

# Press release: New Bill to implement Withdrawal Agreement

The Government has taken further steps to provide clarity and certainty as we leave the European Union by announcing a new Bill to enshrine the Withdrawal Agreement between the UK and the EU in domestic law.

In this afternoon's statement to the House on the latest round of Brexit negotiations, the Secretary of State for Exiting the EU, David Davis outlined plans for the Withdrawal Agreement and Implementation Bill.

This confirms that the major policies set out in the Withdrawal Agreement will be directly implemented into domestic law by primary legislation – not by secondary legislation under the EU (Withdrawal) Bill. This will allow for Parliamentary scrutiny and oversight of the process.

The Secretary of State for Exiting the EU, David Davis said:

We have always said we will do whatever is necessary to prepare for our exit, including bringing forward further legislation, and that is exactly what we are doing.

This is another important step that demonstrates our pragmatic approach to getting our house in order as we leave the EU.

By announcing this Bill, we are providing clarity and certainty – both in the negotiations and at home – about the final agreement being put into UK law.

As we move forward, we stand ready to work with MPs from across the House to ensure a smooth, and orderly exit from the EU that is effectively scrutinised by Parliament.

The exact details of the Withdrawal Agreement are the subject of ongoing and future negotiations and cannot be known until those negotiations are near completion.

Therefore a Bill separate to the EU (Withdrawal) Bill is required to legislate for our withdrawal arrangements and planned Implementation Period.

The Bill is expected to cover the contents of the Withdrawal Agreement, including issues such as an agreement on citizens' rights, any financial settlement and the details of an implementation period agreed between both sides.

Bringing forward this Bill means that Parliament will be given time to debate, scrutinise and vote on the final agreement we strike with the EU. It comes over and above the undertaking the Government has already made that it

will give Parliament a vote on the final deal as soon as possible after the deal is agreed.

The announcement of the Withdrawal Agreement and Implementation Bill comes ahead of the EU (Withdrawal) Bill entering Committee Stage in the House of Commons tomorrow (Tuesday 14 November) when amendments will be debated by MPs.

Day one of Committee Stage will include debate about the first clause of the Bill which repeals the European Communities Act 1972.

Last week, the Government tabled an amendment to the Bill, putting exit day on the face of the Bill after Ministers listened carefully to the debate around setting 'exit day' for the statutory purposes of the Bill.

There will be two days of debate for the Withdrawal Bill's Commons Committee Stage this week (Tuesday and Wednesday). Further dates for debate will be scheduled in due course and announced by the Leader of the House.

---

## **Press release: Public offered fuller say on plans to upgrade A358 in Somerset**

The plan is to create a complete section of high quality dual carriageway, reducing congestion and leading to quicker journeys for motorists, and an initial consultation was held earlier this year.

Highways England acted on feedback from that consultation by planning a supplementary consultation, focusing on options for improving the road between the M5 and West Hatch.

Instead, the decision has been taken to consult on the whole route in early 2018 in order to gather better information.

David Stock, Highways England project manager, said:

“Having planned to hold a supplementary consultation, we've now decided to widen the scope into a whole route consultation and in doing so we need more time to work on this and finalise all the consultation materials. We also wanted to avoid consulting during December and the distracting run-up to Christmas.

“This will provide the public with a chance to have a fuller say, and there will be a number of options presented for consideration, the details of which will be announced when the consultation is launched.

“We listened to all the feedback during the initial consultation and we invite everybody to come along to the rescheduled events and have their say.”

The Government is committed to upgrading all remaining sections of the A303 corridor between the M3 and M5 to dual carriageway standard, and the A358 scheme is one of three projects included in its first roads investment strategy – with preferred routes announced earlier this year for both the A303 Stonehenge and A303 Sparkford to Ilchester schemes.

The A358 is currently a mix of single and dual carriageway, carrying more vehicles than it was designed for.

This leads to delays, and the plan is to improve the route to a dual carriageway as well as improve connectivity and access for local communities and vulnerable road users such as cyclists, horse riders and pedestrians. Consultation dates and details are currently being finalised and will be announced next month.

In the meantime, anyone wanting further information can go to the [scheme website](#).

### **General enquiries**

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

### **Media enquiries**

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

---

## **[Press release: Take Indyref threat off table & work with us on Brexit](#)**

Scottish Secretary David Mundell today reiterated his opposition to a second independence referendum.

He also urged the Scottish Government to concentrate on working with the UK Government on securing a good Brexit deal.

Mr Mundell will be responding on behalf of the UK Government later today [13 November] to a Westminster Hall debate in the UK Parliament which will debate two petitions on a second independence referendum. More than 220,000 people have signed a petition against a second independence referendum, and fewer than 40,000 have signed one in favour.

Speaking ahead of the Parliamentary debate today, Mr Mundell said:

Scotland had a fair, legal and decisive referendum on Scottish Independence in 2014 and the people of Scotland rejected independence. The Scottish Government must move on. They must respect the referendum result, and take the threat of a second independence referendum off the table once and for all.

This is not the time to take Scotland back to the constitutional arguments of the past, it is time to concentrate on improving the lives of people in Scotland. I urge the Scottish Government to get on with the day job of tackling the real problems in Scotland's economy, health services and education.

People in Scotland rightly expect their two governments to work together. I hope the Scottish Government will work constructively with us on Brexit; on getting a deal which works for Scotland and the whole of the UK, and finding the best way of bringing back powers from the EU.

ENDS

Notes for Editors:

1. For further information contact the Scotland Office press office on 0131 244 9028.
2. The e-petitions being debated today are as follows: \* Petition number 180642: "Another Scottish independence referendum should not be allowed to happen": 221,514 signatures. \* Petition number 168781: "Agree to a second referendum on Scottish Independence": 38,515 signatures.

---

## **Press release: PM meeting with European Business Organisations**

Today the Prime Minister chaired a meeting of leaders from UK and EU business organisations at Downing Street.

The Prime Minister reassured the group that Brexit meant the UK was leaving the EU, not Europe and reiterated her ambition for free and frictionless trade with the EU27 once the UK departs. She also expressed her commitment to giving businesses the certainty they need by agreeing a time-limited

implementation period as soon as possible.

The Secretary of State for Exiting the EU David Davis gave an update on negotiations, highlighting the progress made on citizens' rights.

Mr Davis said there was an important role for business leaders in the UK and the rest of the EU to play. He underlined that economic considerations should be to the fore in the negotiations.

Carolyn Fairbairn Director-General of the CBI, represented the wider group in welcoming the opportunity to hear from and discuss such key issues for industry with the Prime Minister. And Emma Marcegaglia, President for BusinessEurope stated that the business groups stand together, ready to play a constructive role in supporting governments find the solutions they need.

There was a consensus among the business groups for the need for an implementation period and for economic relations between the UK and EU27 to remain close.

The Business Secretary, Greg Clark and Economic Secretary, Stephen Barclay also attended the roundtable to hear the views from business leaders from across the EU.

---

## **Speech: United Kingdom Defence Adviser's Speech at 2017's Remembrance Day Luncheon**

Your Excellency President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, UK High Commissioner to Ghana – HE Mr Iain Walker, The Minister for Defence – Honourable Dominic Nitiwul, The Deputy Minister for Defence – Honourable Major (Retired) Derek Oduro, The Honourable Adam Afriyie MP, The Honourable Meg Hillier MP, Chief of the Defence Staff for the Ghana Armed Forces – Lt Gen O B Akwa, The Inspector General of the Ghana Police Service, Chief of Staff of the Ghana Armed Forces, Service Chiefs and Commandants here present, Chairman of the Veterans' Administration of Ghana, Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Senior Officers of the Ghana Armed Forces (serving and retired), Former members of the British Armed Forces, Distinguished invited guests, Sirs, Ma'ams, Ladies and Gentlemen, and of course, Veterans of the Ghana Armed Forces.

Good afternoon – I too wish to add my welcome to you all as we gather on one of the most important days of the year; important militarily, but also I believe, nationally. I wish to thank HE Mr Iain Walker and Mrs Walker for hosting this event here at their Residence. And, it is my particular pleasure to once again welcome those veterans of the Ghana Armed Forces who have

joined us today – indeed, it is in their honour that we hold this event each year – you are all most welcome.

As ever, we are very grateful for the considerable assistance we have received that has enabled us to deliver this event today. I would like to thank: The Labadi Beach Hotel; The Accra Brewery Company; Blue Skies; Unilever Ghana; GNPC; Nyansa Africa; The British Chamber of Commerce; and G4S Security – for their extremely generous support. I would also like to thank the Ghana Armed Forces and especially the Chief of Staff and the Director of Music by whose kind permission the Band is playing today.

I must of course mention again this year the staff, and particularly the children, of the Multikids Inclusive Academy: Mandy Budge, Farouk and Judith – and Kwasi and Lois – it is the children of Multikids who have again provided the great array of display-pieces as their symbols of Remembrance.

I thank the staff of the B-H-C and particularly the Residence Staff and Works Group, for their efforts in ensuring that we are all accommodated here today and I thank you all for coming together to remember and honour the fallen, and those involved in operations today – but importantly here today, also in supporting Ghana's veterans. I must also thank one particular individual: W02 Darren Nicholl, known to all as Paddy, as this is his final Remembrance Day here in Ghana, but also as a serving member of the British Armed Forces – so much of what is delivered here today is down to his endeavours.

This is my second Remembrance Day in Ghana – my first, last year, left a very strong impression and I was left in no doubt as to the pride that Ghana justifiably has for her Armed Forces, and particularly for the historic achievements of those Armed Forces. And it is with a view to Ghana's military history that the backdrop behind me has been produced for today, which possibly requires some explanation: starting at the top and working clockwise:

- RSM Alhaji GRUNSHI DCM MM – the man who fired the first shot of the First World War;
- Major Seth Kobla ANTHONY – the first Black African commissioned as an officer in the British Army, and later Ghana's first representative to the UN, and High Commissioner to the UK, India and Canada;
- Lt Col Felix Walter Martey HAMMOND BEM – who passed away just this year;
- Sgt Cornelius Francis ADJETEY – a pivotal figure amongst the three now immortalised at the Christiansborg Crossroads Shooting Memorial;
- And finally, Major Maxwell Mahama who tragically lost his life this year – at this point I would like to welcome particularly Mrs Barbara Mahama, wife of Maj Mahama – Ma'am, you are most welcome here today. All are figures that reflect not just Ghana's military, but also I feel – national history.

Both the former H-C to Ghana, Jon Benjamin, and I spoke last year on the role of Ghanaians and other African soldiers during the First World War – especially relevant given the series of 100th anniversaries of First World War events that we will continue to see recognised up to November 2018. Indeed, this year serves as the centenary of women in conflict, and of the

Battle of Cambrai, whilst also being the 75th anniversary of the RAF Regiment. And HE Mr Iain Walker has this year particularly noted the 100th anniversary of the Third Battle of Ypres, which history recalls as Passchendaele – a word that still evokes visions of hundreds of thousands of men dying upon an horrific battlefield churned to mud. Fought between July and November of 1917, this was a battle on a scale that, although leaving an indelible mark on the world, is today perhaps difficult for many to truly comprehend.

Although fought far away from the actions of the largely African forces on this continent, there are aspects of that time that many of us can relate to today – the ideals of service, loyalty and sacrifice. If we consider the combination of these three elements, then we can develop a sense of the selflessness that would have been required to fight in such a battle – a selflessness that is still required today when our servicemen and women fulfil their duty on behalf of our respective nations.

Much has happened in both the UK and Ghana since this event last year – but throughout Ghana has continued to deploy a significant number of personnel on UN Peacekeeping operations; has deployed forces as part of the African response in support of democracy in the Gambia, and closer to home, to deal with the challenge of Galamsey; the United Kingdom has deployed personnel to both South Sudan and Somalia as a refreshed commitment to UN Peacekeeping; whilst we continue to counter the threat of Daesh or IS; to support stability in Eastern Europe; and to support our partners around the world who themselves face other threats, perhaps not imagined 5, 10, 15 or 25 years ago.

The threat of terrorism of course looms large – in the UK, across wider Europe and globally. Indeed, Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso continue to suffer from the scourge of terrorism, whilst Nigeria continues to combat Boko Haram, and Somalia faces Al Shabaab. Challenges of this nature can be seen throughout the world at the moment.

But, as we collectively seek to defeat such threats in the modern world, we do so able to draw upon the experience and example of those who have gone before us. Much of the world is free today because of the sacrifices made by our predecessors; many will enjoy freedom into the future because of the sacrifices made by military, police and civilian personnel deployed around the world today. Indeed, in this year Ghana has lost 2 officers: both from different generations, serving in different times, but with the common bonds of service, loyalty and sacrifice – of selflessness.

Lt Col Felix Martey Hammond British Empire Medal (Retired) made a determined effort to join us last year, as he has across many previous years, but sadly passed away earlier this year. In reflecting on his life, I have been struck by how much it was lived with a sense of service, loyalty and sacrifice. From his enlistment into the Royal West African Frontier Force on 3 March 41, to his service through the ranks, to his development as a provider of education, to his time supporting Ghanaian troops returning from Burma, through his latter service as a Commissioned Officer, in his role within the religious community and latterly in supporting Ghanaian veterans. There is a consistent

theme of "others before self" – selflessness.

This ideal from an earlier generation now reflects in the new generation of Ghanaian Servicemen and women. And I think there is one individual from this new generation who has reinforced the relevance of service, loyalty and sacrifice to us all today. Major Maxwell Mahama was taken from his family far too early in his life. Here was a young, capable and professional officer serving his country in any way required of him, who sacrificed his life in the course of that service, demonstrating loyalty to his nation and to the people of Ghana until the end. Service, loyalty and sacrifice – demonstrated by Major Mahama's service to Ghana, seen throughout the life of Lt Col Hammond and qualities that were relevant to those men who fought and died at Passchendaele – qualities that span the generations.

And these are qualities that would have been relevant through the careers of those veterans here present today and qualities that form the core of the character of our veterans, who have reassumed their place in the society from which they came. We can see this in the life of Lt Col Hammond, in the work of those at the VAG and in the work done by people such as Derrick Cobbinah of Forces Help Ghana – all of whom are veterans who continue to serve on behalf of other veterans.

They are veterans who continue to play a role in society, who continue to have a purpose – indeed, who continue to add value within society. Those of us who come from like-minded societies would do well to recognise, to remember, not just the service given – but also the service veterans continuously give within our society.

Whilst it saddens me to hear of a veteran on the streets in the UK, it also saddens me to hear of veterans who are attacked, even shot, in their own homes in Ghana. Perhaps if we value the service given by our veterans, and recognise the value they still offer to society, then our societies will better care for the interests of our veterans.

It is for this reason that I applaud the efforts instigated by the GAF to look at their relationship with veterans and why I commend the work of Forces Help Ghana, the Veteran Administration of Ghana and others such as the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League (who still support Ghana's veterans today), the Royal British Legion and other organisations around the world that support our veterans.

And so, I turn again to the purpose of today – Remembrance – if we have a responsibility to our veterans – then we certainly have a public responsibility to remember the fallen – men and women like Maj Mahama, friends, family and those who fell at Passchendaele. I said it last year – but it bears repeating – to say the words 'Lest we Forget' is easy – to ensure we live up to those words is less so. It is right that we honour the memory of those who have lost their lives and offer thanks for the service, loyalty and sacrifice of those who have fought for the freedoms we enjoy today – some of those men are sat amongst us today – Gentlemen, I, for one, salute you.



This year we reflect on 100 years since Passchendaele – and 60 years since Ghana gained her independence. But what of the next 60 or 100 years? As we remember those who have gone before, we must recognise those who serve today – almost 3000 Ghanaians serving overseas on UN operations, and 4700 UK personnel are similarly deployed around the globe on a range of missions, tasks and operations – and we should recognise that these personnel will one day also be veterans deserving of our support, respect, and protection – Lest We Forget – their service will continue to provide peace for others into the future.

Our servicemen and women, now and for the foreseeable future, are engaged in activities that, like their predecessors, seek to keep our people safe; to create an environment that is secure, peaceful, and with the conditions for opportunity and prosperity – an environment within which society can progress. And so, as we remember those who have gone before –we should focus not just on the fact they fought, but why they fought – and why our people are required to fight today – to enable people to live in a society that benefits from peace, security, opportunity and prosperity.

And so, Servicemen and women have served across the years to create a society fit for all: and a society that should welcome, support and protect our veterans when their service is complete. It is our responsibility to ensure that not only do we remember, but that we take the opportunities created to develop a better society for the future: a society that creates opportunity for all – and one that values our veterans. They are proud of their tradition and Service: it is important that we are too.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you all for joining us today in honouring particularly our Ghanaian veterans – people like Lt Col Felix Hammond, Maj Maxwell Mahama and those veterans sat here with us today – and of course those that have fallen – events such as today ensures that they are never forgotten.

Your Excellency, President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, Ministers, Members of Parliament, Ambassadors, High Commissioners, senior officers and officials all here present, Sirs, Ma'ams, Ladies and Gentlemen – I thank you for your attention – please enjoy the remainder of your lunch and the rest of the afternoon.