**Joint Communiqué of the UK-Oman Joint Working Group Meeting**

**London, 8 October 2013**

The fifth meeting of the UK-Oman Joint Working Group took place at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London on 8 October 2013. The meeting was hosted by Rt Hon Hugh Robertson, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. The Omani delegation was led by His Excellency Sayyid Badr Hamed Al Busaidi Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The creation of the Joint Working Group was announced in July 2010, by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Omani Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Yusuf Bin Alawi bin Abdullah. It was establishedto strengthen the historic friendship between the UK and Oman and further develop our strategic relationship.

Rt Hon Mr Robertson and His Excellency Sayyid Badr began the meeting by highlighting the excellent bilateral ties between the UK and Oman. They agreed that the UK-Oman Joint Working Group was a good vehicle for increasing cooperation across a number of different areas.

Rt Hon Mr Robertson and His Excellency Sayyid Badr noted the progress on the key themes discussed at the February Joint Working Group: Education & Training, Job Creation & Trade and Heritage & Culture.

The cooperation between the UK and Oman in these fields were going well. The Ministers endorsed new areas for cooperation and discussed the prospect of further collaboration to create long term benefits for both the UK and Oman. They also enjoyed a full discussion on regional issues.

Rt Hon Mr Robertson and His Excellency Sayyid Badr agreed hold the next Joint Working Group in Muscat in the first half of next year.