



DEBATE PACK

CDP-0170 (2020) | 7 December 2020

UK-Qatar relations

Westminster Hall

Thursday 10 December 2020

1:30-3:00pm

Debate led by Alistair Carmichael

Compiled by:
Julie Gill

Subject specialist:
Ben Smith

Contents

1.	Background	2
2.	Press articles	4
3.	Press releases	6
4.	Parliamentary material	10
4.1	PQs	10
4.2	Debates	14
5.	Further reading	15

The proceedings of this debate can be viewed on [Parliamentlive.uk](https://www.parliamentlive.uk)

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 dispute

In 2017 a dispute over foreign policy and the treatment of political Islam blew up between Qatar and a group of Gulf countries led by Saudi Arabia. The Saudi group imposed a blockade on Qatar and the rivalry [spilled over into conflicts in the Middle East](#) and North Africa.

The UK, in common with other Western governments, has called for a peaceful resolution of the dispute:

We continue to urge all sides to take steps to de-escalate and engage with Kuwaiti mediation efforts to find a resolution to the ongoing dispute. Substantive progress can only happen when all countries involved are willing to discuss demands that are measured and realistic. We remain firmly committed to our strategic partnership with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), and continue to make clear during engagements with Gulf partners that GCC unity matters to long-term regional security and stability.¹

After Joe Biden's victory in the US elections, [Saudi Arabia was reported](#) to be stepping up its efforts to solve the Qatar crisis, as a "gift" to both outgoing and incoming presidents.

Arms sales and defence collaboration

The UK has sold 24 Typhoons and nine Hawks to Qatar. The Department for International Trade answered a PQ in June 2019 setting out the details of the export credits provided by the Government to support the sale.²

The £4.2 billion export credit has [proved controversial](#) as it did not match the usual UK Export Finance criteria for granting credit because of the size of the credit and the long risk horizon.

RAF and BAE Systems

The RAF's operational headquarters for operations in the Middle East is in Qatar at Al Udeid airbase, also the hub of America's air operations in the region. It is home to the RAF's [No 83 Expeditionary Air Group](#), which provides command and control to the 4 Expeditionary Air Wings supporting UK military operations in the region.

In September 2018 a [contract between BAE Systems and the Government of Qatar](#) for the provision of 24 Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft, 9 Hawk Advanced Jet Trainers and a six-year support service came into effect.

A joint UK/Qatari squadron has been set up to allow personnel from both air forces to train together. Based at RAF Coningsby, [No.12 Squadron](#) is a unique initiative between the UK and Qatar and will

¹ [Written question - HL16027](#), 18 June 2019

² [HC Written question - 267333](#), 25 June 2019

provide the Qatari air force with experience operating the Typhoon. Flights started in June 2020.

Football World Cup

Many people have been concerned about the awarding of the 2022 World Cup to Qatar because of the extreme temperatures, but also because of the stories of extreme exploitation of workers building the facilities.

The [UK Government “welcomes” the steps](#) Qatar has made towards improving the lot of workers on World Cup projects. Those steps include opening an office of the International Labour Organisation. In August 2020 Qatar passed laws to impose a minimum wage and to allow workers to change jobs without their employer’s permission, described as “[a step in the right direction](#)” by Amnesty International.

Gas

Qatar dominates the market for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). LNG made up 39% of the UK’s imported natural gas in 2019, up from 15 per cent in 2018. Nearly half comes from Qatar, the UK’s biggest LNG supplier.³

Gas trade helped the total trade between the United Kingdom and Qatar reach [£7.2 billion](#), an increase of 37% (£1.9 billion) from 2018.

Qatari investments in the UK

Qatari overseas investment has recovered after seeing repatriation of funds at the height of the Gulf crisis in 2017.

In 2017, the UK was reportedly [Qatar’s biggest investment destination](#), with a stock of £35 billion-worth of investments in the UK and £5 billion more planned. Much of the investment is from the Qatari sovereign wealth fund.

Gulf Strategy Fund

The UK created the Gulf Integrated Activity Fund (IAF) in 2015. It is now the Gulf Strategy Fund. It is designed to cover expenditure when department’s core budgets cannot provide funds for the government’s Gulf Strategy.⁴ The IAF funds activities in Qatar as well as the other Gulf Co-operation Council countries. The allocated budget for the IAF for the 2019/20 financial year was £20m.⁵

In October 2020 the Gulf Fund and its transparency (or lack of it) was the subject of a [debate in Westminster Hall](#). The minister answering for the Government undertook to produce a summary of the fund’s activities.

³ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, [Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2020](#), p66

⁴ A [Gulf Strategy Unit](#) established in 2015 in the Cabinet Office leads cross-departmental coordination of UK policy and programmes in the Gulf, in line with National Security Council strategy

⁵ [Written question - HL16049](#), 25 June 2019

2. Press articles

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

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

[Saudi and Qatar pledge commitment to end Gulf crisis](#)

Financial Times
Andrew England and Simeon Kerr
4 December 2020

[Saudi Arabia seeks to resolve Qatar crisis as 'gift' to Joe Biden](#)

Financial Times
Andrew England *et al*
27 November 2020

[Qatar firms' failure to pay leaves migrant workers destitute – report](#)

Guardian
Pete Pattison
26 November 2020

[Amnesty urges Qatar to get tough with 'abusive' bosses, two years ahead of World Cup kick-off](#)

Independent
David Harding
18 November 2020

[Qatar threatened witnesses to hide Nusra Front financing, court told](#)

The Times
Andrew Norfolk
12 November 2020

[Qatar Airways welcomes UK court's judgement in Al Arabiya case](#)

Al Jazeera
8 November 2020

[World Cup nation Qatar to hold Shura Council elections for first time in 2021](#)

Independent
David Harding
3 November 2020

[Qatar to prosecute officials over forced exams of women at airport](#)

BBC News Online
30 October 2020

[British ambassador commends Qatar Charity for its humanitarian activities globally](#)

Gulf Times
13 October 2020

[Qatar investment pulled by Sussex PCC over human rights abuse fears](#)

BBC News Online
24 September 2020

['Qatar-UK ties are deep and historical'](#)

Gulf Times
11 September 2020

[Qatar-UK trade volume reaches \\$9bn in 2019: Ambassador](#)

The Peninsula
Lani Rose R Dizon
10 September 2020

[Qatar: New laws to protect migrant workers are a step in the right direction](#)

Amnesty International
30 August 2020

[Migrant workers in Qatar face 'structural racism' says UN report](#)

Guardian
Pete Pattison
15 July 2020

[Qatar-UK trade jumps 21% to £6.7bn in 2019](#)

Gulf Times
Peter Alagos
2 March 2020

[Nearly 100k Qataris visited the UK in 2019](#)

Gulf Times
Joey Aguilar
9 February 2020

[The impact of Brexit on relations between the UK and Gulf countries](#)

The Conversation
Laura Hood and Ahmad Ismail
30 January 2020

[Qatari-British relations are strong, historic: envoy](#)

Gulf Times
19 December 2019

3. Press releases

[Hamad International Airport Incident: joint statement](#)

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

1 November 2020

UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar statement:

His Excellency Sultan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, and the Rt Hon James Cleverly MP, Minister for Middle East and North Africa held a telephone call on the 31 October 2020 to discuss the Hamad International Airport Incident.

His Excellency the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs conveyed the State of Qatar's apology to the women impacted by the investigation at the airport, highlighting that the officials responsible for this violation have been referred to the Public Prosecution Office, and that this was an isolated incident and is a violation of Qatar's laws and values.

His Excellency the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs assured the United Kingdom's Minister for Middle East and North Africa of Qatar's commitment to the wellbeing and security of all passengers travelling to Qatar and through Hamad International Airport.

Commenting on the measures taken by the State of Qatar, Minister Cleverly welcomed the steps being taken to investigate the incident and efforts to ensure that such an incident does not happen again. Minister Cleverly highlighted that this is an important assurance for those travelling into or through Hamad International Airport.

The 2 ministers agreed to remain in contact and to exchange updates on the investigation regularly, assuring that this is a top priority for both governments.

The 2 ministers further underlined the strong partnership between the State of Qatar and the United Kingdom, and discussed ways to further enhance this relationship in all fields of cooperation.

[Minister hails "strongest ever UK-Gulf ties" on first visit to the region](#)

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

20 October 2020

The UK and Gulf states are working in partnership to tackle coronavirus and save lives, Middle East Minister James Cleverly said following a visit to the region.

During his three day visit to Qatar and Oman, the Minister championed the UK's strong and historic ties between the respective Governments as well as their leadership in preventing the spread of the deadly disease. At a meeting with His Excellency Qais Al-Yousef, Minister of Trade for Oman, the Minister set out the UK's high ambition to grow our trade and investment with the Gulf, already our third largest trading partner outside the EU.

At a meeting with His Excellency Soltan bin Saad Soltan Al-Muraikhi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, Minister Cleverly thanked Qatar for its help in repatriating British Nationals throughout the pandemic.

In Qatar, he also visited the Education City Stadium for the Fifa World Cup 2022, offering the UK's full support to ensuring a safe tournament for fans travelling from all around the world.

Minister for the Middle East, James Cleverly, said:

The UK and the Gulf are working in partnership to stop the spread of coronavirus and save lives, demonstrating our strongest ever UK-Gulf ties.

On my visit to Oman and Qatar, I have seen the true strength of the bilateral relationships between our great countries. From co-operation on security, to strengthening our trade links, to sharing our unique development expertise, our ties are helping to improve our mutual prosperity.

In Muscat, Minister Cleverly met Houthi representative Mohammed Abdul Salam. He urged the Houthis to work constructively with UN Special Envoy to Yemen, Martin Griffiths, and agree to his peace proposals to end the conflict and alleviate the suffering of those in need.

He also raised concerns about restrictions in northern Houthi-controlled areas which are preventing aid from reaching millions of those most in need and called for safe, rapid, and unhindered access for aid workers and supplies, particularly given the risk of famine this year.

The Minister also met His Excellency Akbar Al Baker, the CEO of Qatar Airways, to discuss new regional routes into the UK, which are helping to drive economic growth in the UK beyond London.

[UK and Qatar commit to a stronger defence relationship](#)

Ministry of Defence

14 October 2020

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace and his Qatari counterpart have committed to strengthening the UK-Qatar defence relationship during a joint visit to RAF Coningsby today.

During a tour of the base, which is already home to the UK-Qatari joint Typhoon squadron, the two Defence Ministers signed a Statement of Intent setting out how the UK will offer a British base for the Qatari Emiri Air Force's (QEAF) recently acquired nine Hawk aircraft.

The QEAF's latest acquisition opens doors for a potential new UK-Qatari Hawk squadron, which would further deepen the UK's defence relationship with Qatar and contribute to the security and stability of the Middle East.

Qatar and the UK work closely together to protect that stability. The details of the latest strike by RAF Reaper unmanned aircraft against Daesh have also been released today by the Ministry of Defence that were co-ordinated by the RAF's No.83 Expeditionary Air Group in Al Udeid, Qatar.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said:

Today we mark the start of an exciting new chapter in the longstanding defence relationship between the UK and Qatar, reinforcing and strengthening the bonds our Armed Forces already share.

Building upon the success of our joint Typhoon squadron, this new era of collaboration will deliver prosperity and security benefits for both our nations.

The Defence Secretary and His Excellency Dr Khalid bin Mohamed Al Attiyah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs in Qatar, also officially opened the joint Typhoon squadron (12 Squadron) headquarters during their visit to RAF Coningsby today.

12 Squadron is the UK's first joint squadron since World War Two, and its new headquarters will allow pilots and air crews from both air forces to train together in state-of-the-art facilities.

Built in under 60 weeks by a team of over 30 sub-contractors from both national and local supply chains, it is expected that the basing of a new Hawk squadron will bring similar benefits to the UK.

Since commencing flying as a joint squadron in June 2020, 12 Squadron have achieved several milestones including training with heavy weapons and taking part in an exercise at sea alongside the Royal Navy.

The Statement of Intent will build on this work by providing the RAF with access to increased flying hours, giving the QEAF access to world-class RAF accredited training, and delivering long-term investment in infrastructure and training facilities to the RAF.

This partnership will also enable the two nations to continue discussions to establish a suitable air-to-air refuelling support solution for Qatar, which would see the RAF and QEAF further aligned on Multi Role Tanker Transport capability.

Today's event builds upon the Defence Secretary's talks with HE Dr Khalid during his visit to Qatar in September, where he also toured the Combined Air Operations Centre in Al Udeid, where strikes are coordinated from as part of Operation Shader.

[UK-Qatari Typhoons take off as joint squadron](#)

**Ministry of Defence
19 June 2020**

The Royal Air Force and Qatar Emiri Air Force (QEAF) Typhoon Squadron, known as No.12 Squadron, have marked an important milestone as they commenced flying as a Joint Squadron

Based at RAF Coningsby, No.12 Squadron is a unique initiative between the UK and Qatar and will provide the QEAF with valuable experience operating the Typhoon as they prepare to receive their first aircraft. With deliveries commencing in 2022, the aircraft are part of a £5.1-billion deal between BAE Systems and the Government of Qatar.

The flags of both nations were raised at RAF Coningsby this week as Typhoons with new Squadron markings flew for the first time, signalling the Squadron's readiness to train pilots and ground crew from both air forces.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said:

No.12 Squadron is a testament to our enduring friendship and commitment to Qatar, the only nation with which the UK has a Joint Squadron. Together we are protecting populations and securing our mutual interests across the Middle East.

His Excellency Dr Khalid bin Mohammad al Attiyah, Minister of State for Defence Affairs said:

The first flight of No. 12 Squadron marks an important milestone in the commitment of the Qatari Emiri Air Force and the Royal Air Force to deliver on excellence.

The raising of the flags of The State of Qatar and the United Kingdom side by side in commemoration of the first joint flight represents the alignment of vision and strategy in building for a stable and prosperous future for both nations and the world.

The UK has a long history of working with international partners in our armed forces, with such defence engagement recognised as key to strengthening partnerships and promoting our national interest. However, No. 12 Squadron is the first Joint Squadron in the RAF since the Second World War and Battle of Britain.

The Joint Squadron was stood up on 24 July 2018 and will drive closer collaboration between the RAF and QEAF, putting our bilateral security and defence relationship on a long-term and sustainable footing.

4. Parliamentary material

4.1 PQs

[Gulf States: Overseas Aid](#)

17 Nov 2020 | 114086

Asked by: Wayne David

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 23 January 2020 to Question 5457, what the allocated budget is for the Gulf Strategy Fund (GSF) for financial year 2020-2021; on what date the GSF allocated budget for the 2021-2022 financial year was decided; and what the duration is of the GSF financial cycle.

Answered by: James Cleverly | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

£8.4 million has been allocated to the Gulf Strategy Fund for 2020/21. The budget allocations for 2021/22 will be agreed as part of the current Spending Review.

[Gulf States: Overseas Aid](#)

17 Nov 2020 | 114082

Asked by: Wayne David

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 5 November 2020 to Question HL9495 on Government Departments: Overseas Aid, on what date the Gulf Strategy Fund was established; which Government Departments have responsibility for that fund; and which Ministers were involved in the establishment of that fund.

Answered by: James Cleverly | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The Gulf Strategy Fund replaced the Integrated Activity Fund on 1 April 2020 and is managed as part of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's International Programme.

[Government Departments: Overseas Aid](#)

5 Nov 2020 | HL9495

Asked by: Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 20 May (HL4189), which Government departments applied to the Integrated Activity Fund for funding during the (1) 2016/17, (2) 2018/19, and (3) 2020/21, financial years; and which of those applications were granted.

Answered by: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The Integrated Activity Fund (IAF) was managed by the Cabinet Office during 2016/17 and detailed information is not held by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. In 2018/19 the IAF received

applications for funding from a number of government departments. The IAF was replaced by the Gulf Strategy Fund for 2020/21. Applications for funding were received from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Trade, the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, HM Revenue & Customs and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS). Funding for DCMS was not approved.

Gulf States: Overseas Aid

16 Oct 2020 | 102830

Asked by: Brendan O'Hara

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the Answer of 3 July 2018 to Question 157711 on Gulf States: Overseas Aid, if he will set out (a) the activities and (b) the cost of each those activities delivered through the Integrated Activity Fund exclusively within (a) Saudi Arabia, (b) Bahrain, (c) Kuwait, (d) Oman, (e) Qatar and (f) United Arab Emirates in financial year 2019-20.

Answered by: James Cleverly | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The Integrated Activity Fund supported a range of non-ODA programmes and projects across the Gulf. These included, but were not limited to, activities focusing on culture, healthcare, youth engagement, economic diversification and institutional capacity building. Activities were funded in all six Gulf Cooperation Council states: Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman. Many of the projects and programme activities were delivered regionally, so it is not possible to provide a breakdown by beneficiary state.

Qatar: Military Aid

16 Sep 2020 | 86678

Asked by: Martin Docherty-Hughes

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how much 12 Squadron RAF has cost the public purse in each year since 2018; and how much of those costs have been borne by the (a) Qatar Emiri Air Force and (b) Government of Qatar.

Answered by: James Heapey | Ministry of Defence

12 Squadron has formed in three stages: Stand Up of the Squadron (July 2018), commencement of RAF flying operations (2019) and commencement of flying operations with Qatar Emiri Air Force (2020).

To date 12 Squadron costs from the RAF Operating budget have been £1.951 million in Financial Year (FY) 2018-2019, £9.959 million in FY 2019-2020 and £5.423 million in FY 2020-21 to end August 2020. I am withholding detailed information on the costs the Qatari Emiri Air Force have borne for 12 Squadron operations as its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice relations between the United Kingdom and another State. However, I can confirm as part of the wider £6 billion Export Sale of Typhoon to Qatar, the Government of Qatar has funded

50% of the Squadron operating costs since the point at which QEAF pilots started flying on the Joint Squadron.

Qatar: Military Aid

16 Sep 2020 | 86677

Asked by: Martin Docherty-Hughes

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many (a) Royal Air Force personnel and (b) Qatari Emiri Air Force personnel have been assigned to 12 Squadron RAF.

Answered by: James Heapey | Ministry of Defence

There are currently 163 RAF personnel assigned to 12 Squadron. I am withholding information on the number of Qatari Emiri Air Force personnel assigned to 12 Squadron as its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice relations between the United Kingdom and another State. An initial cadre of Qatari Emiri Air Force personnel is currently on the Squadron; this will gradually increase as further personnel graduate from training.

Qatar: Saudi Arabia

9 Sep 2020 | 82210

Asked by: Rupa Huq

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, when his Department last participated in multi-national discussions on the diplomatic relationship between Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

Answered by: James Cleverly | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK is a longstanding partner of both Qatar and Saudi Arabia. We urge all sides to engage with Kuwaiti mediation efforts and take steps to find a resolution to intra-GCC dispute, which is in the long term interests of all parties. The UK maintains working-level discussions with the GCC, including technical discussions on cyber security, aid transparency, and marine environmental protection.

Overseas Trade: Qatar

15 Jul 2020 | 71911

Asked by: Scott Benton

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what steps she is taking to improve (a) trade links with Qatar and (b) investment in the UK from Qatari businesses.

Answered by: Ranil Jayawardena | Department for International Trade

In 2019, total trade between the United Kingdom and Qatar was £7.2 billion, an increase of 37% (£1.9 billion) from 2018 and there are significant existing investment links between our countries. HM

Government is committed to supporting more bilateral trade and investment.

My Department will continue to work with our Qatari counterparts to identify ways to boost trade and investment and remove barriers to trade. To explore opportunities to support our bilateral trade, the United Kingdom-Qatar Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) has been established and, in June, our third Working Group took place with the Qatar Investment Authority to promote the United Kingdom as a top investment destination and discuss future investment opportunities.

Qatar: Football

4 Nov 2019 | HL474

Asked by: Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they made as to whether the humans rights of workers building the stadium for the FIFA World Cup in Qatar have been violated.

Answered by: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Qatar has made significant progress to improve the situation for its workers, including migrant workers since it won the right to host the World Cup. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) opened an office in Doha in 2018 to work with Qatar on improving workers' rights. We welcome the steps Qatar has taken to date to improve the treatment of workers in Qatar including its most recent announcements on labour reform to abolish the Kafala system by early 2020. We continue to encourage Qatar on making further reforms recommended by the ILO and stand ready to support.

Military Aircraft: Qatar

25 Jun 2019 | 267333

Asked by: Lloyd Russell-Moyle

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, how much has UK Export Finance invested in Qatar for the purchasing of military aircraft.

Answered by: Graham Stuart | Department for International Trade

UK Export Finance (UKEF) has no investments in Qatar. In 2018, UKEF provided a package of loans, guarantees and insurance with a value of around £4.2 billion (not taking into account amounts reinsured by other ECAs) in respect of the sale of 24 Typhoon and 9 Hawk aircraft and associated goods and services by UK companies BAE Systems and MBDA UK to the State of Qatar.

UKEF has published details of its support for these contracts in its Annual Report and Accounts 2018-19 (pages 55-56) which has been presented to Parliament and can be found on UKEF's website.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-export-finance-annual-report-and-accounts-2018-to-2019>

This package is the only instance of UKEF support for the sale of military aircraft to Qatar.

Gulf States: Overseas Aid

18 Jun 2019 | HL16049

Asked by: Lord Scriven

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the allocated budget for the Gulf Integrated Activity Fund for the 2019/20 financial year; and which countries will receive support from that Fund.

Answered by: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The allocated budget for the Gulf Integrated Activity Fund (IAF) for the 2019/20 financial year is £20m. The IAF will fund activity in all six Gulf Cooperation Council States including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

Qatar: Diplomatic Relations

18 Jun 2019 | HL16027

Asked by: Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have called for dialogue to resolve the ongoing crisis between Qatar and the Arab Quartet countries of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Egypt which began in June 2017; and what steps they have taken to support the Gulf Cooperation Council in its efforts to resolve the crises.

Answered by: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

We continue to urge all sides to take steps to de-escalate and engage with Kuwaiti mediation efforts to find a resolution to the ongoing dispute. Substantive progress can only happen when all countries involved are willing to discuss demands that are measured and realistic. We remain firmly committed to our strategic partnership with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), and continue to make clear during engagements with Gulf partners that GCC unity matters to long-term regional security and stability.

4.2 Debates

Integrated Activity Fund: Transparency

22 Oct 2020 | 682 cc474-93WH

5. Further reading

Commons Library Papers

[Transparency of the Integrated Activity Fund](#)

Ben Smith
19 October 2019

[The Qatar crisis and regional ramifications](#)

Ben Smith
15 October 2019

Other reports and documents

[The Cost of Contagion: The human rights impacts of COVID-19 on migrant workers in the Gulf](#)

Equidem
19 November 2020

[Progress report on the technical cooperation programme agreed between the Government of Qatar and the ILO](#)

International Labour Organization
GB.340/INS/11
9 October 2020

[Visit to Qatar: Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance](#)

UN General Assembly Human Rights Council
A/HRC/44/57/Add.1
27 April 2020

[Annual External Compliance Report of the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy's Workers' Welfare Standards: Building a legacy: laying the foundations for lasting impact](#)

Impactt Ltd
February 2020

[Qatar: all work, no pay: the struggle of Qatar's migrant workers for justice](#)

Amnesty International
19 September 2019

About the Library

The House of Commons Library research service provides MPs and their staff with the impartial briefing and evidence base they need to do their work in scrutinising Government, proposing legislation, and supporting constituents.

As well as providing MPs with a confidential service we publish open briefing papers, which are available on the Parliament website.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in these publicly available research briefings is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware however that briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

If you have any comments on our briefings please email papers@parliament.uk. Authors are available to discuss the content of this briefing only with Members and their staff.

If you have any general questions about the work of the House of Commons you can email hcinfo@parliament.uk.

Disclaimer

This information is provided to Members of Parliament in support of their parliamentary duties. It is a general briefing only and should not be relied on as a substitute for specific advice. The House of Commons or the author(s) shall not be liable for any errors or omissions, or for any loss or damage of any kind arising from its use, and may remove, vary or amend any information at any time without prior notice.

The House of Commons accepts no responsibility for any references or links to, or the content of, information maintained by third parties. This information is provided subject to the [conditions of the Open Parliament Licence](#).