



DEBATE PACK

CDP 2018-0126 | 21 May 2018

UK relations with Qatar

Westminster Hall

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Contents

1.	Background	2
2.	Press Articles	8
3.	Gov.uk	10
4.	PQs	13
5.	Other Parliamentary material	19
5.1	Debates	19
5.2	Statements	19
5.3	Early Day Motions	19
6.	Further reading	20

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The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

1. Background

Gulf diplomatic crisis

Qatar's diplomatic crisis with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates began in 2017, as planes and cargo ships heading for Qatar were diverted, diplomatic relations were cut and Qatar's only land border, with Saudi Arabia, was closed. The Saudis and their allies demanded that Qatar should:

1. **Curb diplomatic ties with Iran** and close its diplomatic missions there. Expel members of Iran's Revolutionary Guards and cut off any joint military cooperation with Iran. Only trade and commerce with Iran that complies with US and international sanctions will be permitted.
2. **Sever all ties to "terrorist organisations"**, specifically the Muslim Brotherhood, Islamic State, al-Qaida and Lebanon's Hezbollah. Formally declare those entities as terrorist groups.
3. **Shut down al-Jazeera** and its affiliate stations.
4. **Shut down news outlets that Qatar funds**, directly and indirectly, including Arabi21, Rassd, Al-Araby Al-Jadeed and Middle East Eye.
5. Immediately **terminate the Turkish military presence** in Qatar and end any joint military cooperation with Turkey inside Qatar.
6. **Stop all means of funding for individuals, groups or organisations that have been designated as terrorists** by Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt, Bahrain, the US and other countries.
7. **Hand over "terrorist figures"** and wanted individuals from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt and Bahrain to their countries of origin. Freeze their assets, and provide any desired information about their residency, movements and finances.
8. **End interference in sovereign countries' internal affairs.** Stop granting citizenship to wanted nationals from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt and Bahrain. Revoke Qatari citizenship for existing nationals where such citizenship violates those countries' laws.
9. **Stop all contacts with the political opposition in Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt and Bahrain.** Hand over all files detailing Qatar's prior contacts with and support for those opposition groups.
10. Pay reparations and **compensation for loss of life and other, financial losses caused by Qatar's policies** in recent years. The sum will be determined in coordination with Qatar.
11. **Consent to monthly audits for the first year** after agreeing to the demands, then once per quarter during the

second year. For the following 10 years, Qatar would be monitored annually for compliance.

12. **Align itself with the other Gulf and Arab countries militarily, politically, socially and economically**, as well as on economic matters, in line with an agreement reached with Saudi Arabia in 2014.

13. **Agree to all the demands within 10 days** of it being submitted to Qatar, or the list becomes invalid.¹

Qatar has moved to comply with some of those demands. There seems to be no let-up in Saudi Arabia's campaign against Qatar, however. In an interview conducted in April, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman reiterated allegations that Qatar is supporting extremist groups:

Mohammed bin Salman: One of the reasons we have a problem with Qatar is that we are not allowing them to use the financial system between us to collect money from Saudis and give it to extremist organizations.

Goldberg: You think you'll ever be friendly again with Qatar?

MbS: It has to happen, one day. We hope they learn fast. It depends on them.

State-backed news sources in Saudi Arabia are carrying stories that Saudi Arabia will turn Qatar into an island. Saudi Arabia plans to dig a sea channel along its border with Qatar, and to site a toxic waste dump and a military base along the border too.² UAE, a close ally of Saudi Arabia, also plans to dump nuclear waste at the nearest point on its territory to Qatar.

Although they may be propaganda rather than realistic plans, these stories suggest that a quick reconciliation between Qatar and its neighbours is unlikely. This is a major change in the politics of the Arabian Peninsula, where previously the Gulf Cooperation Council coordinated friendly relations between its members. Gulf leaders still talk of a single Gulf currency,³ but the Qatar dispute certainly complicates that plan.

The UK Government urges "Gulf friends" to find way towards de-escalation and supports Kuwaiti efforts to mediate.⁴

World Cup 2022

Stories that FIFA was planning to have 48 teams at the 2022 World Cup rather than the originally planned 32 caused controversy: the move would put more demands on club teams and would pose accommodation problems for Doha. Reports suggested that it might mean that Qatar has to share the tournament with another country, such as Kuwait.⁵ In February 2018, the English Football Association

¹ 'Qatar given 10 days to meet 13 sweeping demands by Saudi Arabia

² 'Turning Qatar Into An Island: Saudi Cuts Off Its Nose To Spite Its Face', *Eurasia Review*, 19 April 2018

³ '[Gulf single currency inevitable - Oman c.bank chief quoted](#)', *Reuters*, 31 October 2016

⁴ [Written question - HL5659, 6 March 2018](#)

⁵ '[Why Fifa's 48-team plan for the 2022 World Cup is bad news for Qatar](#)', *Independent*, 13 April 2018

signed a Memorandum of Understanding with its Qatari counterpart, to facilitate knowledge-sharing in the run-up to the 2022 competition.

Military cooperation

Qatar and the UK cooperate on defence projects. In December 2017 the two signed a statement of intent to supply 24 Typhoon fast jets and a package of missile and laser-guided bombs, worth a total of £6 billion.⁶ The UK also uses the RAF base at al-Udeid, near Doha and Qatari cadets train at Sandhurst each year.

Trade with the UK

In 2016, the UK exported £3.0 billion worth of goods and services to Qatar and imported £2.2 billion, resulting in a trade surplus of £0.8 billion – a small deficit in goods was offset by a surplus in services of £0.9 billion.

Exports to Qatar represented 0.6% of all British exports in 2016; in the same year, imports from Qatar represented 0.4% of all UK imports. Overall, Qatar was the UK's 32nd largest export market and 42nd largest source of imports in 2016.

British exports to Qatar peaked at £3.0 billion in 2016; UK imports from Qatar peaked at £5.1 billion in 2011.

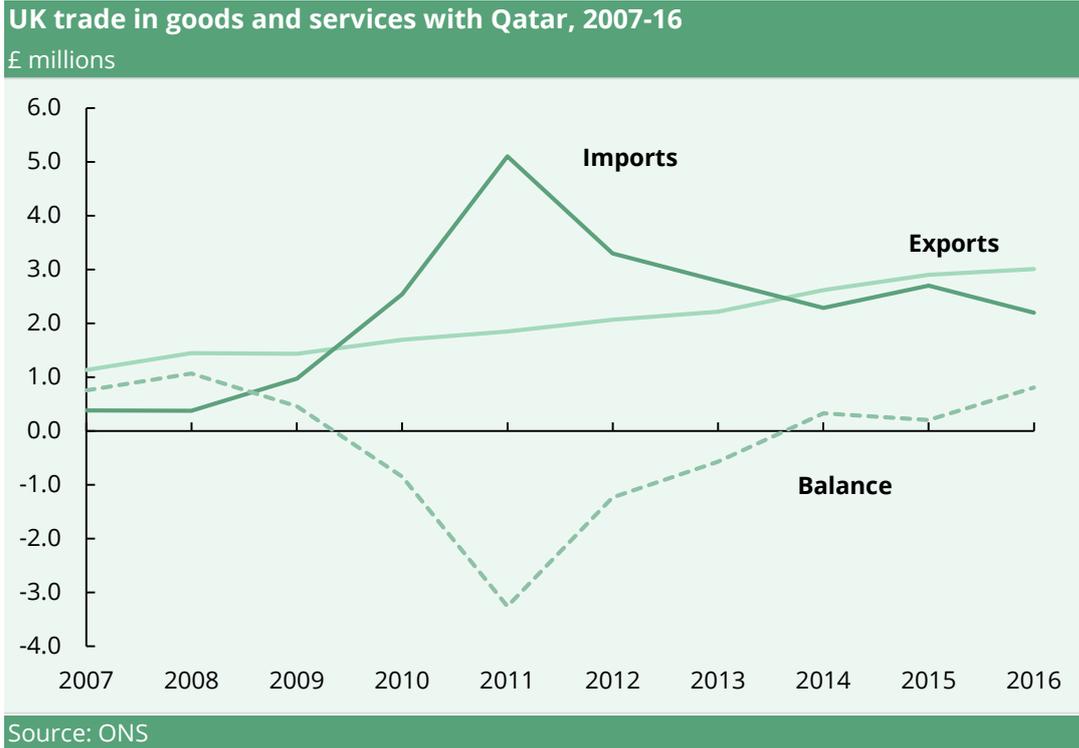
The UK has recorded trade surpluses with Qatar in six of the last ten years for which goods and services trade data are available, though recorded a series of trade deficits between 2010 and 2013, the largest

UK trade in goods and services with Qatar, 2007-16			
£ billions			
	Exports	Imports	Balance
2007	1.1	0.4	0.8
2008	1.4	0.4	1.1
2009	1.4	1.0	0.5
2010	1.7	2.5	-0.8
2011	1.8	5.1	-3.3
2012	2.1	3.3	-1.2
2013	2.2	2.8	-0.6
2014	2.6	2.3	0.3
2015	2.9	2.7	0.2
2016	3.0	2.2	0.8

Source: ONS

being -£3.3 billion in 2011.

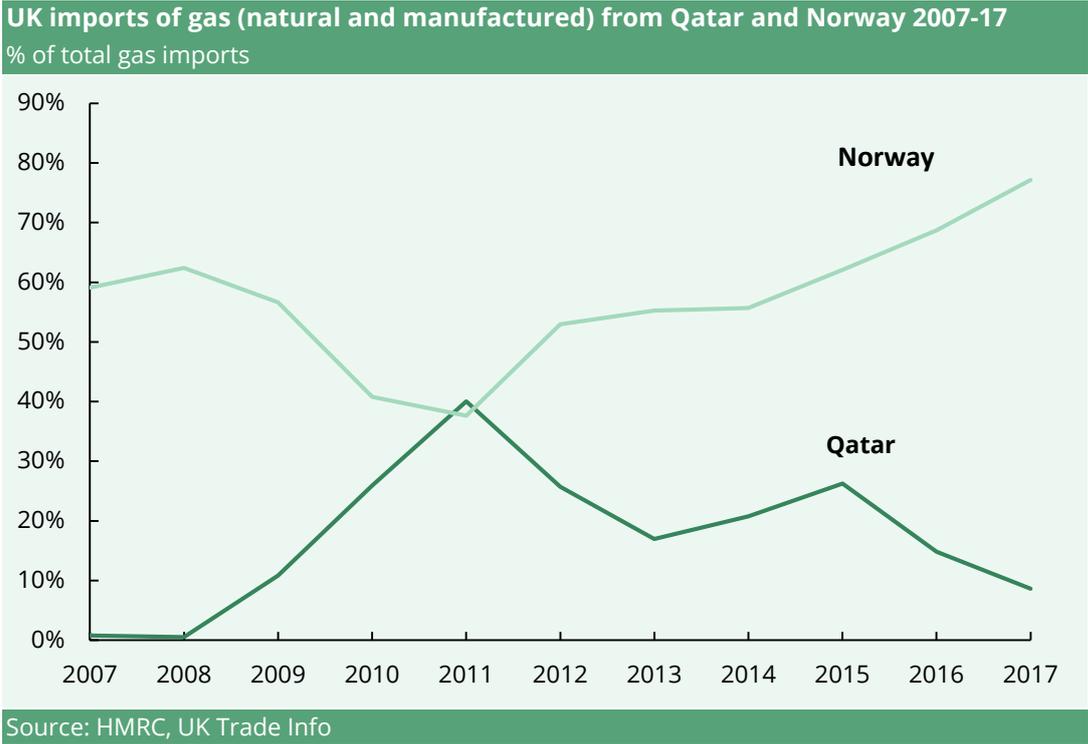
⁶ 'Defence Secretary strengthens UK-Qatar Defence relationship', MoD press release, 17 September 2017



Trade in gas

The UK's recent trade deficits with Qatar and return to surpluses were largely due to a sharp increase, and a subsequent fall, in UK imports of gas from Qatar.

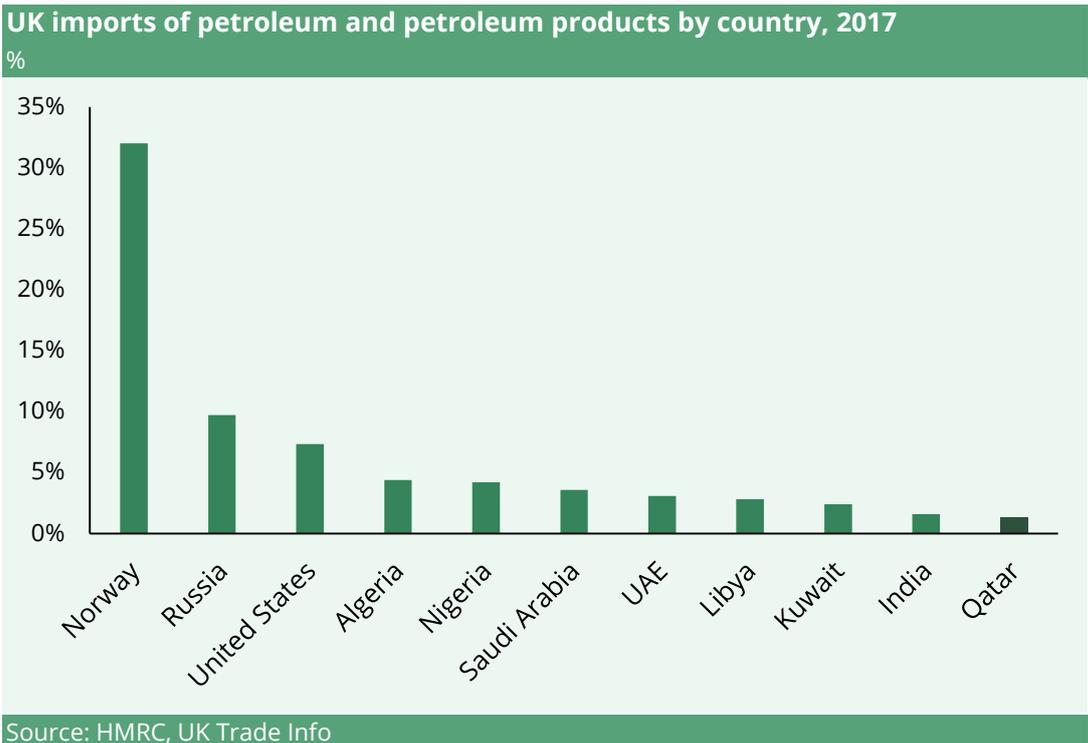
Gas imports from Qatar, primarily in the form of liquefied natural gas (LNG), reached a high of £4.3 billion in 2011, following falls in North Sea gas production; this was equal to 40% of all the UK's imported gas, with Qatar briefly overtaking Norway as the UK's largest source of imported of gas. The value of gas imports from Qatar fell between 2012 and 2014, rebounding slightly in 2015, before falling again, reaching £0.8 billion in 2017, their lowest level since 2009. Gas imports from Qatar accounted for 9% of all UK gas imports in 2017, with Qatar the UK's second largest supplier of gas, after Norway.



Trade in oil

British imports of oil from Qatar reached an all-time high of £0.4 billion in 2017, though this represented just over 1% of all UK oil imports, with Qatar the UK's 11th largest supplier.

Historically, Qatar has not been a significant supplier of oil to the UK – imports from Qatar have generally accounted for less than 1% of the UK's total oil imports per year over the last ten years.



Investment

The Qatari Investment Authority (QIA), established in 2005, is one of the world's largest sovereign wealth funds, built from Qatar's oil and gas reserves. While it is difficult to compare the size of sovereign wealth funds, the Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute (SWFI) suggests that the QIA is the tenth largest in the world with assets of \$320 billion.⁷

The QIA does not provide extensive data on its investments (the SWFI gives it a 5 out of 10 on its transparency metric) or its investment strategy. Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber Al-Thani, the former head of the QIA was quoted in 2016 as saying the total value of Qatari investment into the UK to date was £30 billion.⁸

QIA holdings in the UK include:

879 commercial and residential properties in London, including the Canary Warf Group, Chelsea Barracks, the Shard, the HSBC Tower and Harrods; the QIA also has a stake in the Savoy Hotel, while another unit of the QIA, Qatar Holding, owns Claridge's, the Berkeley and the Connaught, with an additional stake in the Intercontinental, Park Lane.

22% of Sainsbury's

20% of London Heathrow airport. Qatar Airways also has a 20% stake in IAG, owner of British Airways

6% of Barclays.⁹

⁷ Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute, [Sovereign Wealth Fund Rankings](#)

⁸ Rhiannon Curry, [Qataris own more of London than the Queen](#), Daily Telegraph, 17 March 2017

⁹ See Jamie Robertson, [Qatar: Buying Britain by the pound](#), BBC, 9 June 2017 and Mohammed Sergie, [The Tiny Gulf Country With a \\$335 Billion Global Empire](#), Bloomberg, 11 January 2017

2. Press Articles

The following is a selection of news and media articles relevant to this debate.

Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or the accuracy of external content.

[**Qatar 2022: World Cup in Gulf state could be 48-team tournament**](#)

BBC Sport
Richard Conway
13 April 2018

[**Qatar-UK relations stronger despite siege: British envoy**](#)

The Peninsular
Fazeena Saleem
11 April 2018

[**British man jailed for 37 years for bouncing a cheque in Qatar fears he will never see his family again**](#)

Metro
Adam Smith
9 March 2018

[**Qatar World Cup stadium death plunge worker had 'potentially lethal equipment'**](#)

Daily Telegraph
28 February 2018

[**FA to raise human rights issues with Qatar FA after 'knowledge-sharing' deal**](#)

BBC Sport
Alistair Magowan
16 February 2018

[**Qatar signs off on \\$8bn deal to buy 24 Typhoon fighters from UK**](#)

Middle East Eye
10 December 2017

[**Qatar UK's strategic partner: Liam Fox**](#)

Qatar Tribune
23 November 2017

[**British official lauds Qatari investments in UK**](#)

Gulf Times
22 November 2017

[**ILO decides to expunge labour-related 'commission of enquiry' against Qatar from its agenda. Doha welcomes the move**](#)

Doha News
8 November 2017

[Split among parliamentary UK-Qatar relations group over anti-UAE event](#)

The National
11 October 2017

[A second chance? Australia in line to take over 2022 World Cup from Qatar, as the host nation faces diplomatic crisis in the Middle East](#)

Mail Online
Luke Augustus and Nkayla Afshariyan
7 October 2017

[Qatari princess to open Arabic school in London](#)

Evening Standard
Martin Bentham
4 October 2017

[Should we boycott Qatar 2022?](#)

The Football Pink
Karan Tejwani
31 August 2017

[The Muslim Brotherhood Is the Root of the Qatar Crisis](#)

The Atlantic
Eric Trager
2 Jul 2017

[It's Qatar v Saudi Arabia. But the west can't afford to pick a side](#)

The Guardian
Peter Salisbury
6 June 2017

[Who owns London? Qataris now have 24 MILLION square feet of prime real estate in the capital - putting them ahead of the City of London and even the Queen](#)

Mail Online
Mark Duell
17 March 2017

3. Gov.uk

[Alistair Burt co-chairs the fourth Qatar-UK Sharaka dialogue](#)

British Embassy Doha

25 March 2018

Foreign Office Minister Alistair Burt met Qatari Deputy Foreign Minister His Excellency Soltan Al Muraikhi to discuss bilateral and regional issues.

Mr Burt said:

“Almost exactly a year since Theresa May signed an agreement with the Prime Minister of Qatar to increase cooperation between our two countries, I was delighted to attend the fourth Sharaka dialogue with Qatar, with whom the UK has enjoyed a close partnership for many years.

The UK reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Qatar’s 2030 National Vision, and the 2022 World Cup. We agreed to strengthen our relationship and broaden our cooperation in a number of areas. These include working together on humanitarian and security issues to build a safer and more prosperous future for Qatar, the UK and the wider Middle East region.”

[Defence Secretary in Doha as multi-billion pound jet contract with Qatar is signed](#)

Ministry of Defence

10 December 2017

The Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson and his Qatari counterpart, Khalid bin Mohammed al Attiyah, oversaw the signing of the deal for 24 Typhoons, building on the Statement of Intent signed in September.

In addition, the agreement signed today by the Qatar and British Governments also includes a clear intention to proceed with the purchase of Hawk aircraft.

Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

“It is a great pleasure to sign our biggest export deal for the Typhoon in a decade. These formidable jets will boost the Qatari military’s mission to tackle the challenges we both share in the Middle East, supporting stability in the region and delivering security at home.

As we proudly fly the flag for our world-leading aerospace sector all over the globe this news is a massive vote of confidence, supporting thousands of British jobs and injecting billions into our economy.”

The aircraft will be assembled in the UK by BAE Systems, supporting thousands of jobs, especially at the company’s Warton site in Lancashire where it will secure work on the production line into the next decade.

The biggest export deal for the Typhoon project in a decade, the purchase is valued at around £6 billion.

The deal also includes an agreement with MBDA for Brimstone and Meteor missiles and the highly-accurate Raytheon's Paveway IV UK-manufactured weapon for the jets. The Defence Secretary also agreed a package of training and co-operation between the Air Forces which will see them working together more regularly, including Qatari pilots and ground-crew training in the UK.

The UK and Qatar share a close and longstanding defence relationship, with a joint-exercise between the Royal Air Force and the Emir of Qatar's Air Force just last week seeing Typhoon jets fly over the Arabian Peninsula. The two countries share mutual interests of countering violent extremism, and ensuring stability in the region, and this purchase will deepen those ties by helping to prevent terrorism from spreading and protecting our prosperity and security at home.

Qatar is the ninth country to purchase the Typhoon, with this year seeing the first delivered to Oman. The Ministry of Defence is also leading the offer to replace Belgium's F-16s with the jets and continues to discuss the prospect of a second batch of sales to Saudi Arabia, as it continues to bang the drum for Britain's world-leading aerospace industry around the world.

Defence Secretary strengthens UK-Qatar Defence relationship
Ministry of Defence
17 September 2017

During a visit to the Gulf state today, Sir Michael Fallon and his Qatari counterpart, Khalid bin Mohammed al Attiyah, signed a Statement of Intent concerning Qatar's proposed purchase of 24 Typhoon aircraft.

The UK and Qatar share a close and longstanding Defence relationship, and today's Statement of Intent further reinforces this, deepening military cooperation between the two, and the opportunity to further enhance the security of all partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon said:

"After a number of years of negotiations between our two countries, I am delighted to have been able to sign today with Qatar's Defence Minister, this Statement of Intent on the purchase of 24 Typhoon aircraft by Qatar.

This will be the first major defence contract with Qatar, one of the UK's strategic partners. This is an important moment in our defence relationship and the basis for even closer defence co-operation between our two countries. We also hope that this will help enhance security within the region across all Gulf allies and enhance Typhoon interoperability across the GCC.

The security of the GCC, of all Gulf countries, is critical to the UK's own security."

The UK and Qatar share mutual Defence interests, including countering violent extremism, and ensuring peace and stability in the region.

Not only will the purchase of Typhoon aircraft further strengthen this strong bilateral relationship, it will benefit Qatar's military capability, and increase security co-operation and interoperability between the UK and Qatar and other GCC Typhoon partners.

The Typhoon is a multi-role combat aircraft that has long-term potential to be at the forefront of air power for many years, and today's Statement of Intent demonstrates continued confidence in Typhoon and British manufacturing.

In addition to supporting Royal Air Force operations protecting the UK in the skies above Britain and globally, the Typhoon has already been purchased by eight nations around the world.

PM meeting with the Prime Minister of Qatar

Prime Minister's Office

27 March 2017

A Downing Street spokesperson said:

"The Prime Minister welcomed His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasser Al Thani, Prime Minister of Qatar, to Downing Street this afternoon for a bilateral meeting.

Prime Minister May welcomed the close relationship between the 2 countries. And she reiterated the commitment she made at the Gulf Co-operation Council summit in December to step up the UK's relationship with the Gulf.

They discussed our growing trade and investment partnership, and agreed that the Qatar-UK Business and Investment Forum taking place in London and Birmingham this week will provide opportunities to deepen these ties.

They also agreed on the importance of our security co-operation, and committed to strengthening our collaboration on cyber security and defence.

Finally, they discussed regional issues, and the importance of securing lasting political settlements in Syria and Yemen, while ensuring humanitarian assistance reaches those in need.

They ended by looking forward to the Gulf Co-operation Council Summit to be hosted by the UK later this year."

4. PQs

[Libya: Armed Conflict](#)

01 May 2018 | 136926

Asked by: Lloyd Russell-Moyle

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether British military officers played a role in Qatar's training of armed opposition groups in the western mountains of Libya during the war in 2011.

Answering member: Mark Lancaster | Ministry of Defence

UK Armed Forces played no role in Qatar's training of armed opposition groups in Libya.

[Topical Questions](#)

27 Mar 2018 | 638 c648

Asked by: Alex Norris

Last month, Impactt's audit of the Qatari supreme committee, which is responsible for the World cup, highlighted significant positive progress in areas relating to workers' rights. What efforts will the British Government make to support further progress and promote its spreading to neighbouring states?

Answered by: Alistair Burt | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

I happened to see the Qatari organiser of the World cup just a couple of days ago. They gave an impressive presentation on what they had sought to do to improve not just workers' rights but workers' welfare, not just now but looking forward to the final construction phase. Concerns have been well expressed, but my sense is that the Qatari system understands that very well and is working hard to produce a good and safe World cup.

[Qatar: Human Rights](#)

07 Mar 2018 | HL5658

Asked by: Baroness Northover

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Technical Mission to the State of Qatar's December 2017 report on the impact of the Gulf Crisis on human rights, particularly with regard to that report's conclusions on the impact of the crisis on (1) freedom of expression, (2) freedom of movement, (3) the separation of families, (4) economic rights, (5) the right to health, (6), the right to education, and (7) other matters.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Both the Minister for the Middle East and I have met the Chairman of Qatar's National Human Rights Committee and discussed the contents of the report following the Technical Mission of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to Qatar. This included the impact that the current dispute is having on everyday lives of people in the region, as outlined in the report's conclusions. Our assessment is

that the best way of resolving the issues raised is for a resolution to the current dispute. We have repeatedly called on the Gulf States to find a way of de-escalating the situation and lifting the restrictions.

The UK will carefully consider any case and evidence presented at the UNHRC, as we do for all other issues. It is important that all states ensure they comply with international human rights obligations.

Qatar: Diplomatic Relations

06 Mar 2018 | HL5659

Asked by: Baroness Northover

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to help resolve the Gulf Crisis.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The UK remains very concerned by the ongoing tensions in the Gulf. The Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary and other Ministers continue to engage with our Gulf friends to encourage de-escalation and for all to get firmly behind Kuwait's mediation efforts to resolve the dispute. We continue to make it clear that Gulf unity matters to the security and stability of the region.

Qatar: Hawk Aircraft

26 Feb 2018 | 128885

Asked by: Nia Griffith

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will provide an update on progress on the potential order by Qatar of Hawk aircraft.

Answering member: Guto Bebb | Ministry of Defence

The Secretary of State for Defence recently discussed progress with his Qatari counterpart, during which they re-affirmed their desire to acquire Hawk aircraft. Discussions between HMG, the Qatari Government and BAE Systems are on-going.

Qatar: Foreign Relations

25 Jan 2018 | 124145

Asked by: Sir Nicholas Soames

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what the aims and objectives are of Her Majesty's Government's policy on Qatar.

Answering member: Alistair Burt | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Government's objectives for Qatar are to promote mutual prosperity, provide support for British nationals in Qatar, and promote regional stability through partnership with Qatar.

Qatar: Migrant Workers**22 Dec 2017 | 119893****Asked by: Jim Shannon**

To ask the Secretary of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, what recent representations he has made to his Qatari counterpart on the protection of human rights for migrant workers.

Answering member: Alistair Burt | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Our strong bilateral relations with Qatar allow us to raise a range of issues in our discussions, including how we can work together on migrant labour issues. We support the important legislative and administrative steps taken by Qatar to reform its labour laws, including on wage protection and improvements to exit visas. These have been recognised by the International Labour Organization and NGOs as a positive step.

Gulf States: Human Rights**21 Dec 2017 | HL4118**

Asked by: Lord Warner

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Fairhead on 14 November (HL2772), whether they have had discussions with the governments of (1) Saudi Arabia, (2) United Arab Emirates, and (3) Bahrain, about the specific individual breaches of human rights identified by the National Human Rights Committee of Qatar; and what assessment they have made of the seriousness of those breaches.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

While we have not raised these specific issues we call upon the Gulf States to find a way of de-escalating the situation and lifting the current restrictions, which are having an impact on the everyday lives of people in the region. The UK encourages all countries to uphold international human rights obligations and work with those determined to reform. Our embassies maintain regular dialogue with officials and leaders on a range of topics, including human rights issues.

Terrorism: Finance**07 Dec 2017 | HL3429****Asked by: Lord Empey**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether there is a relationship between the governments of Qatar and Iran and the funding and support for global Islamist terrorism.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The government has undertaken an internal review into the nature, scale and origin of the funding of Islamist extremist activity in the UK, including any overseas sources. On 12 July, the Home Secretary announced the main findings of the Home Office's review and I refer the noble Lord to Written Statement HCWS39

Terrorism and violent extremism are an evil that steals lives, saps resources and divides communities. No society is immune and no single country has the answer to this scourge. In July, the Foreign Secretary welcomed the Emir of Qatar's commitment to tackle terrorism in all its manifestations, including terrorism financing.

We remain concerned about reports of Iran's financial and military support to militant and proscribed groups, such as Hizballah, Hamas and Palestinian rejectionist groups. This support directly undermines prospects for regional security and lasting peace in the region.

Qatar: Foreign Relations

05 Dec 2017 | HL3430

Asked by: Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of allegations that Qatar is financing terrorism and Islamist extremism, what representations they have made to the government of Qatar to encourage the mending of its relations with neighbouring countries.

Answering member: Baroness Goldie | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

We regularly raise a range of issues with the Government of Qatar at all levels. The UK remains very concerned by the ongoing tensions in the Gulf. The Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary and other ministers are engaging with our Gulf friends to encourage de-escalation and to get firmly behind Kuwait's mediation efforts to resolve the dispute. The Foreign Secretary spoke most recently to the Qatari Foreign Minister on these issues on 23rd November. Qatar is a partner of the UK in the fight against terrorism, and the Government has welcomed the Emir of Qatar's commitment to tackle terrorism in all its manifestations, including terrorist financing, and his pledge to resolve remaining differences with Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt and Bahrain through dialogue, negotiation and Kuwaiti mediation.

Qatar: Muslim Brotherhood

05 Dec 2017 | 115920

Asked by: Jim Shannon

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether the meeting between officials from his Department and their Qatari counterparts on 7 June 2017 included discussions about that country directing financial support to the Muslim Brotherhood in the UK via UK-registered charities.

Answering member: Alistair Burt | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The UK and Qatar have a close bilateral relationship that allows us to discuss a range of issues. There have been no recent discussions between officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office with their counterparts from Qatar about this subject.

[Saudi Arabia and Iran](#)**15 Nov 2017 | 785 c2026****Asked by: Lord Howell of Guildford**

My Lords, does my noble friend accept that one other product of the Saudi-Iran rivalry, in addition to the horrors in Yemen, is the stand-off between Saudi Arabia and Qatar, which of course is undermining the whole solidarity of the Gulf Cooperation Council? Does he agree that the UK might be able to contribute to ending that dispute by looking more carefully at allegations that Qatar is assisting Iranian subversion and actual terrorist groups such as al-Nusra, establishing whether they true, and if so what Qatar's motives are in pursuing this particularly destructive course?

Answered by: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

First, the dispute between Qatar and Saudi Arabia is of course a concern, particularly regarding the unity that we have seen across the Gulf Cooperation Council. On resolving that dispute, I agree with my noble friend, which is why we have been lending full support to the efforts by Kuwait in particular to find a resolution to all these issues—including the one that he has raised—to ensure that this dispute can be resolved as soon as possible. The concern remains with all these disputes, wherever they are within the region, that if we do not see a resolution, we will increasingly see instability across the region, which benefits no one—not just the region but the wider world.

[Qatar: Human Rights](#)**14 Nov 2017 | HL2771****Asked by: Lord Warner**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any British citizens with connections to Qatar have been subject to violations of their human rights since the blockade of Qatar.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

We are not aware of any specific British cases. We continue to call upon the Gulf States to find a way of de-escalating the situation and lifting the current restrictions, which are having an impact on the everyday lives of people in the region.

[Qatar: Human Rights](#)**14 Nov 2017 | HL2767****Asked by: Lord Warner**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the independence and credibility of the National Human Rights Committee of Qatar.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

We understand that the National Human Rights Committee of Qatar has been accredited as 'A' status by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, whose rating means it is considered to be in compliance with the Paris Principles.

Overseas Trade: Qatar

12 Oct 2017 | 901080

Asked by: Ranil Jayawardena

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Qatar on future trade and investment between the UK and Qatar.

Answering member: Dr Liam Fox | Department for International Trade

I most recently visited Qatar on 5th October, where I met the Prime Minister and members of his cabinet to discuss Trade and Investment between the UK and Qatar. These discussions included follow-up to my meeting with the Finance Minister in June and also the Qatar-UK Business and Investment Forum in Birmingham earlier this year where Qatar pledged £5bn of investment into the UK over the next 5 years.

Qatar: Counter-terrorism

24 Jul 2017 | 5211

Asked by: Alistair Carmichael

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, (a) how much and (b) what forms of assistance have been provided to Qatar for countering terrorism as part of the Sharaka project between the UK and Qatar.

Answering member: Ben Wallace | Home Office

The Sharaka is a bilateral forum between the United Kingdom and the State of Qatar. It covers a range of regional and bilateral issues, including occasional discussion of counter terrorism, for example our work through the Global Counter Daesh Coalition to tackle the threat posed by Daesh.

5. Other Parliamentary material

5.1 Debates

[Labour Reforms: Qatar](#)

14 Mar 2018 | 637 cc393-410WH

[Gulf Countries and Qatar](#)

11 Jul 2017 | 783 cc1205-1230HL

5.2 Statements

[Oman, UAE and Iran](#)

Statement on the Foreign Secretary's visit to Oman, the UAE and Iran.

11 Dec 2017 | 633 cc55-66

5.3 Early Day Motions

[Proposed visit of Saudi crown prince to the UK](#)

EDM 865 (session 2017-19)

25 January 2018

Andy Slaughter

That this House regrets the Prime Minister's invitation to Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman of Saudi Arabia to visit the UK; notes that, as Minister of Defense, Mohammed bin Salman was widely associated with curtailing human rights, and that it was his decision to lead Saudi Arabia into war in Yemen, acknowledged by the UN as one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world, resulting in the killing of over 5000 civilians, widespread starvation and the bombing of schools and hospitals; further notes that of 142 executions conducted in Saudi Arabia during 2017, 70 per cent were carried out after Mohammad bin Salman came to power as Crown Prince, the prominent role he plays in the blockade on Qatar and supporting the repressive regime in Bahrain; and therefore urges the Prime Minister to withdraw the invitation to Mohammad bin Salman at this time.

[Qatar blockade and effect on human rights](#)

EDM 600 (session 2017-19)

28 November 2017

Grahame M Morris

That this House notes with concern the continuation of the blockade on Qatar; is concerned by the blockade's impact on the human rights of Qatari residents and citizens, with many facing issues of family separation, restrictions on rights to education and religious pilgrimage and restrictions to personal finances and freedom of the press; is further concerned at the lack of progress towards a détente between Qatar and the quartet; supports the Kuwaiti mediation and calls on the Government to urge further progress towards a negotiated settlement; and urges the Government to call on the quartet to lift the blockade on Qatar and ease current restrictions on the personal rights of residents and citizens.

6. Further reading

[Liam Fox's speech at the Qatar-UK Trade and Investment Conference](#)

UK Export Finance and Department for International Trade
27 March 2017

[All-Party Parliamentary British-Qatar Group](#)

[Qatar 2017/2018](#), Amnesty International (Webpage)

[Qatar](#), Human Rights Watch (Webpage)

[The Ugly Side of the Beautiful Game: Exploitation of migrant workers on a Qatar 2022 World Cup site](#), Amnesty International, 30 March 2016

David B. Roberts, [Qatar and the Brotherhood](#), *Survival: Global Politics and Strategy*, *International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)*, August–September 2014

(*Contact the [International Affairs and Defence Section](#) of the House of Commons Library to read full version)

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