

[Press release: Sir Alan Duncan statement on adoption of UNSC Resolution on Colombia](#)

Foreign Office Minister for the Americas, Sir Alan Duncan welcomed the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2366 on July 10. The resolution will support Colombia's continuing journey toward peace.

Minister for the Americas, Sir Alan Duncan said:

We have witnessed Colombia embark on an extraordinary journey since peace negotiations began six years ago. By showing how even the longest and hardest of conflicts can be brought to a peaceful end, Colombia offers a beacon of hope to the world. But history has taught us that building a sustainable peace is a long and difficult process, and so we welcome the leadership shown by both parties in calling for the UN to support the next phase of this journey.

I welcome today's unanimous adoption of UN Security Council resolution 2366. I am pleased the international community has responded so swiftly to President Santos' request for continued UN Security Council support for the peace process. Working closely with partners on the Security Council, the UK was privileged to lead the negotiations establishing a second UN Mission for the next phase of the peace process. The UK remains steadfast in its support for Colombia.

Further information

[News story: £30 million boost to projects supporting vulnerable young people](#)

A multi-million pound funding package to improve the lives of vulnerable children and young people around the country was announced on Thursday, 6 July, by Robert Goodwill, Minister for Children and Families.

In his first address to the children's social care sector since being appointed as Minister, he confirmed that 24 projects will receive a share of £30 million to take their important work forward.

The projects are part of the Children's Social Care Innovation Programme, which is backed by £200 million of government funding. This programme has supported 95 projects to date, providing evidence of best practice that is helping to improve children's services across the country.

In his speech at the ADCS annual conference, the Minister said:

Through the Innovation Programme, we continue to fund exciting and pioneering projects that look to shake-up our traditional approach to social work.

Together they proffer a broad and balanced portfolio which both test new innovations, and scale and spread those that have been successful in Round One of the programme.

The projects that have been awarded funding include Credo Care, Derby City Council, The Adolescent and Children's Trust, Munro, Turnell & Murphy, and Barnardo's.

Credo Care's project, working with Hertfordshire and Staffordshire, aims to find specialist foster placements close to home for young disabled people currently living in out-of-area residential care. This new type of foster caring will focus on young people with the most complex needs.

Roy Hipkiss, Director of Credo Care, said:

Credo Care is delighted to be included in the Innovation programme and we look forward to contributing to successful outcomes for disabled young people.

The Specialist Foster Care Placement Project will provide foster care placements for disabled children and young people in residential care, and in doing so will change their trajectories into adulthood. The personal care offered in the foster placements will improve the quality of their lives immediately, while developing the self-care skills and supportive networks that are so difficult to provide within their residential placements.

Meanwhile another grant will go to Barnardo's, to maintain and expand the role of the National Female Genital Mutilation Centre (NFGMC). The centre was launched in 2015 alongside the Local Government Association.

Director of the National FGM Centre, Michelle Lee-Izu said:

Barnardo's and the Local Government Association are delighted the government has given the National FGM Centre further funding to help wipe out this hidden form of child abuse by 2030.

It will enable us to extend the reach and remit of the Centre's vital work and support more girls and families in areas of both high and low prevalence of female genital mutilation.

Since working with some local authorities that claimed to rarely come across cases of FGM, we have been supporting 198 families in these areas, which clearly demonstrates how much the FGM Centre is needed. It also shows how much more we need to do in terms of training professionals to identify girls at risk and report cases of concern.

The funding will also allow us to extend our work to other harmful traditional practices such as breast ironing and flattening.

All of the projects which receive funding through the Innovation Programme are committed to sharing their learning with the sector, and today we are also publishing evaluation reports of some of the remaining projects from round one.

Alongside this, an evaluation report on Doncaster Children's Services Trust is published today. This looks at the implementation and early impact on service improvement and outcomes for children since the trust was set up in 2014, finding evidence that the model is working.

Notes to editors

- For more information, contact the Department for Education press office on 02073 407488

[News story: Sand hole digging dangers](#)

Sand hole collapses are rare but can be lethal if you become trapped in one. There's nothing wrong with digging holes at the beach and filling them with water for your kids to play in. But if you dig a hole so deep that your head is barely poking out or burrow into a sand dune then you could be putting

your life at risk. If it's taken you three hours to dig your hole – that's how long it might take someone to dig you out.

These deeper types of holes are highly unstable. The wet harder sand that you dig out will dry out in the sun making it loose and the deeper you dig the more danger there is of the hole collapsing inwards and potentially trapping you inside.

The best way to rescue someone is to create a circle of people digging with their hands, then another outer circle will do the same while also removing the sand from the first circle, more circles of people digging will be added as they become available. This will then create a wider shallow hole with no risk of any further collapse of sand.

A perfect example of this was demonstrated recently at a [sand hole training exercise](#) with 30 people from Burnham Coastguard Rescue Team, BARB Search & Rescue – Burnham-on-Sea hovercraft, RNLI lifeguards, RNLI lifeboats at Burnham-on-Sea, beach wardens and the fire and rescue service using a constant digging action racing against time to rescue a pre-buried casualty.

We want you to enjoy yourselves at the beach – that's what it's there for – just take extra care when digging large holes that could trap you if they collapse. Let's share this and tell as many people as we can in time for the school holidays. Stay safe folks and remember to call 999 and ask for the coastguard if you see someone in difficulty.

Grateful thanks to www.Burnham-On-Sea.com for letting us share this great footage!

[News story: Electric vehicle-to-grid technologies: apply for business funding](#)

Businesses can apply for a share of up to £20 million for innovative projects that support electric vehicles to work smartly with the grid.

Up to £20 million is available from the [Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy](#) – working with the [Office for Low Emission Vehicles](#) and Innovate UK – to fund projects that investigate new business models, consumer awareness and technologies that support interaction between electric vehicles and the grid.

So-called vehicle-to-grid technologies are expected to play a big part in making the UK's electricity supply network smarter and in encouraging take-

up.

Vehicles that can take electricity from the grid when demand is low and return it when demand is high could help to even out peaks and troughs and make the grid more efficient.

The UK government wants nearly all cars to be zero emission by 2050, and it sees a smarter and more flexible electricity system as a major benefit to consumers and a key to future growth.

Project information

There are competitions for feasibility studies, collaborative research and development, and real-world demonstrators.

Projects are sought in:

- business models, technology and service standards
- understanding user acceptance and consumer engagement
- on- and off-vehicle hardware, including bi-directional chargers, battery hardware and software, and cyber security
- trials of different products and services in different scenarios

Larger projects are expected to include a variety of partners including from the automotive, energy and infrastructure sectors. All projects must be led by a business working with other businesses or research partners.

Feasibility studies

- the competition is open and the deadline for applications is midday 18 October 2017
- up to £2 million is available for feasibility studies
- feasibility projects should last 12 months and range in size from total costs of £125,000 up to £225,000
- businesses could attract up to 70% of their total costs

Collaborative research and development

- the competition is open and the deadline for applications is midday 18 October 2017
- up to £4 million is available for collaborative research and development
- collaborative research and development projects should last between 18 months and 3 years and range in size from total costs of £375,000 to £1.5 million
- businesses could attract up to 70% of their total costs

Real-world demonstrators

- the competition is open and the deadline for applications is midday 18 October 2017
- up to £14 million is available for demonstrator trials in real-world

environments at scale

- demonstrator projects should last up to 3 years and project size should range from £1.5 million to £7 million
 - businesses could attract up to 70% of their total costs for technical feasibility studies and industrial research, or up to 45% for experimental development projects that are nearer to market
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Speech: PM press conference with Australian PM Malcolm Turnbull: 10 July 2017

Good afternoon.

I am pleased to be hosting Prime Minister Turnbull – whom I have known for many years – on his first visit to Downing Street.

This morning, we visited the site of last month's brutal terror attack at Borough Market, where eight people tragically lost their lives, among them two Australians.

We paid tribute to the professionalism and bravery of the police and emergency services who undoubtedly prevented further loss of life, and the heroism of local business owners who shielded people from the terrorists.

I am deeply grateful to Prime Minister Turnbull and the Australian people for the solidarity and support they have shown the UK. At times such as this we are reminded of the importance of the strong ties that have bound our two nations together for over a hundred years.

And we will continue to stand together as close allies and firm friends against those who want to destroy our precious values and our way of life.

As the UK leaves the EU and forges a new role in the world, I am clear we should take the opportunity to strengthen our close partnership with Australia.

So today we have talked about how we can step up our cooperation in a range of areas, including security and defence, trade and investment, and on the world stage.

Let me take each of these in turn.

Security and defence

For over a century our soldiers have served together to preserve the fundamental values of freedom and democracy that we share. They stood

shoulder to shoulder in two World Wars, in Iraq and in Afghanistan.

And this month, as we commemorate a hundred years since the Battle of Passchendaele, we again remember their service and their sacrifice.

Today we are leading partners in the Counter-Daesh Coalition, and as the fight moves from the battlefield to the internet we will work together to tackle the spread of Daesh's hateful ideology online.

We have also discussed how we can address the challenge of end-to-end encryption which creates a safe haven for terrorists to communicate.

Alongside this, our national cyber security centres cooperate closely to crack down on malicious cyber activity. Our law enforcement agencies work together to tackle serious and organised crime – particularly the illegal financial flows that fund criminal gangs and terrorists.

And our intelligence-sharing partnership under the Five Eyes alliance is central to our efforts to address the shared threats we face.

Later this month our Defence and Foreign Ministers will meet in Sydney for their annual ministerial dialogue, to look at how we can deepen our security and defence co-operation to protect our shared interests and project our values around the world.

Trade and investment

The UK and Australia are major trading partners and investors in each other's economic success. Our strong and growing trade relationship is worth close to £14 billion.

We have both made clear our intention to continue to deepen our trade and investment relationship as the UK leaves the EU.

Our Brexit negotiations have started well. And I made clear to Prime Minister Turnbull that an ambitious and comprehensive bilateral trade deal with Australia remains a priority for the UK.

Australia was the first country with whom the UK established a Trade Working Group following the vote to leave the EU, and we are keeping up a regular and productive dialogue on the future of our free trading relationship.

We will continue to work together to push for greater global trade liberalisation and reform.

And I'm pleased to confirm that International Trade Secretary Liam Fox intends to travel to Australia in the coming months as part of these ongoing talks, and ahead of a further meeting of the Working Group later this year.

Global issues

The UK and Australia remain close partners on the international stage. We work alongside each other through the Commonwealth, United Nations and G20 to

address the shared global challenges we face.

Last week's missile test in North Korea showed yet again the danger the regime poses to our friends and allies. We are united in our condemnation of their continued nuclear weapons and ballistic missile tests, which are in flagrant breach of the UN Security Council resolutions.

And at the G20, the Prime Minister and I discussed with our partners how we can step up international efforts to increase pressure on Pyongyang, and find a peaceful solution to the ongoing threat North Korea poses to global security.

Australia and Britain are also proud members of the Commonwealth, and its unique, vibrant and diverse alliance of nations. And I am delighted that the UK will host the 2018 Commonwealth Summit in London and Windsor next April, just after the Commonwealth Games take place on the Gold Coast.

The Prime Minister and I are united in our commitment to work together to support the renewal of the Commonwealth. We agreed that the Summit offers a platform to re-energise and revitalise the network, to cement its relevance to this and future generations.

Conclusion

So thank you Prime Minister, thank you Malcolm, for visiting us today, and for the excellent discussions we have had.

It's always a pleasure to welcome our Australian friends to London, even more so when we have just beaten them at cricket. That's women's cricket, of course.

The ties between our countries have endured for generations, and I look forward to working closely with you to strengthen those bonds in the years ahead.