

[Speech: Sir Alan Duncan interview at Foreign Affairs Council – June 2018](#)

The United Kingdom looks forward to continuing its close association with Turkey following the result of the elections yesterday and we will continue to work very closely with them as we have done since the day of the attempted coup.

Today the top topic I think really is Yemen. I've been going to Yemen for 30 years and we need to see a proper political solution there, which restores Government throughout the country and finds a way of putting an end to this dreadful conflict, which is causing so much humanitarian pain.

And the other topic is Venezuela where what we are seeing is economic collapse caused by the Government itself. This is avoidable. And the region and we all need to work very closely together to try and restore economic success and stability in Venezuela, before it causes even more misery and mayhem.

[Sir Alan Duncan's remarks to media](#)

[Press release: Water quality improvements signal end for 1980s river equipment](#)

Lea Marston lakes were created in the 1980s to collect contaminated sediment flowing down the River Tame from Birmingham and Minworth sewage treatment works. An automatic trash screen was built to collect logs and other debris to protect the equipment used to remove the contaminated sediment. It was never installed to protect people from flooding.

Over the last 30 years water quality in the River Tame has improved dramatically, and for over 15 years there has been no need to clear the sediment. This has meant that the lakes have become a wildlife haven for birds and other animals.

The trash screen costs over £200,000 each year to run and maintain and it has now got to the end of its design life. So, as it is not providing any environmental benefit and it's not reducing flood risk, the Environment Agency are planning to decommission it.

This will lead to further improvements in water quality; logs and other

natural debris are good for healthy rivers as they create natural shallows and deep areas which is really good for fish and aquatic life.

Neil Lote, from the Environment Agency said:

We're really pleased to see the work we've been doing to improve river water quality have such wide benefits. The screen isn't reducing flood risk, and is actually acting as a barrier to further environmental improvements to the lakes and the river, so it makes sense to remove it.

After the Environment Agency remove the screen, they will be able to take more accurate measurements of water levels so their flood alerts and warnings will be more accurate as the water level won't be artificially altered by the screen.

The Environment Agency will closely monitor the lakes and the River Tame before they totally remove the screen to make sure the river is flowing as their expert assessments have shown.

Press release: Water quality improvements signal end for 1980s river equipment

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News story: Chancellor in Mumbai to showcase London as the best place in the world for Indian investors to raise funding

The Chancellor will sit down with senior Indian business leaders today (25 June 2018) and explain why he thinks London is the number one destination in the world for Indian business looking to raise money for the innovative ideas being developed, including in the thriving fintech start-up sector, in the country.

India is one of the world's fastest growing major economies, and the enduring close relationship between Britain and India continues to benefit both nations, creating more jobs in Britain and strengthening our economy.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, said:

The UK and India have strong links and shared expertise in technology, infrastructure and financing and I'm delighted to be here in Mumbai to further develop the bonds between our countries.

I will be meeting some of India's innovative fintech start-ups and seeing how we can support the next generation of Indian and British fintech entrepreneurs, and promoting London as the best place in the world to raise capital for Indian investors.

The UK was the first G7 country to join the AIIB in 2015 and the Bank plays a

leading role in delivering infrastructure across Asia. The Chancellor will praise the progress made by the Bank since the UK joined on developing new infrastructure projects across Asia.

The Chancellor will continue his tour of Asia by visiting China later in the week where he will meet the Chinese Finance Minister Liu Kin and business leaders.