## <u>Iraqi President visits UK</u>

President of the Republic of Iraq, H.E. Barham Salih, visits the UK today as a Guest of Government for the start of a three-day programme including an audience with Her Majesty the Queen, and bilateral meetings with the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary.

President Salih's programme will include a dinner at Lancaster House hosted by the Secretaries of State for International Development and International Trade and engagements at Parliament. President Salih is leading a high-level government delegation including Foreign Minister Mohamed Ali AlHakim and Health Minister Aladin Alwan.

Ahead of the visit, Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said:

We are delighted to welcome President Salih to the UK as a Guest of Her Majesty's Government. This is an important time for Iraq as it recovers from years of conflict and strengthens its relationships both regionally and internationally.

This week the UK will reaffirm our close and historic relationship with Iraq and commit to continue our leading role in working with Iraq, including in key areas of security, defence, trade and prosperity. Our two countries share many mutual interests, including ensuring the lasting defeat of Daesh and de-escalating regional tensions.