

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS AGAINST JOINT MINISTERIAL COUNCIL 2012 COMMITMENTS

At the first Joint Ministerial Council in December 2012 UK Ministers and the elected leaders and representatives of the Overseas Territories agreed a shared vision for the Territories as vibrant and flourishing communities, proudly retaining aspects of British identity and generating wider opportunities for their people. The Council agreed to promote the security and good governance of the Territories and to lead work to implement the strategy for strengthening the partnership between the UK and the Territories set out in the June 2012 White Paper *The Overseas Territories: Security, Success and Sustainability*. The Council agreed an ambitious communiqué setting out eight priority issues and 58 action points on which the UK and the Territories would work together. The Council agreed to review implementation at its next meeting.

The UK and Territory governments have published individual progress reports (Anguilla, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, St Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands, Virgin Islands, and UK) [[hot links to JMC on GOV.UK](#)]

This report provides an overview of progress.

Self determination and democracy

The UK and Territory Governments are committed to a modern relationship based on the principles of partnership and shared values, including a commitment to the principle and right of self-determination. The people of each Territory have the right to choose whether or not their Territory should remain a British Overseas Territory.

In March 2013 the Falkland Islands Government held a referendum on the political status of the islands and the people of the Falkland Islands exercised their right to make this choice. The overwhelming majority of voters (99.8%) voted to retain their constitutional links to the United Kingdom. The referendum was observed by a team of international observers who verified that the process was fair and transparent. The result has made the Islanders' wishes clear to the international community. The Chief Minister of Anguilla has publicly announced his intention to hold a referendum on Anguilla's future but no date for this has yet been set.

The Territories have vibrant democratic traditions. Most Territories have an elected legislature and a ministerial system of government. Political parties operate freely and transparently. Territory Constitutions and laws define who can vote in elections. Over the last year elections were held in Bermuda, Cayman, Ascension Island, Falkland Islands and Pitcairn. On 17 December 2012, the One Bermuda Alliance won a narrow majority in a general election and Craig Cannonier become Premier. The previous Bermuda government decided against inviting international election observers. On 22 May 2013 general elections were held in the Cayman Islands and the Progressives won nine of the eighteen seats. Premier Alden McLaughlin formed a new administration with support from smaller groupings, and the new administration enjoys a thirteen to five majority. International observers reported positively that the election met international standards for democratic, genuine and transparent elections and an 80% voter turnout showed the commitment of the Caymanian people to the principles of democracy.

Overseas Territories

Joint Ministerial Council

On 31 October Ascension Island held elections on for the Island Council. On 7 November, the people of the Falkland Islands elected a new Legislative Assembly. On 12 November elections were held for the Pitcairn Island Council.

A number of Territories continue to review and strengthen the functioning of their democracies. The Government of Anguilla has commissioned work to rebalance electoral constituencies, modernise electoral registration and has approved an election observer mission in advance of elections expected in 2015.

The UK and Territory Governments are committed to continue work to modernise Territory Constitutions and to ensure that these operate effectively.

The UK and Territory Government are also committed to work together to raise the profile of the Territories in the UK and internationally. The UK Government is publicising the Joint Ministerial Council on GOV.UK and has coordinated a campaign to inform the public about the Territories through Facebook and Twitter. The flags of the Overseas Territories were flown in Parliament Square at Trooping the Colour for the first time in 2013. The FCO continues to fly the flags on the Territories on their respective national days.

Jobs and Growth

The recent global financial crisis challenged many economies around the world and has led to a longer and deeper recession than many expected. Governments around the world found their policy and financial options constrained. Major economies such as the US and the EU continue to wrestle with the twin problems of fiscal sustainability and high levels of unemployment. There have recently been signs of cooling in emerging markets. The 2012 Joint Ministerial Council recognised this uncertain global economic backdrop and resolved to redouble work together to create inclusive and resilient economic growth and to put job creation at the heart of actions.

Encouraging economic growth, promoting investment and creating employment

Overseas Territories Governments have continued efforts to diversify economies and create inclusive and resilient economic growth.

In Anguilla the regional law revision centre has won contracts from across the East Caribbean. The Anguilla Community College is expanding training for the financial services industry. Investment took place in one of the biggest resorts on the island – Malliouhana - which is planned to reopen in 2014.

The Government of Bermuda has set up a new Bermuda Business Development Agency as a public-private partnership. New measures introduced to attract skilled workers and job creators including removing blockages on renewal of work permits. Premier Cannonier of Bermuda secured an invitation to address the World Islamic Economic Forum in London in October 2013, where he pitched Bermuda as a hub for Islamic finance.

In British Virgin Islands the Government invested in refrigeration and packaging equipment and training to support the development of the fishing industry and launched a loan guarantee programme for small businesses. A project was agreed to redevelop a major resort –Prospect Reef

Overseas Territories
Joint Ministerial Council

Resort. The BVI Government opened an office in Hong Kong to promote BVI business in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Cayman Islands secured an investment from leading Indian heart surgeon Dr. Devi Shetty, in partnership with a major US health care provider with to launch Health City Cayman Islands. A 140-bed tertiary-care hospital is scheduled to open in early 2014 as a centre of excellence in cardiac surgery, cardiology and orthopaedics. There are plans, over the next decade, to develop a 2,000-bed facility providing care in major specialties including neurology and oncology. The complex is also planned to have a medical university and an assisted-care living community. The Cayman Islands are currently in the process of undertaking significant reforms to their immigration policies and legislation, and recently passed amendments to their Immigration Law that extended the term limit on work permits from seven to nine years. Additionally, amendments were made which allow all work permit holders who have resided in the Cayman Islands for a minimum of eight years to apply for Permanent Residence.

In the Falkland Islands, work on ensuring “oil readiness” continues as the number of wells to be drilled in the next campaign increases. The Falkland Islands Government has conducted a review of immigration policy.

In Gibraltar, financial services, bunkering and tourism continue to drive growth. In October 2013, the Government of Gibraltar again held its annual Gibraltar Day in the City of London, re-enforcing links between the financial services centres of Gibraltar and London.

In Montserrat the UK Government funded test drilling for geothermal energy. The initial drilling operations have been completed and the two commercial wells are being tested. Work is progressing on the design of a geothermal power plant. A new, bigger and improved ferry service from Antigua has been launched. A study on the reintroduction of a submarine fibre optic system confirmed the feasibility of the project and the Montserrat Government is work towards a tender process.

In St Helena, work on the airport is progressing well. Enterprise St Helena continues its work to promote St Helena as a tourist destination and encourage foreign investment. A programme of commercial training is also being offered to the Saint population to help develop business and hospitality skills.

In the Turks and Caicos Islands significant new private sector investment was initiated in range of hotel development projects including a new Marriott, the West Caicos Project and the Third Turtle Club. New air links were also announced with US cities. The TCI Government has agreed with the EU a \$15 million investment to make government more business friendly.

After several years, Tristan da Cunha has finally secured European Commission approval for the export of its world famous lobster to the EU.

Territory governments have continued work to encourage external investment Some Territories have set up promotion agencies, for example the Montserrat Development Corporation which promotes trade and investment and infrastructure development. Enterprise St. Helena is responsible for investment promotion and supporting local private sector development. The Turks and Caicos

Overseas Territories

Joint Ministerial Council

Islands Investment Unit facilitates and promotes inward investment. The British Virgin Islands International Finance Centre promotes financial services business. The Cayman Islands were recently rated by FDI Magazine as the country with the highest economic potential in the Caribbean and Latin American region. Inward investment in the Cayman Islands is facilitated by the Department of Commerce and Investment.

Territory governments have also made progress on preparing clear and transparent investment policies. The Montserrat Investment Promotion Policy identifies priority sectors including tourism, mining, light manufacturing, IT enabled services, agricultural processing and commercial fishing. The St. Helena Investment Policy looks to balance removing barrier to investment with support for locally based enterprises. In the Turks and Caicos Islands a new investment policy sets out clearly and transparently the incentives that are potentially available to inward investors and the process for evaluating potential investments and agreeing incentives through a development agreement.

The UK Government has increased its support to help Territory companies to do business in the international arena. In July 2013 the UK Government issued instructions to all UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) teams and FCO staff at Posts to assist bona fide Territory companies and government/business delegations in accessing overseas markets; including through visits to the market and by helping to resolve market access issues.

Meeting international standards on tax co-operation and financial sector regulation and combating financial crime, bribery and corruption

Several Overseas Territories are significant financial centres where significant private sector employment relies directly or indirectly on financial services; and public jobs and public services on the fees and charges paid by the sector. Several other Overseas Territories have niche financial service businesses or are seeking to develop financial services centres. The Overseas Territories are therefore committed to playing a key role in creating a fair, responsible and effectively-regulated global business environment; and seek the UK's recognition and support in doing so. The UK and the Overseas Territories worked together to enable the UK's Presidency of the G8 to launch a significant initiative to tackle tax evasion and ensure globalisation delivers benefits for rich economies and developing countries alike. Those Territories which host international financial centres have delivered on the commitments made in advance of the G8 Summit at Lough Erne:

- each of these Territories has published an action plan setting out the steps that they will take to ensure the collection and availability of complete company ownership information and are launching or have launched consultations on establishing a central registry of beneficial ownership and whether this information should be publicly available;
- the extension of the Multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance on Tax Matters to each of these Territories has been notified to the Council of Europe, which will allow more countries to benefit quickly from greater levels of tax information exchange and will be particularly beneficial for developing countries; and
- each of these Territories has agreed to play an active part in the pilot initiative on automatic tax information exchange launched by the UK, France, Germany, Italy and Spain.

Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council

These Territory Governments have expressed a concern that there is not yet a level playing field as other jurisdictions have yet to make similar commitments.

The UK and Territory Governments are committed to continue to meet international standards on financial crime, bribery and corruption. The extension of international standards demonstrates that Territories are good places to do international financial services business. The UK Government has prioritised work with Territories to secure early extension of the UN Convention Against Corruption and the OECD Anti Bribery Convention. During 2013 the OECD Anti Bribery Convention was extended to Gibraltar, the Cayman Islands and the British Virgin Islands. The UK Government continues to advise Territories with financial services industries on the extension of the UN Convention on the Suppression of Financing of Terrorism and the UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime.

The Environment and Green Growth

The UK and Territories Governments set an ambitious agenda for cherishing the environment and creating green growth.

A number of Territories have taken steps to strengthen environmental protection frameworks. The Ascension Island Government recently passed the Wildlife Protection Ordinance. This new legislation will secure more of Ascension's unique and productive environment for the future. Cayman is in the process of enacting its National Conservation law. Cayman has recently tabled the proposed National Conservation Bill for debate and passage by the Legislative Assembly. In St Helena work is on-going to consolidate and enhance environmental law. In Gibraltar, the demarcation lines of the Upper Rock Nature Reserve were extended in October 2013. In June 2013, the Government published a revised Gibraltar Environmental Action & Management Plan which acts as a blueprint for the Government's environmental policy.

The Caribbean Summit of Caribbean Political and Business Leaders was hosted in the BVI in May 2013. At the Summit, participating governments and partnering companies pledged to protect least 20% of their coastal and marine environment by the year 2020 and to develop and implement sustainable finance mechanisms to manage these protected areas.

A number of Territories are making progress on increasing the use of renewable energy. Montserrat is progressing work on geothermal energy and St Helena is developing solar and wind energy. In the Falklands 40% of domestic energy requirements are already being met from renewable sources. In the BVI, the Government approved the Virgin Islands Climate Change Policy in May 2013. The policy sets out the Territory's plan of action to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The UK Government is supporting St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, Pitcairn and the Turks and Caicos Islands to establish baseline information on fisheries resources and scope opportunities for developing sustainable fishing industries. The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) is developing a marine framework to identify priorities for marine biodiversity conservation in the Territories. The FCO has funded two workshops in the Caribbean Territories (February and July 2013) aimed at assessing the scale of the lionfish invasion in the Territories and identifying research and

Overseas Territories

Joint Ministerial Council

training needs ¹. Work is in progress to assess the potential economic impact on the fisheries and tourism industry. The Falkland Islands are recognised as having one of the best managed fisheries in the world and are sharing best practice with Ascension on sustainable fisheries management. The Falklands Islands Government and oil companies have agreed a £600,000 programme of scientific research to fill gaps in environmental knowledge in preparation for development of hydrocarbon resources.

Officials from Defra have continued to support the Territories in implementing Multilateral Environmental Agreements including fulfilling legislative requirements of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). In addition to this Defra continues to provide technical support and expertise. Officials from the Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) continue to engage with the Territories to inform them of the UK negotiating position under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Defra announced in April the funding of 18 new projects in the Territories totalling £2.6 million. This included 14 projects under the new Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund (known as Darwin Plus) which is co-funded by the Department for International Development (DFID), FCO and Defra. These projects and other Defra funding will support many of the actions identified in the JMC communiqué. Separately, DFID is contributing £900,000 to St Helena's Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Project (LEMP) to support the re-introduction of indigenous and endemic plants in and around the airport development area.

Support from International Organisations

EU

In 2012 the UK and Territory Governments agreed to work together towards an ambitious EU Overseas Association Decision that would provide real opportunities for enhancing trade; provide effective support for economic development; and take into account the specific interests of the Territories.

A new Decision was agreed by the European Council on 25 November 2013. It will come into force on 1 January 2014. Bermuda has asked to be associated with the EU like the other Territories. The new Decision is a reciprocal partnership to support the sustainable development of the EU's Overseas Countries and Territories. It allows privileged access to the EU market for Territory goods and grants the equivalent of Most Favoured Nation status for trade in services. The Decision also provides for wider areas of cooperation in such fields as energy, sustainable fisheries, the environment, climate change and disaster risk reduction. Association with the EU in this way enables the Territories to benefit from direct financial assistance through the European Development Fund. Those Territories that do not qualify for direct assistance can still benefit from regional programmes such as support for small and medium sized enterprises. The territories can also benefit from other horizontal EU funds such as the Erasmus and da Vinci educational programmes and the LIFE biodiversity fund.

¹ Reports available on: http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/PDF/ot_LionfishWorkshopAnguilla_20130602.pdf

Commonwealth

Following discussion with the Commonwealth Secretary General at the 2012 JMC, the UK and Territory Governments agreed to work together to strengthen engagement between the Territories and the Commonwealth. Many of the Territories already benefit from links with the Commonwealth. The UK and Territory Governments have proposed practical measures that would deepen the links still further and bring mutual benefit. The FCO now sends details and timings of major Commonwealth meetings to the Territories in advance. Options for informing Territories of other meetings and programmes from which they might derive benefit have been discussed with the Secretariat. Territory Governments have continued to stress that they are keen to share their expertise in certain sectors with Commonwealth member states, and to participate fully in the small states initiatives that provide a unique platform for exchange between small jurisdictions.

Better Government

At the JMC in 2012 the UK and Territory Governments agreed to work together to meet common high standards for democratic and accountable government and to uphold a shared belief in the rule of law, a strong legislative framework and an independent judiciary.

Territory Heads of Public Service met in London on 7-8 October 2013 to take stock of progress and exchange of experience between the Territories, the Crown Dependencies and UK Departments. The meeting identified a number of practical proposals for further cooperation including peer reviews of procurement, public financial management frameworks, and codes of conduct for integrity in public life; a review of secondments between the Territories and the UK encompassing an assessment of the UK Government's Jubilee Programme; and a project to support strengthening the work of audit bodies and public accounts committees or their equivalents, with the support of the UK National Audit Office.

Attorneys General met in the Falkland Islands from 12-14 November. The meeting agreed follow up work on financial service regulation, environmental protection regulation; extradition arrangements; and extension and implementation of international obligations. The BVI Attorney General has launched a project to consolidate laws in the Territory. In the Falkland Islands a project has been taken forward to strengthen capacity for legal drafting. Recommendations from an independent review of the courts are being implemented to improve effectiveness and strengthen the system of justice.

The 2012 White Paper set out an objective to work toward extending outstanding UN human rights conventions to all the populated Territories by the end of 2013. The UN covenants on civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights have not yet been extended to Anguilla. The Convention on the Rights of the Child has not yet been extended to Gibraltar. The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) has not yet been extended to Anguilla, Bermuda, Montserrat, Pitcairn and St Helena. Gibraltar has requested extension and Cayman plans to submit a request for extension.

Integrity in public life

Overseas Territories

Joint Ministerial Council

In 2012 the UK and Territory Governments agreed to work together to adopt the seven principles of public life and to put in place codes of practice for ministers, parliamentarians and public servants. In Anguilla there is a Code of Conduct for the public service that embodies the seven principles of public life. Work has begun on preparing a code for ministers and parliamentarians. In Bermuda there are codes of conduct for Ministers and public servants. There is a register of interests for Members of Parliament. The BVI Government is currently incorporating the seven principles of public life into a new public service code and public service act. In the Cayman Islands a code of conduct is included in personnel regulations for public servants. A code of conduct for Cabinet is being prepared as part of a revised Cabinet Manual, and a Standards in Public Life Bill, setting clear and accountable standards for all public officials, has been published and will be debated in the Legislative Assembly in early 2015. The Falkland Islands has codes of practice for Members of the Legislative Assembly and a management code for public servants. Montserrat has codes of conduct for ministers and parliamentarians and a code for public servants is included in a draft public administration bill. In St Helena work is underway on a code of conduct for public servants. Turks and Caicos Islands have an independent Integrity Commission which has agreed a code of conduct for all persons in public life (including ministers, members of the House of Assembly, senior public servants and members of statutory boards). In Gibraltar, the draft of a tailor-made Ministerial Code of Conduct in line with the UK Code and applicable to Ministers and all Parliamentarians will be presented to Cabinet/Parliament for consideration and adoption in 2014. A similar Code of Conduct for Public Servants will be presented to Cabinet in parallel with a review of the current General Orders.

In December 2012 then Premier McKeeva Bush of the Cayman Islands lost a motion of no confidence triggered by a criminal investigation into a series of allegations of corruption. Mr Bush was later charged with four counts of breach of trust and five counts of theft. Trials are continuing.

A Special Investigation and Prosecution Team (SIPT) was set up in TCI in 2010 to look into allegations of corruption and criminal activity, following Sir Robin Auld's Commission of Inquiry. To date, 14 people, including four former Ministers, have been charged with corruption and money laundering offences. Trials will take place in the summer of 2014. In October 2013, the Brazilian Supreme Court authorised the extradition of former Premier Michael Misick to TCI to face charges relating to corruption and maladministration during his time in office. Separately to the criminal investigations, there is also a programme of civil recovery which has recovered 3000 acres of Crown land (approx value \$100m) and about US\$20m over the past two years.

Strengthening public services

In 2012 the UK and Territory Governments agreed to work together to strengthen public services to provide effective and efficient policy advice, services to the public, and regulation; and to work on e-government, a programme of secondments and exchanges and systems for fair and transparent recruitment and professional development.

Territory Governments have implemented a range of significant reforms. The Government of Anguilla has implemented an online customs clearance system. The Government of Cayman has launched an ambitious plan for public service reform. The Government of Montserrat has established a new integrated border force bringing together customs and immigration services. The

Overseas Territories

Joint Ministerial Council

e-government programme was expanded further to include Cabinet decision making, visa applications and property taxation. In TCI a major public service reform programme was undertaken during 2009-12 which not only reduced the size and cost of the civil service but also improved service delivery and the provision of effective and efficient public services across government. The Falkland Islands have enhanced transparency through publication of minutes and policy papers on a central government website. In Gibraltar, there are plans for longer counter opening hours and the development of e-Government services.

The FCO's Jubilee Programme continues to facilitate the secondments of Territory public servants to the UK and vice versa. Good examples of these exchanges can be found in the UK and individual Territory progress reports. The FCO continues to fund access to the Civil Service Learning portal for Territory governments' Civil Servants. Take up has been strong across the Territories.

Public financial management and procurement

In 2012 the UK and Territory Governments agreed that sound public financial management was critical for sustainable economic growth and agreed to work together to strengthen public financial management and to adopt frameworks for public finances that demonstrate commitment to limits on borrowing, to building reserves, building a strong and sustainable revenue base, ensuring transparency and accountability, and effective budgeting and management of expenditure. Also to work to strengthen public sector procurement and to take action to mitigate fiscal risks and ensure liabilities are sustainable.

The Anguilla Government has continued to demonstrate its commitment to fiscal sustainability and good governance in the form of a new agreement, the Framework for Fiscal Sustainability and Development, now passed by the Legislative Assembly. This sets out a framework for financial management, including legally binding thresholds for public debt and a framework for best practice public procurement. Plans are being taken forward to develop the robustness of public finance audit.

Gibraltar is subject to EU rules on procurement, requiring tendering at an EU level over certain thresholds. This ensures open and transparent procurement as well as value for money for the taxpayer.

The Bermuda Government has established a new set of fiscal rules and is committed to reducing its fiscal deficit.

The BVI Government continues to demonstrate its commitment to fiscal sustainability through its legally binding Protocols for Effective Financial Management. These protocols set standards for financial management, including binding thresholds for public debt and a framework for best practice public procurement. The latter has been applied to a project to expand cruise ship facilities in Tortola.

The Cayman Islands Government shows continued commitment to robust financial management through its new Medium Term Fiscal Plan, which seeks to reduce its borrowing ratios to sustainable levels by the end of the financial year 2015/16. The Cayman Islands' commitments to sound public financial management were highlighted by the transposition into law of the Framework for Fiscal

Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council

Responsibility in November 2012, which updated the legally binding thresholds for public debt and implemented a best practice framework for public procurement. The Cayman Islands Government is developing and will soon be implementing new public procurement processes with support from UK and Jersey. These will provide new and robust processes for its complex and ambitious infrastructure development plans.

TCI Government has established robust fiscal and public financial management architecture and has ambitious plans to reduce its public debt. The TCI Government continues to build capacity in public financial management and public procurement with UK support. The TCI Government has established a Blue Ribbon Commission comprised of representatives from a range of business sectors to review the current tax base and make recommendations on possible new tax measures.

In September 2013 the Falkland Islands Government agreed a new economic and fiscal framework, which sets out a continued commitment to sustainable economic and fiscal policies and risk management. The Falkland Islands Government is progressing the development of substantial new port facilities with support from Infrastructure UK (IUK)

Stronger and Healthier communities

In 2012 the UK and Territory Governments agreed the importance of having inclusive environments that ensured that all people were able to participate fully as creative and productive members of society. Territory progress reports set out a wide range of interesting and exciting initiatives across a broad range of policy areas. The Government of Anguilla has set up a child protection steering committee and developed child protection guidance and conducted an outreach campaign. Anguilla also abolished corporal punishment in schools. In sport, Gibraltar was admitted as a full member of UEFA in May 2013 and will now play in European international tournaments. Bermuda successfully hosted the Island Games (held for the first time outside Europe) bringing together teams from 21 member islands including UK, Greek, Scandinavian and Spanish islands. Bermuda amended legislation in 2013 to remove discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The Government of Bermuda also announced an end to conscription into the Bermuda Regiment. The BVI Government has invested in a range of new sports facilities. The Cayman Islands Government agreed a national sports policy and agreed a child protection law and a public campaign on tackling child abuse. The Government of Montserrat raised the maximum sentence for child sex abuse and established an organisation to support vulnerable children. In the Turks and Caicos Islands a far reaching Equality Ordinance was passed in 2012 which is being implemented in phases to ensure alignment with international obligations. The St. Helena Government has installed a hoist to enable disabled swimmers easy and safe access to the island's swimming pool. The Government has also increased the number of sheltered accommodation units for elderly frail people. A new Board has been set up with responsibility for safeguarding children and is implementing a comprehensive range of policy and implementation measures. The Falkland Islands Government has established a multi-disciplinary Child Safeguarding Review Group and strengthened capacity to pursue prosecutions for offences. The Falkland Islands introduced a minimum wage.

Safer Communities

UK and Territory Governments agreed to work together to tackle threats from serious crime, illegal immigration and natural and man-made disasters. A number of Territories have set up national

Overseas Territories

Joint Ministerial Council

security councils, or similar arrangements, to coordinate work across government and in particular to tackle the root causes of crime. The Government of Anguilla has set up programmes to engage youth at risk of involvement in gangs and anti-drug and anti-crime education in schools. A new prison wing was opened to address overcrowding. The Government of Bermuda set up a security and defence review. The Falkland Islands has launched a criminal law review. Gibraltar has recently introduced changes which strengthen the criminal justice legislation through the Crimes Act and the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act. The Crimes Act, inter alia, creates new bribery and corruption offences, and brings into effect a sex offenders' register.

Caribbean Commissioners of Police have set up a system of working groups, each chaired by an individual Police Commissioner, which coordinates collaboration on key business areas such as serious and organised crime, training, armed policing, procurement, software systems and performance management. Territory officers have taken part in conferences, seminars and workshops including on command, financial crime investigation, witness protection, maritime intelligence and security. The UK has provided a range of support including from law enforcement advisers, UK Departments, the Association of Chief Police Officers, National Crime Agency, and Crown Prosecution Service.

In 2012 UK and Territory Governments agreed to work together to develop systems for independent inspection of prisons and to develop sentencing and probation systems designed to reduce offending. All Territory prisons now belong to the International Corrections and Prisons Association. Prison and probation staff have received training on a broad range of management and operational areas, including cognitive behaviour, risk assessment, and detention of juveniles. The Cayman Islands Government has initiated prison reform following a formal inspection by HM Inspector of Prisons. Increased cooperation between prison services in the Territories has led to a regular transfer of prisoners, mainly to support witness protection arrangements and the dissemination and sharing of best practice. The process by which prisoners are assessed and released continues to be strengthened. In Anguilla, the first parole hearings were held successfully this year and parolees are supervised effectively in the community. High incarceration rates are a serious issue in several Territories and community sentencing options and electronic tagging are being explored. A UK prison reform coordinator provides a wide range of support and advice.

Caribbean Territory Governments met in Miami in May to exchange good practice and prepare for the Caribbean hurricane season and for cruise ship incidents. Several Territories held disaster management exercises and training programmes. HMS Lancaster and RFA Wave Knight were on patrol in the Caribbean and North Atlantic to provide disaster relief and humanitarian assistance. An experienced disaster management planner has been appointed in St Helena and work is underway on the preparation of a disaster management plan.

Health

In 2012 UK and Territory Governments agreed an ambitious programme of work in the area of public health since many Territories face challenges in delivering a quality service to small and sometimes remote communities. Territory Governments have taken a wide range of initiatives. In Gibraltar, the Government has established closer engagement of health NGOs on Alzheimer and dementia, MS and hearing impairment. The Government of Anguilla has set up a Non Communicable Disease

Overseas Territories

Joint Ministerial Council

Commission to plan promotion and prevention campaigns. In the British Virgin Islands the construction phase of the new Peebles Hospital was completed. A ten year strategy to tackle non communicable diseases has been agreed. The Cayman Islands Government agreed a national health policy. St. Helena has established a valuable partnership with a UK clinical commissioning group.

Education

In 2012 UK and Territory Governments discussed ways in which we could work together to create well-educated societies in which opportunities are available to all people. In Gibraltar, stronger ties have been established with Kingston and St. Georges Universities in the UK to support degrees in Nursing and in Paramedic Studies. Territory Governments have taken a wide range of initiatives. In Anguilla an early learning initiative has been launched in day care and play schools. The BVI Government have introduced programmes to support students needing remedial tuition in languages, arts and maths. The Cayman Islands Government introduced a vocational training programme to engage disaffected students, continued their school inspection programme, and expanded its early years intervention programmes. The St Helena Government has taken a range of action to strengthen educational achievement including appointment of new school managers and advisers leading to a significant rise in secondary education achievement. The Falkland Islands Government has invested in a new pre-school facility and expanded provision of specialist teaching staff for pupils with special needs.

November 2013