

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM ON THE TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND ON DEFENCE AND SECURITY COOPERATION

Title of Treaty

Treaty between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Poland on Defence and Security Cooperation.

Command Paper Number: 9615

SUBJECT MATTER

1. This bilateral Treaty on defence and security cooperation between the UK and Poland was signed in Warsaw on 21 December 2017.
2. The Treaty addresses the following subjects: areas and forms of cooperation; related arrangements; management of cooperation; deployment and employment of forces; access to facilities, equipment and support; transfer, access to the market and export licensing; financial arrangements; protection of information; jurisdictional arrangements; claims and liability; disputes and amendments.

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

3. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has overall responsibility for policy concerning the United Kingdom's relations with the Republic of Poland; however, the Secretary of State for Defence has overall responsibility for policy matters relating to defence cooperation.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

4. This Treaty provides a legal basis for the continuation, and development, of the defence relationship between the UK and Poland, which is a genuine partnership from which both countries benefit. It enables an overarching strategic framework to reinforce the UK's bilateral defence relationship with a key NATO Ally and European partner, including an enhanced relationship on capability development. The benefit to Poland is also significant with a strengthened relationship with the UK on security and defence matters. Both nations also benefit indirectly from the resultant enhanced operational effectiveness to face shared threats.

FINANCIAL

5. There are no direct financial implications for the United Kingdom. There may be indirect financial implications arising from an Implementing Arrangement to the Treaty, which has not yet been negotiated but in which the United Kingdom will seek a reciprocal arrangement at no additional cost.

RESERVATIONS AND DECLARATIONS

6. None.

IMPLEMENTATION

7. The Treaty shall enter into force when notifications have been exchanged between both countries informing each other that their respective internal procedures necessary to give effect to the Treaty have been completed.

8. No new legislation is required in the UK to implement the Treaty.

CONSULTATIONS

9. Relevant Government departments were consulted throughout the negotiations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Lancaster', written in a cursive style.

The Rt Hon Mark Lancaster TD MP
Minister of State for the Armed Forces
Ministry of Defence