

# Press release: UK welcomes formation of new Government in Lebanon



Minister of State for the Middle East, Alistair Burt MP, said:

I congratulate President Aoun and Prime Minister Hariri and welcome the announcement of the formation of Lebanon's new government. This is an important moment for Lebanon.

The new government will have the increasingly important task of protecting Lebanon's sovereignty, security and stability, including through implementing the policy of disassociation from regional conflicts, and abiding by the provisions of all relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, including 1559 and 1701. The United Kingdom will continue to support these goals, including strengthening the Lebanese Armed Forces in its role as Lebanon's sole and legitimate defender.

This is a very important time for the Lebanese economy, and we look forward to rapid progress being made on the commitments made at the CEDRE Conference in Paris on 6 April last year. The UK-Lebanon Business and Investment forum in London on December 12 was an important moment in demonstrating Lebanon's commitment to delivering key economic reforms, and now is the time for action.

The United Kingdom remains committed to supporting Lebanon, particularly in the fields of security, education and economic growth, as well as by providing support to its most vulnerable.