

Press release: PM call with President Trump: 11 May 2018

A Downing Street spokesperson said:

The Prime Minister held a telephone call with US President Donald Trump this evening.

The Prime Minister began by congratulating the President on the safe return of three US citizens who had been held in prison in North Korea.

The two leaders looked forward to the summit which will take place between President Trump and Kim Jong-un in Singapore. The PM said the UK would continue to work with the US to keep up the pressure on North Korea to denuclearise.

The Prime Minister and the President condemned the Iranian rocket attacks against Israeli forces earlier this week, and strongly supported Israel's right to defend itself against Iranian aggression. They agreed on the need for calm on all sides and on the importance of tackling Iran's destabilising activity in the region.

The Prime Minister reiterated the Government's position on the Iran nuclear deal, noting that we and our European partners remain firmly committed to ensuring the deal is upheld, as the best way of preventing Iran from developing a nuclear weapon.

The Prime Minister raised the potential impact of US sanctions on those firms which are currently conducting business in Iran. They agreed for talks to take place between our teams.

Finally, the Prime Minister and the President looked forward to the President's visit to the UK in July.

News story: EU (Withdrawal) Bill: vital for UK market and respects devolution

Scottish Secretary David Mundell has responded to the report of the Scottish Parliament's Finance and Constitution Committee on whether to provide a Legislative Consent Motion to the EU (Withdrawal) Bill.

He said:

We have worked hard over the past year to secure the support of the Scottish Parliament and have put a considerable offer on the table that would see the vast majority of devolved powers automatically flow from the EU to Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh.

While it is disappointing that a majority of MSPs on the Committee recommended that the Scottish Parliament does not give the EU (Withdrawal) Bill legislative consent, the decision is ultimately for individual parliamentarians and we remain hopeful that they will back this important piece of legislation.

Mr Mundell said that he was grateful to the Committee for its time and contribution to the debate, and welcomed the Committee's support for a number of changes the Government has made to the EUWB (including amendments that protect the Scotland Act 1998 from modification).

Through the EU (Withdrawal) Bill, the vast majority of EU powers in devolved areas will go straight from Brussels to Belfast, Edinburgh and Cardiff when we leave the EU. A small number of specific policy areas will be frozen while we design and implement new common arrangements. This will give essential certainty to businesses at the point we leave the EU and protect the vital UK common market.

Mr Mundell added:

We are clear our approach fully respects devolution, as the Welsh Government has confirmed. We still hope the Scottish Government

will come on board, even at this late stage. Our door remains open.

[News story: Protecting the vital UK common market – David Lidington speech](#)

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster David Lidington MP today [Friday 11 May] used a major business speech in Edinburgh to call on the Scottish Government to back the EU (Withdrawal) Bill next week, and provide Scottish businesses with the same certainty and clarity as companies in other parts of the UK.

Speaking at a CBI Scotland lunch in the Scottish capital, Mr Lidington said that the “door is still open” for the Scottish Government to sign up to the agreement that has already been reached with Welsh Government and “end any question of lingering legal uncertainty for businesses in all parts of the UK”.

The Minister told the business audience that common UK frameworks will be required in certain areas to help companies all across the UK to do business in all parts of the UK. He will also say that respecting and preserving the UK common market underpins our existence as a union and that any attempt to undermine it would be a “self-inflicted blow” on thousands of Scottish companies.

Mr Lidington said:

It is only by maintaining the coherence of the common UK market – and keeping barriers to trade within it to an absolute minimum – that businesses and consumers in all parts of our union can continue to benefit.

Preserving the common market is exactly what the EU Withdrawal Bill, currently making its way through Parliament, will do.

Put simply, respecting and preserving the United Kingdom common market is to uphold one of the fundamental expressions of the constitutional integrity that underpins our existence as a union.

But put even more simply, any attempt to undermine that common

market would represent a self-inflicted blow to the thousands of firms who owe their prosperity to its success.

I am well aware from the conversations I have had with businesses in Scotland and Wales – and indeed Northern Ireland – that what they care about is what all this means for business and whether it provides the certainty they need.

That is why all of us – Westminster, Cardiff and Holyrood – have worked hard to identify only those absolutely essential areas where we agree that UK-wide frameworks are needed and it is worth underlining that we already have UK-wide frameworks in all these areas right now.

So it is also why it is disappointing that the Scottish Government still does not feel able to sign up to our proposals and deliver that certainty for businesses.

Of course, it is rightly for the Scottish Parliament to now decide what view it wants to take on the compromise we have reached, and that we have now agreed with the Welsh Government.

So that is why I say to the Scottish Government: the door is still open.

At a stroke, they can join the Welsh Government – who have also put so much into getting us to this stage – and recommend to the Parliament here in Holyrood that we should end any lingering question of legal uncertainty for businesses in all parts of the UK,

But no matter what, I want to reiterate that the UK Government is committed to acting in accordance with the Intergovernmental Agreement that – even now at this late stage – is open to the Scottish Government to sign up to.

Scottish businesses can see this in black and white: our Intergovernmental Agreement is public for all to see.

You can have that certainty and clarity that we will work to agree the approach needed to protect our vital common market and that we will respect – in full – the devolution settlements as we do so.

The full text of the speech is [here](#). The EU (Withdrawal) Bill returns to the House of Lords next week [Wednesday 16 May) for its third reading.

[News story: Scottish Secretary visits Islay to remember WW1 losses](#)

Mr Mundell was there to remember the island's contribution to World War One and the loss of two British troop ships carrying American soldiers to fight alongside the Allies.

The sinking of SS TUSCANIA (5 February 1918) and HMS OTRANTO (6 October 1918) off the island's coast, saw around 700 US servicemen and British crew members lose their lives. Over 200 Islay and Jura men died during World War One.

Mr Mundell joined descendants, locals and dignitaries including HRH The Princess Royal, Scottish Government Minister Fiona Hyslop, and United States Ambassador to the UK, Robert Wood Johnson at the service.

Scottish Secretary David Mundell said:

It is right and fitting that, one hundred years on, we reflect on the terrible loss of these two vessels, with such enormous loss of life, off the coast of Islay.

Many thousands of American and British servicemen lost their lives protecting Europe against fascism, and they have our enormous gratitude. That loss was felt keenly on Islay, where every family in every village lost brothers, fathers and sons in the conflict. We must never forget their service and their sacrifice.

The war service of the people of Islay was never more apparent than on those two days in 1918, when the islanders made huge efforts to help survivors – saving lives and looking after those men like their own.

We all have a duty to tell the stories of those who lived and fought in WW1, to keep the memories of them and their sacrifice alive. It has been particularly moving to hear the personal stories of both American and Scottish descendants of service personnel, and those involved in the rescue effort. I am very honoured to be able to pay tribute to Islay, its people and its history at this service at Port Ellen.

[News story: Lord Duncan visits historic RRS Discovery](#)

Lord Duncan was welcomed aboard by Dundee Heritage Trust Executive Director, Paul Jennings, and enjoyed an informal tour of the newly-redeveloped [Discovery Point](#).

The award-winning visitor attraction celebrates its 25th Anniversary this summer, and with the neighbouring V&A opening in September, Discovery Point is ready to play its part in welcoming visitors from across the globe.

A recent £500,000 investment, supported by the Coastal Communities Fund, Dundee City Council and the Friends of Dundee Heritage Trust, has dramatically enhanced the five-star attraction in anticipation of the surge of visitors to Dundee's waterfront.

The Coastal Communities Fund is a UK-wide programme created and funded by the UK Government which aims to encourage the economic development of UK coastal communities by awarding funding to create sustainable economic growth and jobs.

Lord Duncan was given the opportunity to visit the redeveloped galleries, which include fresh graphics, new audio-visual shows, hands-on digital interactives and a dedicated multi-purpose learning and activity space, as well as displays of previously unseen objects from the museum's nationally significant polar collection.

Lord Duncan said:

Dundee is undergoing a renaissance, and every time I visit, I am reminded of the vibrancy and innovation of the city. The waterfront regeneration has given a new lease of life to the area and is a destination for visitors and locals alike. Partially funded with over £250,000 of UK Government money through the Coastal Communities Fund, it aims to bring more people to the area and I have been very impressed with progress and development of new

galleries at Discovery Point, that are a key part of this transformation.

Dundee Heritage Trust Executive Director, Paul Jennings, said:

We're delighted to welcome Lord Duncan to Discovery Point. As a key partner in the VisitDundee campaign, we want to ensure that the hundreds of thousands of tourists who are set to visit the new V&A are encouraged to explore everything else that Dundee has to offer. With the redevelopment of our exhibition spaces and a packed 25th Anniversary programme for 2018, Discovery Point is ready to make the most of this exciting year for Dundee's tourism.

The Wall Street Journal recently named Dundee as one of the top 5 locations in the world alongside the likes of Madagascar and Shanghai, The Observer named it a must-see destination for 2018, while leading US business magazine Bloomberg ranking the UNESCO City of Design next to Los Angeles, Singapore and Florence in their roundup of the 22 best places to visit this year.