



Foreword by  
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Chairman and Founder  
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It gives me great pleasure to introduce this Official Report to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Restoration of the independence of Georgia and the 30th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between our two countries. Lord Astor and I are very grateful to Her Excellency Sophie Katsarava, the Ambassador of Georgia, and her Embassy staff for all their help and guidance in the preparation of this publication.

These anniversaries are particularly important and will help focus the attention of business leaders and policy makers on the many opportunities for further strengthening the links between our two countries. The anniversary of Georgian independence is an historic milestone in the development of the country and the 30th Anniversary of diplomatic relations provides an opportunity to mark an important friendship.

This important 30th anniversary is supported by leaders from around the world. Joe Biden, President of the United States has stated *'the United States remains firmly committed to Georgia's territorial integrity and sovereignty within its recognised borders. Please accept my best wishes on the occasion of Independence Day.'*

The relationship between Georgia and the United Kingdom is very cordial with official diplomatic relations being re-established in 1992 following independence in 1991. The UK plays an important role in promoting the development of the economy of Georgia given its role as one of the country's largest investors.

There is also close military cooperation. The Georgia Armed services has been the largest non-NATO contributor of troops during the war in Afghanistan – working

alongside British soldiers. Royal Navy destroyers also make regular visits to Georgia and conduct joint training exercises. The Georgian port of Batumi is also home to a British Military Cemetery where sixty-eight British service personnel are buried.

The close economic and trading relations between our two countries are governed by *'The Strategic Partnership and Cooperation between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Georgia'* which was presented to Parliament in November 2019. The principal UK goods exported to Georgia include vehicles, pharmaceutical products, machinery and mechanical appliances, beverages and spirits, precious stones and metals. The most significant imports from Georgia include precious stones and metals, fertilisers, iron and steel, aluminium, inorganic chemicals and wine.

The strong trading relationship is worth more than £190 million a year with significant investments in each other's economies. This bilateral relationship is key to Georgia's economy and helps support employment in the country. A good example of business cooperation can be seen in the work of MRMU which has an investment pipeline of over £100 million. Georgia represents an important opportunity for further trade and investment given its well-developed infrastructure and pro-investment policies.

The 30th Anniversary of the Restoration of Independence and the 30th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations gives us all an opportunity to study the important developments in both our countries and to weigh carefully the many opportunities to work together even more closely. E