

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM ON THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONING OF PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA**

**TITLE OF AGREEMENT:**

Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Panama for the establishment and functioning of Private International Schools of Excellence in the Republic of Panama.

Command Paper number: 9539

**SUBJECT MATTER**

The Agreement represents an undertaking to establish legal certainty to any private British school seeking to operate in the Republic of Panama.

**MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

The Secretary of State for the Department for Education has responsibility for policy relating to education in England. The Secretary of State for the Department for International Trade has responsibility for promoting international trade and investment. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has overall responsibility for UK policy relating to relations with the Republic of Panama.

**POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:**

Education is a key pillar of the UK's work with Panama, supporting the development of English language training, vocational education and the development of education policy. We are working with Panama to ensure the country's next generation have the skills and knowledge they need to continue to drive growth in the country.

The Agreement helps the UK to continue this work by establishing an underpinning framework to increase educational cooperation and mobility between the UK and Panama through the Agreement for the establishment and functioning of private international schools of excellence in Panama. This will help the UK to support the development of Panama's education system and ensure UK educational establishments operating in the country can do so in full confidence of their legal position in the country.

The Agreement will:

- Allow British schools to operate in Panama using the 'British' model.
- Give legal certainty to any British school seeking to operate in Panama.
- Trump national legislation in cases where the two are in conflict.
- Help to protect existing, and facilitate future, British educational investments in Panama.
- Provide commercial and soft power benefits to the UK.

The Agreement was signed in July 2017 by Acting Foreign Minister, Luis Miguel Hincapie, on behalf of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Isabel Saint Malo, on behalf of the Republic of Panama, and the then British Ambassador to Panama City, Ian Collard, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Boris Johnson, on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland.

#### **FINANCIAL**

Administering the Agreement will not result in any costs.

#### **RESERVATIONS AND DECLARATIONS**

None.

#### **CONSULTATIONS**

The Agreement was negotiated on behalf of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for Education, and on behalf of the Republic of Panama by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Panama Ministry of Education.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION**

The parties shall notify each other through diplomatic notes on the completion of the internal legal requirements necessary for the coming into force of the Agreement at which point the agreement shall enter into force. No Legislation is required to enable the UK to implement the Agreement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Duncan', followed by a horizontal line.

Rt Hon Sir Alan Duncan MP  
Minister for State for Europe and the Americas