role in delivering the SDGs?

#### Agenda

1. Opening presentations
2. Presentation by DFID on the Multilateral Aid Review and issues for the future.
3. Discussion
4. Conclusions

#### Keynote speech.

Sir Suma Chakrabarti (EBRD President and former DFID Permanent Secretary)

#### Other speakers.

Nick Dyer (Director General, Policy and Global Programmes, DFID))

Nilima Gulrajani (Research Fellow ODI) (tbc)

Chair (Myles Wickstead)

World Bank and FCO alumni will be invited.

#### Other planned events

5 October - St. James' Place will give a further presentation on financial planning for alumni (venue to be confirmed)

We plan to arrange a lunchtime talk in the Autumn by the Permanent Secretary of DFID, Mark Lowcock.

13 December – our Christmas Gathering will be at the Marylebone Hotel from 6pm

In the first half of 2017 we plan to organise a seminar on Health Partnerships jointly with DFID and other interested parts of government. More details later this year.

#### Consequences of the referendum

The prospect that the United Kingdom will leave the European Union is already affecting the world economy and our international relations in far-reaching ways.

If you would like to join a discussion with fellow alumni, send a blank email to [join.referendum@dgroups.org](mailto:join.referendum@dgroups.org). As soon as your membership request is confirmed, you can begin sending your views and personal predictions to [referendum@dgroups.org](mailto:referendum@dgroups.org). As usual, you can reduce the frequency of updates you receive by emailing:

- [dailydigest.referendum@dgroups.org](mailto:dailydigest.referendum@dgroups.org) or
- [weeklydigest.referendum@dgroups.org](mailto:weeklydigest.referendum@dgroups.org)

You can also follow news from the DFID Alumni Association on Twitter: @DFID\_Alumni

## Beverley Dennis

Beverley Dennis passed away suddenly on 6 June while overseas. Colleagues who knew Beverley will be shocked and saddened to hear this news.

Beverley had worked as a Typist/Secretary/PA/Executive Assistant in DFID and its predecessors. She retired from DFID in July 2014 after a 24 year career, most recently in Human Development Department. She was well known for her warm, generous nature and for sharing happiness with all. She will be hugely missed by many.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends at this sad time. A book of condolences is with Paulette Richards / Jackie Barrett in RB.3.32.

*I was distressed to read this. Beverley and I worked closely together in Health and Population Division in the nineties. Always efficient, helpful and, above all, cheerful and friendly. I am sure that she would have really enjoyed her retirement and it is upsetting to know that she never had the chance.*

*Please pass my condolences to her family.*

*Best wishes, Brian Thompson*

What sad news. I knew Beverley well, over many years. She was always a delightful colleague -- genuinely friendly and supportive alongside her constant efficiency. A real loss.

Bob Grose

## Scott McArthur

We were sad to hear that Scott MacArthur died recently. He was well known throughout DFID. His funeral was on Monday 13 June at 1.15 pm at South Lanarkshire Crematorium. Donations to stroke association. Messages can be sent to the family at [condolence@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:condolence@dfid.gov.uk)

*Thanks for letting us know. Stunned to hear of Scott's passing. I worked with him for a short while in 2004 in DFID Southeast Asia. He was a fine chap and he will be sorely missed. May his soul rest in peace and sincere condolences to his family and friends.*

*In deep sympathy*

*Santosh Clare*

*I knew Beverley when she worked in HPD. She was a terrific person to have in the department when I was Chief Adviser. Could you pass on my condolences and best wishes to her family. She is fondly remembered.*

*Julian Peter Lob-Levyt*

Can I join with the others who have responded in expressing my sadness and shock at this news. I worked with Beverley for some years – I particularly recall Latin America & Caribbean Department in the 90s. As others have said, she was a tremendous colleague – ever smiling, ever calm, ever efficient – a real pleasure, and fun, to work with and to know. So very sad that she couldn't enjoy her retirement.

Desmond Curran

## Remembering BDDC Barbados:

### 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations

My job in BDDC from 1982 to 1984 was Office Manager. It was the best job in the world EVER! I had gone on a 3 year posting but made a mistake of getting a promotion after a year. (That promotion, which I had waited a good number of years for, supports my theory that somewhere out there is a planet called Mischief with a giant Mischief Phaser aimed at me set to Mirth. My how the operator must have chuckled. I did manage to broker a 2 year stay at BDDC with Sue Unsworth (no mean feat) and even then the long corridor in the BBDC office bears the marks where I was dragged out of the building to be emplaned).

I digress

Nope I don't. I'm still voicing my angst. Only being allocated the job of building the Register of Available Personnel (RAP) by Pam Wilkinson (It was actually a Central Register but we dropped off the Central for obvious reasons) got me through my sustained period of grief. Thank you Pam J.

Anyhoo, to my forging story

As Office Manager I had the job along with Head of Division, then Ken Woolverton, of meeting ranking visitors from the UK who, if their rank was high enough were taken to the VIP Lounge at Grantley Adams Airport whilst lower lackeys like myself wandered through the heat and queued at the Immigration Desk to clear passports and Immigration forms. Well you don't get much higher in ranking terms than Sir William Ryrrie the Permanent Secretary of ODA, or lower in lackey terms as my good self, but despite the gulf I had my duties.

Visitors to Barbados had to sign an immigration form that was presented along with the passport at the Immigration Desk. VIPS did not queue, so Ken and Sir William were left at the VIP Lounge whilst I lackeyed.

#### Heads of BDDC

- **Bill Bell**
- **Sir Bruce Greatbatch**
- **John Edwards**
- **Ken Woolverton**
- **Mike Bawden**
- **Brian Thomson**
- **Desmond Curran**
- **Joanne Alston**
- **Sandra Pepara**
- **Elizabeth Carrier**

I was halfway between the VIP lounge and that desk when I noticed Sir William had not signed the form. Well it was hot and it was a good walk back in the heat to the VIP lounge and you don't like telling a Perm Sec he has made a clerical error ,so, showing initiative, as I later argued my case (successfully), I looked at Sir William's signature on his passport and thought "I can do this" and I did. Although with no previous experience (again a point I later made in my defence) the signature passed enough muster for The Bajan official not to question anything and clear entry. Job done. Well not quite.

On the way home Ken and myself took Sir William to the British Airways First Class lounge (I never did figure out what prestige the Perm Sec had lost during his short stay or why) and I did my lackey work of making the coffee. As I sat down opposite Sir William, who had finished conversing with Ken and in that time filler sort of way, and to my consternation, started looking at his passport and Immigration form.

First casually then with the narrowing eye of a man educated at George Heriot's school in Edinburgh he looked at the form, then me and asked " Did you forge my signature?"

It wasn't quite a fight or flight moment more a "fair cop guv" one. "Yes" I replied "but I don't make a habit of it" Obviously impressed by my initiative, and taking my first offense plea into account, Sir William smiled and showed my

handy work to Ken who just laughed. Job done. Well not quite.

A few weeks later I am at a bank outside Eland House where I'm signing a cheque for cash, when Lesley Dawes who was the Chairman of The Promotion Board I was at home to attend and happened to be in the bank, leaned over my shoulder and asked "Forged any more signatures recently?" and walked away with a smile.

As I now write, I wonder did my honest initiative get me that angst promotion I previously mentioned and was The Mischief Phaser not set to Belly Laugh?

Paddy McVey

*I spent five years in the BDDC from 1975 to 1979, first as the Senior Economic Adviser and then as the Deputy Head. When I arrived the Head was Sir Bruce Greatbatch and he was succeeded in I think 1978 by John Edwards.*

*Sir Bruce is long dead. John Edwards who joined the FCO and became the BHC to Botswana.*

*In the 1970s BDDC was a sizeable institution with a large budget for many recipients and virtually total delegated authority. I have plenty of happy memories to share.*

*Garth Armstrong.*

You asked for memories of BDDC. I am sure that you will receive a host of reminiscences about the wide gamut of excellent work done by the Division. But it contained a pretty eclectic group of characters, particularly in its early years, so here is a true story, featuring perhaps the most colourful of them all, Sir Bruce Greatbatch. It happened sometime in the late seventies.

One morning Sir Bruce, perhaps not in the best of moods, charged into the room of the long-suffering Office Manager. "What are you doing with those boxes?" he roared.

"They are the samples of the products from the Agro-Lab in St Vincent that you asked me to send

to London. I am just about to have them packed up so that we can send them by sea mail."

"Waste of money!" cried Sir Bruce. "I negotiated bag privileges for us. Send them in the diplomatic bag!"

"Er, I don't think that we are allowed to do that." said the embattled Office Manager.

"Don't argue! Get on with it!"

So the various products were duly parcelled up and sent over to the High Commission for inclusion in the bag. And, of course, the inevitable happened, the bag was dropped and when opened in the Inward Bag Room in the FCO the staff there were greeted by a selection of official documents washing around in a pungent melange of pina colada, rum punch, pepper sauce etc.

Needless to say the Office Manager was soon on the end of furious telephone calls from the FCO and the High Commission. "What do I tell them, Sir Bruce?" he cried. "Deny everything!"

Needless to say, bag privileges were soon revoked and it took some time for them to be recovered.

Cheers,

Brian Thorpe

***The British High Commission in Barbados are trying to contact former Heads of BDDC.***

***They are looking to track down those from earlier years, and in particular from the start 50 years ago. If you know their whereabouts, please tell John Stuppel and he'll pass on details to the BHC.***

***Does this stir up memories of your time at BDDC? Please share your stories in the next edition of the Four Corners.***

***Send them to the editor:  
[c.marc.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:c.marc.taylor@gmail.com), by 25 September.***

## Nous autres francophones

It is sometimes suggested that DFID lacks foreign-language skills. In proof to the contrary, Robert FEIGE (who worked for DFID/EUD from 1999-2002) recently published his first novel in his second language - French.

"La Croisade du Parc Reynaud" is set in modern-day France, where an archaeological dig in a provincial town revives ancient tensions rooted in the medieval Crusades. Although the book is a work of fiction, the historical details are accurate, revolving around the notorious crusading knight Reynaud de Chatillon - who also figures in Ridley Scott's 2005 film "Kingdom of Heaven", starring Orlando Bloom and Eva Green.

Through the action and dialogues, the complex relationship between religious communities and the (secular) public authority is highlighted - leavened by some humour and even a budding romance. The Foreword summarises the underlying message of Robert's book: "We all share the same planet, often the same country - and sometimes the same building. It is now urgent to rediscover an everyday, pragmatic dialogue between religious communities, and also between believers and non-believers".

A very topical theme in today's world, and we hope to see an English translation in due course!

The book is available via Amazon.com.uk - [https://www.amazon.co.uk/croisade-du-parc-Reynaud/dp/2310023396/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1461771971&sr=1-1&keywords=parc+reynaud](https://www.amazon.co.uk/croisade-du-parc-Reynaud/dp/2310023396/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1461771971&sr=1-1&keywords=parc+reynaud)

*The DFID Alumni Association has over 750 members in over 50 countries. We don't know how many languages they speak and write.*

*The Four Corners welcomes contributions from anywhere in the world, about anything which is of interest our fellow members.*

## New Members of the Association

**We welcome our new members who joined the DFID Alumni in April to June 2016.**

Raaj Bhatti

Ian Curtis

Jane Lovel

Catherine Porter

Shampa Bose

Mark Waltham

Alison Girdwood

Thi Yen Le

Stephanie Simmonds

Stephen Porter

John Hogan

David Wilcock

## What are they doing now?

**Do you have a new role, interest or achievement?**

**Share it with fellow DFID Alumni.**

*Please send your news for the next edition of The Four Corners to Marc Taylor by 25 September: [c.marc.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:c.marc.taylor@gmail.com).*

### Over £40M pledged in new bid to tackle global challenges through research

On 12 May 2016, five UK Research Councils announced the first joint interdisciplinary calls from the new £1.5Bn Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) unveiled by the Government in last year's spending review.

Worth over £40M, the new calls are in non-communicable diseases, global infection and agriculture and food systems. They aim to leverage the UK's world-class research base to help provide solutions to reduce and prevent diseases in humans and farmed animals, ensure a safe, nutritious and sustainable supply of food for a growing population and improve the life-long health of billions of people in low and middle income countries.

This funding from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and the Medical Research Council (MRC), with support from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) reflects the complexity of the challenges we face and the need for all disciplines to contribute to achieve international development goals.

These initial three calls aim to rapidly stimulate and enhance the research and partnerships needed to pave the way for ambitious GCRF programmes, while global challenges will also continue to be supported through other funding opportunities offered by the Research Councils.

Given the UK's world leading reputation, research is a highly effective way to achieve international development goals, tackle multifaceted global challenges and improve the social, economic and health outcomes for people in developing countries, as well as benefiting the UK.

Over the next five years, the Research Councils and the National Academies will deliver the GCRF to ensure the excellent UK research base takes a leading role in addressing the problems faced by developing countries and to build resilience and tackle major world challenges

Universities and Science Minister Jo Johnson, said *"Our £1.5 billion Global Challenges Research Fund represents the latest stage in our sustained investment in the UK's world-leading scientists. This new £40 million fund is part of our commitment to tackle global issues such as food security and life-threatening diseases like Ebola, and will help improve quality of life for people in developing nations as well as here in the UK."*

Professor Melanie Welham, BBSRC Chief Executive, said: *"The UK research-base has a vital role to play in helping to improve the quality of peoples' lives across the world. Challenges around disease prevention, energy and food supply and conflict resolution pose a threat to us all – no matter where we live. BBSRC is delighted to be working in collaboration with many partners to ensure our community maximise the potential of the new Global Challenges Research Fund."*

Professor Sir John Savill, Chief Executive of the Medical Research Council, said: *"These new awards will accelerate the linkage of excellent UK-based research to the wider sphere of our global health research, covering new areas in infections, and vitally, extending our work in non-communicable diseases. By fostering cross-Council initiatives such as this, we are able to harness the expertise of researchers in very different fields in interdisciplinary relationships."*

Overarching global challenges identified by the Research Councils' include: health, clean energy, sustainable agriculture, conflict and humanitarian action and foundations for economic development. Additional calls are due to be announced soon.

These three calls went live on Friday 13 May.

Further information:

- BBSRC will be contributing up to £20M across the three calls
- MRC will be contributing up to £20M across the three calls
- AHRC and ESRC will be contributing up to £1M each across the calls, with NERC contributing up to £300K, allocated on a case by case basis

For specific call details, visit:

[MRC Global Challenges Research Fund - Foundation Awards](#) or [www.bbsrc.ac.uk/gcrf](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/gcrf)



## 100 Club

In 2015 we set up the 100 Club to encourage members to make a voluntary contribution to the Association's costs, and also have the opportunity of winning a small prize. The experiment proved worthwhile. We raised additional funding for the Association, and many enjoyed the fun of possibly winning one of the three prizes. Some members were not comfortable with the concept of the 100 Club, but were willing to make a voluntary contribution. We repeated the exercise this year. A draw was held at the Summer Party on 7 June, and another will be held at the Christmas Party on 13 December.

How does it work? You make a contribution of £20 to buy one ticket. You can buy multiple tickets if you wish. £10 will be set aside for prize money, and the remaining £10 will boost the Association's funds, allowing it to fund more activities, including the Summer and Christmas parties.

If you wish to participate please make a contribution either by electronic bank transfer or by setting up a regular standing order to the DFID Alumni Association bank account: Sort Code: 40-01-13 Account No.: 51705032 and let John Stuppel, Secretary to the DFID Alumni Association, know when a payment has been made (this is the preferred method of payment as it simplifies the administration of the scheme, but if it is not possible for you, you can send a cheque made payable to DFID Alumni – send to John Stuppel, Secretary to the DFID Alumni Association, c/o DFID 22 Whitehall, London SW1A 2EG).

**Please make your contribution by 25 November 2016 if you wish your name to be put forward for the draw at the Christmas Party.**

The 100 Club is voluntary, but we encourage as many to participate as possible. If you do not wish to be linked to the 100 club, but wish instead to make a donation to the running costs of the Association, then we welcome any donations large or small. Please use the banking details given above.

## Your Committee

The members of the Committee are:

Simon Ray	Chairman
John Burton	Treasurer
Jackie Creighton	
Helen Darling	(elected at 2016 AGM)
Isobel Doig	(elected at 2016 AGM)
Jim Drummond	
Janet Grimshaw	
Kathy Marshall	
Amisha Patel	
John Stuppel	Secretary
Marc Taylor	Editor of The Four Corners

## Report from the Chair on the main points from the June 2016 AGM

It was good that a number of members were able to join the DFID Alumni Association AGM on 7 June and a pleasure to see more of you at the summer party. The AGM confirmed that the Association is generally in good shape, with modest but reasonably healthy finances, an active and continuing programme of events and seminars and a growing membership. Helen Darling and Isobel Doig were elected unopposed to the Committee. We reported on progress in developing the new website and weaning ourselves off Dgroups; you can find the website at [www.dfid-alumni.org](http://www.dfid-alumni.org).

We agreed plans to develop further our overseas chapters. Some concern was expressed about the weakness of present liaison arrangements with DFID; we are working hard to resolve this.

On events for the rest of the year, you will find details on the website of those so far confirmed or will have had notices already from John Stuppel. We await advice on timing for a lunchtime seminar in the autumn with Mark Lowcock.

I should like to thank the committee for all their work over the last year. We look forward as always to further ideas and suggestions on how we can develop the Association and respond to members' interests.

Simon Ray, Chair

## Referendum

*Secretary of State for International Development Justine Greening spoke at the London Business School on 29 April.*

I am delighted to be back here at the London Business School. Although I've been a Member of Parliament for over 10 years, even now, most of my career has been spent in business. And some of that time was spent here doing an MBA in this very lecture room. In fact it was in the sandwich shop over the street that another student, who was more involved with the Conservative Party than I was then, suggested I go on the Parliamentary Candidates list. So it wasn't just my business career that got a kick start at LBS, it was my political career too.

All of which means, I know from first-hand experience that this is a place that builds people's future. It's a place that builds opportunity. And the decision we make on 23 June will either open doors, or close them, on opportunity for Britain's young people. And it will be a decision of profound importance to not only our country but much wider in the world. It is unlike any vote this country has had in decades. For many people, myself included, it will be the first time we get the chance to have our say on Britain's relationship with the EU.

The consequences of those millions of votes cast in just 8 weeks' time will be as long-lasting in the decades to come as the result of the 1975 referendum. There will be no election in 5 years' time to change our mind if we get this wrong. Generations of people growing up in our country will have to live with the consequences of our vote. In fact the younger you are, the longer you have to live with the consequences. So for young people this is no vote to leave to others.

Those who advocate us leaving the EU make an argument about sovereignty, and being able to choose the people who take the decisions that govern our lives. I agree. Those issues – sovereignty, and choosing those who take the decisions, being in control of our own destiny - they are vital.

But I disagree that this means Britain should leave the EU. People say our decisions should be made in Westminster. I agree. And they are. But quite simply, we are part of a wider world that takes decisions that affect us too. We are not insulated from them. Europe is our continent. It's not a choice, it's a geographical fact. What happens across Europe affects us, first and foremost because of proximity, not politics. We can't just ignore this.

This isn't a vote to abolish the EU, it will still be there. As a group of nations, the European Union will still be taking decisions that affect Europe's single market. To me, it's an odd concept of sovereignty and influence...that sees our country walk away from being a voice around the table where decisions are taken that affect us. That somehow we are a more powerful voice all on our own. It flies in the face of common sense, and of basic diplomacy.

Staying in the EU is smart diplomacy and smart economics. Smart economics because we keep access to the European free trade area we call the single market. A single market of 500 million people, and we keep a say over the rules of doing business across Europe. That means more jobs, lower prices, and more financial security for British families. And it's smart diplomacy because we can influence more widely by staying within the EU. As President Obama said, this amplifies Britain's influence.

Britain can no more successfully insulate itself from the EU and Europe than Sheffield could declare itself a "Nuclear Free Zone" in the 1980s. Some say we will embark on a new British "internationalism". But de facto, on our own, it will be a unilateral internationalism. And if that sounds like an oxymoron that's because it is.

The reality is that Britain's and Europe's common future is as surely bound up together as our past has been. Europe is our continent. A continent that our country has shaped as much as any other country that is part of it. I'm proud of Britain's history standing up for freedom and liberty. Europe wouldn't even exist in its current form if we hadn't.

But are we really to reach the conclusion that those days of influence are over? That those arguments on the future course of the EU are ones our country does not have the wherewithal to win? I believe that those who advocate leaving Europe are wrong in substance and wrong in strategy.

They are wrong in substance because whether you take your economic analysis from the IMF, the OECD, the IFS, or the Treasury, to name a few, the evidence is overwhelmingly clear. The choice in this referendum is: economic security as part of the EU free trade area that we are already in, or a leap in the dark. A Britain outside the EU will be worse off by comparison. £36 billion, or maybe even more. Annually.

That is a huge dent in our public spending on the very things our country depends on for its success: education, health, transport infrastructure, all of it put under pressure if we leave. The central estimate from the Treasury analysis is that in the long run GDP would be lower and Britain would be worse off by £4,300 per household, every year. So this affects us all.

Look at Albania. As I understand it, that's the current Brexit destination of choice. A country with a deal that the Prime Minister of Albania has pointed out this week, took 6 years to negotiate, one that still doesn't give it full access to Europe's single market and keeps tariffs on certain goods. A deal that sees it have to comply with EU regulations to sell into that single market, getting checked up on by EU institutions so they follow the rules, but with no seat around the table.

I said those advocating leaving were wrong in substance and strategy. Leaving is wrong in strategy too, because it is illogical to make an argument that we shape the EU more from being outside than in. Why? How would we do that? Again, it flies in the face of common sense. It would be like getting divorced, moving out, then still expecting to pick what colour curtains you have in the front room.

There's not a lot of post-Brexit referendum strategy out there to analyse. Maybe a plan is coming. But it seems to me that as it stands, leaving the EU is a one-way ticket, with no clear destination. As far as I can see, we want to leave Europe's single market, to then immediately attempt to rejoin it, but on better terms? There is no evidence for that being possible all, in fact quite the reverse if you look at Norway, Canada, Switzerland...

Why would any club or membership organisation give non-members a better deal - people who are outside it? It's like cancelling your gym subscription and expecting to get upgraded access to all the fitness machines. But of course, this is no joke. This is worse than wishful thinking because it comes with a cost.

As I said, that cost is our economy - a £36bn hit to tax receipts every year - it won't just be public services squeezed, it will be our jobs, especially the livelihoods of people on lower incomes. When I go back to my childhood I was surrounded by people. They were adamant about their vision of a better Britain, why it was right. It was also one that somehow didn't want to confront economic reality. These were the same people who thought it was sensible to declare Sheffield a Nuclear Free Zone. But I learnt that it's never them that pay the price for misplaced idealism, the unwillingness to deal with reality. It's other people, generally on much lower incomes.

People like my father. They're the ones who actually lose their jobs when idealism unravels in the face of hard practicalities. And if you're someone already fed up of this EU referendum, well if we vote to leave, then you'll have a lot more Europe in the coming years. This referendum debate will be just the start as the big Brexit renegotiate kicks off. It'll be on our TVs every night for ever. Goggle-box will get really boring. As we leave the EU...to then start our renegotiation to get back in to the European single market.

We would get 2 years to negotiate a new agreement with the EU - that's how long the grace period is. Otherwise we end up with a WTO country status which is worse than the Norway model, worse than the Canada model and it would cost us £47bn - annually. In addition, there are 53 markets we have free trade with through the EU that we would leave and have to renegotiate. With more on the way, including with some of the world's biggest markets such as the US, India and Japan. These would lapse the day we left the EU and would have to be renegotiated. How long would it take to negotiate trade deals with over 50 countries?

And this argument that on exports the EU needs us more than we need them is also wrong in fact. 44% of our exports are with the EU, but just 8% of theirs are to us. The EU exports more to the United States than it does to us. So as well as being back of the queue for the US, as President Obama pointed out, there's a danger we'll be back of the queue for the EU too. So queues, lines, whatever you call them, we'll be at the back.

And these renegotiations, taking years, would be an unwanted, frustrating source of diplomatic friction across the board on our international relationships.

In practice, the danger is that there would be little space for us to work on anything else. It would take all of Britain's diplomatic bandwidth. At a time when we can least afford it. In this job I have had to confront some of the most intractable problems that our world faces: from Syria, to South Sudan, to Yemen, to the recent outbreak of Ebola in West Africa, the progressive impact of climate change, and dramatically changing demographics in Africa.

And we have the challenges of economics as we see commodity price falls and the knock on effects of global instability. These global shifts are there irrespective of the EU, and whether we're in it or not. We either face them together, or alone. Our best chance of rising to those challenges is by working in partnership.

It was Britain, sat around the EU table, making the case that there needed to be more support in the region for Syrian refugees; that the smart response to the refugee crisis last summer was to take people direct from the camps. Something the EU is now doing.

It was Britain, sat around the EU table, making the case for education for Syrian children, for jobs and livelihoods for Syrian refugees to better support themselves; working with Germany so that we could both lobby the EU and other member states directly at a European Council meeting in December last year; and that gave us the platform for our successful London Syria conference earlier this year. We just wouldn't have had the network or the sheer lobbying clout to do that outside of the EU.

This is an example of what we mean when we say being around the EU table "magnifies" Britain's influence. We have always been a country that has taken a lead, taken the world's priorities and made them ours to deal with too. I was at the World Bank two weeks ago. Not one person I met wants Britain to disengage from Europe. We are the country that has not only shaped Europe's response to the Syria humanitarian crisis, but the world's. And to walk away from our own near neighbourhood would be taken by others around the world as a step of isolation, not "internationalism".

At the very moment our views around the table are most needed and can make the most impact. Britain pulling up the drawbridge doesn't stop the world out there from having these problems. It just makes it a lot harder for us to make sure the global response is a smart one, tackling problems at source. It's a bit like

arguing you should get rid of police tackling crime and just put all your money into putting more locks on your front door. It's an unwise choice in today's world and the future world. And it's a false choice. We need to do both.

The world isn't more secure with Britain isolating itself from Europe, it's less secure.....just as surely as if we left NATO, or the UN Security Council. Which would of course also be nonsensical. And fundamentally, if Britain has something to say, why would our great country not be around the EU table to say it? And that's why in the end this is a vote not just about Britain's place in Europe..... but about Britain's place in the world. Together, working as partners, shaping events, or, isolated, lobbying from the side lines.

And I wanted to finish by saying that I think Britain's young people understand this better than any of us. They are the most connected generation ever. For them, the world feels like a much smaller place, and they understand it's only going to get smaller still in their lifetime. The young volunteers we have on DFID's International Citizens Service understand that you address today's challenges by working constructively with others, not by turning your back.

My message to young people is - this is your country. This vote is about your future. This vote is about what you want Britain to stand for in the 21st century. Part of the wider world, or apart from it. This vote is about whether your voice will be at the EU table of the future. I believe that winning those arguments about Europe's future, about how we collectively rise to the global challenges my department grapples with every day .... That starts with being in those debates in the first place.

This referendum will produce a result. A result that will have to be accepted by everyone. Including you. So as a young person, if you're not even voting in this referendum, how can you make your voice count? Yet your view matters as much as anyone's. We know each new generation is less likely to vote than the one before. Nearly 80% of over 65's vote, but well under half of 18-24 year olds vote. That works out at 2 million missing votes of young people, compared to if they voted as much as their grandparents. It's a powerful voice. But it's not being heard. 2 million missing votes

So it's time for a new generation to have your say. This isn't about party politics, if that's what's switching you off voting. It's about taking care of our country's future - of your future.

Your country has never needed you to vote more than it will do on 23rd June, 2016. Our democracy is precious, but it only works when everyone has their say. That has to include you. This referendum can be an opportunity - a watershed moment for Britain, and it can be a watershed moment for a new generation of voters.

If you've never voted before, give yourself the chance to take a first step towards building the country that you want and making our democracy work for you. Shaping our politics away from a divisive, negative debate about what we don't want towards an agreement about what we do want.

Make it a vote about setting out what our country stands for, what our place is in the 21st century. Even if you don't get involved with the formal campaign, if you care, get out there and persuade your friends, your family. Make the difference in this referendum.

To those 2 million missing young voters and all young people. Don't leave this referendum to others. So much of what is ahead of you and Britain will turn on referendum day on the 23rd June. Everything is at stake. And it's time for you to start setting the agenda, to start setting our agenda. This is about your country, your future. It's about your vote. Use it.

## DFID rebutted newspaper reports

April 2016

DFID response to coverage of UK aid in the media: setting the record straight.

### DFID statement

A number of recent newspaper articles have reported claims that misrepresent or inaccurately portray projects supported by the Department for International Development (DFID), or focus on projects that are no longer funded. UK aid is spent where it is most needed and is subject to rigorous internal and external checks and scrutiny at all stages. The government has realigned the UK's aid strategy, cutting wasteful programmes and making sure spending is firmly in the UK's national interest. Alongside an increased defence budget and the UK's world class diplomatic service, our aid programme is helping to create a more prosperous and stable world in which the UK can stand tall and flourish.

This is an approach that works; it has helped reduce the threat to the UK from Ebola in West Africa, it is targeting the root causes of the migration crisis, and it is increasing economic prospects in fragile states to counter extremism and help build our future trading partners.

**Claim:** The UK has 'overspent' on its target of spending 0.7% of gross national income on foreign aid.

**Fact:** This assertion is based on provisional figures only. The provisional overseas development assistance (ODA) figures published on 1 April 2016 forecast that UK spending on ODA will have been 0.71% of gross national income (GNI) in 2015. In reality, we will not know the actual figure until the final ODA figures across government and final GNI figures are analysed and published later in the year. In both 2013 and 2014 the final figures of 0.7% were preceded by higher provisional figures (0.72% and 0.71% respectively).

**Claim:** DFID has 'rushed money out the door' towards the end of the year so that it can meet the 0.7% aid target.

**Fact:** This is incorrect. UK contributions to the World Bank and other multilateral institutions, alongside those of other countries, happen at the end of the calendar year, every year.

**Claim:** DFID aid money is being 'lavished' on private sector contractors.

**Fact:** This is incorrect. Since 2012 DFID has radically overhauled its approach to using contractors, tightening procurement processes and introducing strict new ministerial controls on how it awards contracts, as well as bringing in a tough new code of conduct. That approach has delivered results, including £500 million of savings. For the last three years running, DFID has won awards from CIPS, the independent professional institute for procurement, in recognition of its commercial best practices.

**Claim:** There is no proper scrutiny of how DFID spends aid money.

**Fact:** This is incorrect. DFID's work is scrutinised by the Independent Commission for Aid Impact, the International Development Select Committee and Public Accounts Committee in Parliament, and the National Audit Office. DFID has been recognised as a world-leader in aid transparency. This is in addition to

internal monitoring and evaluation to ensure projects stay on track and deliver value for taxpayers' money.

**Claim:** Aid money from British and European taxpayers is going to Palestinian prisoners including terrorists.

**Fact:** This allegation is simply incorrect. No UK aid is used for payments to Palestinian prisoners, or their families. Only named civil servants from a pre-approved EU list are eligible, and the vetting process ensures that our funds do not benefit terrorist groups. EU financial assistance is linked to the same vetting process. Our funds are also subject to independent auditing. UK support, alongside Norway, France and Japan, is provided through a multi-donor trust fund administered by the World Bank, which carries out close monitoring of Palestinian Authority (PA) expenditure. UK and international support for the PA is helping to maintain stability, deliver basic services and build the institutions of a future Palestinian state living in peace and security side by side with Israel. The UK does not provide any funding to the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

**Claim:** UK aid to the Palestinian Authority funded an £8 million presidential palace.

**Fact:** Incorrect. UK direct financial assistance to the PA is not used for the purpose of capital expenditure and is via a World Bank trust fund, which carries out close monitoring of PA expenditure. No UK aid money has been used to finance a 'presidential palace'.

**Claim:** DFID has allocated £6 million to the Centre for Global Development (CGD) with the implication in media reporting that this has helped pay for new headquarters in Washington DC costing £12 million.

**Fact:** Incorrect. Not a penny of British funding has gone to pay for CGD office space. British funding supports research to help children get education and improve health systems, which will ultimately save lives in some of the poorest countries in the world and will support stability.

**Claim:** A DFID-funded BBC radio drama broadcast in Somalia provided practical tips on how to make the illegal journey from Africa to Europe at the height of the migrant crisis.

**Fact:** Incorrect. It is entirely wrong to suggest that this programme is urging Somalis to migrate; in fact one of its central messages was about the dangers of migration.

**Claim:** DFID civil servants are being given high performance ratings so they can be paid 'bonuses' which helps hit the 0.7% aid target.

**Fact:** Incorrect. DFID civil servants are paid in line with UK Civil Service-wide regulations. The UK government follows international rules on aid spending which cover how salary costs in support of overseas development work are included. DFID has more than halved the proportion of staff eligible for performance awards and slashed the spend on them as a result. The department has reduced its admin budget by a third since 2010.

### UK aid strategy: tackling global challenges in the national interest

Recent crises, from our response to the Ebola epidemic to our use of our aid budget to support refugees in Syria and the surrounding region, have proved why aid is so important for us as well as for the countries we assist.

The world is changing, and our strategy on aid needs to change with it. That is why over the last 3 years we have restructured our aid budget to ensure that it is focussed on tackling the great global challenges – from the root causes of mass migration and disease, to the threat of terrorism and global climate change – all of which also directly threaten British interests. They are inextricably linked.

The government will invest more through its aid programme to tackle the causes of instability, insecurity and conflict, and to tackle crime and corruption to help developing countries stand on their own 2 feet. We are determined to ensure that every penny of money spent delivers value for taxpayers, and projects that do not are cut.

With this new strategy, Britain can be proud to be a country that not only meets its responsibilities to the world's poorest, but in doing so best serves and protects its own security and interests.

## World Environment Day: 'Green week' in DFID Malawi

Ahead of the World Environment Day, which took place on Sunday 5 June, DFID Malawi ran a 'green week' from Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June.

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world. Over 80% of the population depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, yet annual climate-related humanitarian crises mean regular droughts and floods, which, along with soil degradation and the second highest rate of deforestation across Africa, hold the country back from developing to its potential.

The recent El Nino caused extensive dry spells across the country resulting in massive crop failure. It is anticipated that more than 5 million people will require humanitarian food support this year.

### Reducing our carbon footprint and becoming agents of change

The objective of DFID Malawi's green week was to increase staff awareness on climate change and to motivate behaviour change that will reduce our collective carbon footprint, whilst also encouraging staff to become agents of change for greater environmental sustainability in their communities.

Major events during the week included a world café event to discuss possible green actions, seminars with representatives from government and academia and activities such as a green dressing competition and a treasure hunt (with fruit trees as prizes). Many staff have pledged to do things differently, as well as further building of climate considerations into programmes.

One participant remarked, *'Before this week I didn't really understand climate change fully and how hugely serious it is – this week has opened my eyes and I will now be careful on the water and electricity I use.'*

## Breaking the humanitarian cycle

DFID Malawi is implementing resilience and 'breaking the humanitarian cycle' programmes that seek to help Malawi combat these challenges that contribute to it remaining one of the poorest countries in the world. For example, by next year, DFID's resilience programme will have made over 800,000 people more resilient to climate change effects and strengthened their livelihoods.

As the week drew to a close, DFID Malawi collectively re-confirmed its commitment to ensuring that being climate smart remain a fundamental consideration across our programmes.

## First global state of the land debate report launched

### Review of achievements on the fourth anniversary of a major global consensus

Wednesday 11 May marked the fourth anniversary of the world agreeing the [Voluntary Guidelines on Land](#) - the global standard for land governance and land investments – and we have been at the forefront of implementation with governments, donor partners, businesses and civil society.

The flagship Land - Enhancing Governance for Economic Development (LEGEND) programme has just launched the first ever global [state of the debate report](#) on land. This includes contributions from all stakeholder groups, and key multilaterals, such as the World Bank.

### Political will to drive transformation and be robust on implementation

The report reviews progress made in the four years since the voluntary guidelines were adopted, and makes recommendations on next steps, including a call by businesses to governments to show more political will to drive transformation and be robust on implementation.

The report also showcases DFID's work done through [LEGEND](#) and other programmes.