

Document	Date	Information
<p>Email chain between Chishti's office, Gulf team officials and officials at BE Riyadh</p>	<p>14-18 January 2016</p>	<p><b>From:</b> [Redacted] [BE Riyadh]  <b>Sent:</b> 18 January 2016 14:02  <b>To:</b> [Redacted] [BE Riyadh]  <b>Subject:</b> RE: MP trip to Saudi Arabia</p> <p>No idea, but [Redacted] suggestion seems the most likely.</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p><b>From:</b> [Redacted] [BE Riyadh]  <b>Sent:</b> 18 January 2016 15:11  <b>To:</b> [Redacted] [BE Riyadh]  <b>Subject:</b> Re: MP trip to Saudi Arabia</p> <p>News to me. We are with the NATO MPs now.</p> <p>Would be good to know more. The Saudi Embassy has organised APPG visits in the past. Could this be the new group?</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p><b>From:</b> [Redacted] [Gulf Team]  <b>Sent:</b> Monday, January 18, 2016 12:06 PM  <b>To:</b> [Redacted] [BE Riyadh]  <b>Subject:</b> FW: MP trip to Saudi Arabia</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>Are you aware of this visit by Rehman Chishti MP?</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>

**From:** [Redacted] [Gulf Team]  
**Sent:** 14 January 2016 14:43  
**To:** [Redacted] [Gulf Team]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: MP trip to Saudi Arabia

[Redacted] – please could you look into this when you're back next week? Seems a bit of an out of the blue request and I'm not aware as to why the MPs are travelling (I did ask, but [Redacted] just said it was a visit).

[Redacted] – TBA.

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 14 January 2016 14:41  
**To:** [Redacted] [Gulf Team]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** MP trip to Saudi Arabia

Dear [Redacted]

Further to my telephone conversation, Mr Rehman Chishti MP is leading a delegation of MPs to Saudi Arabia next month, organised by the Saudi Embassy.

Mr Chishti has spoken to Tobias Ellwood MP about organising a briefing for the MPs before the visit.

Mr Chishti was wondering if someone from the FCO may be available to give a briefing. The group of MPs are meeting next Wednesday (20 January) in Parliament if that would be convenient.

I look forward to hearing from you.

		<p>Regards</p> <p>[Redacted] The Office of Rehman Chishti MP [Redacted]</p>
<p>Email chain between Gulf Team officials and BE Riyadh officials</p>	<p>19-20 January 2016</p>	<p><b>From:</b> [Redacted] [BE Riyadh]  <b>Sent:</b> 20 January 2016 07:33  <b>To:</b> [Redacted] [BE Riyadh]  <b>Cc:</b> [Redacted][Gulf Team]  <b>Subject:</b> Re: Briefing for new MPs to visit Saudi Arabia</p> <p>Ok. Please keep me copied in maybe I should just run with it from now.</p> <p>The saudis will organise the programme as per the appg I assume.</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p><b>From:</b> [Redacted] [BE Riyadh]  <b>Sent:</b> 20 January 2016 07:25  <b>To:</b> [Redacted] [BE Riyadh]  <b>Cc:</b> [Redacted] [Gulf Team]  <b>Subject:</b> FW: Briefing for new MPs to visit Saudi Arabia</p> <p>Sorry I will be away when this takes place, so you may have to organise some bits.</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p><b>From:</b> [Redacted] [Gulf team]  <b>Sent:</b> 19 January 2016 18:19  <b>To:</b> [Redacted] Private Office]</p>

		<p><b>Cc:</b> [Redacted]  <b>Subject:</b> Briefing for new MPs to visit Saudi Arabia</p> <p>[Redacted],</p> <p>Mr Rehman Chishti MP is leading a delegation of MPs to Saudi Arabia on 15 – 18 February, which has been organised by the Saudi Embassy in London. Prince Sultan has arranged for interested new MPs to visit Saudi Arabia. The delegation list is:</p> <p>Royston Smith MP  Martin Vickers MP  + 1 more MP</p> <p>Mr Chishti has already spoken to Mr Ellwood about conducting a briefing prior to them going to Saudi Arabia, and I understand that he was keen to offer the briefing himself. The delegation also asked to be briefed upon arrival by the Embassy in Riyadh.</p> <p>I would be grateful if you could confirm that the Minister is willing to brief the delegation, and if so, please could you contact [Redacted] in Rehman Chishti's office to arrange the briefing – [Redacted]</p> <p>Many thanks,</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>
<p>Email exchange between Gulf Team officials, the office of the Foreign Secretary and the office of Minister</p>	<p>19 January – 2 February 2016</p>	<p>-----Original Message-----  From: [Redacted] [Gulf Team]  Sent: 02 February 2016 16:44  To: [Redacted] [Private Office]  Cc: [Redacted]  Subject: FS Update: Briefing for new MPs to visit Saudi Arabia</p> <p>[Redacted],</p> <p>Here is an update for the Foreign Secretary. This has been cleared by [Redacted]</p>

for the  
Middle East,  
Tobias  
Ellwood

START

Mr Rehman Chishti MP is leading a small delegation of MPs (Royston Smith, Martin Vickers and one other) to Saudi Arabia on 15 - 18 February. The visit has been initiated by the Saudi Embassy in London and Mr Ellwood previously went on a similar visit when he was elected into Parliament. Mr Ellwood has agreed to brief the group on 9 February prior to their visit. They have also asked to be briefed upon arrival by the Embassy in Riyadh.

END

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

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-----Original Message-----

From: [Redacted] [Private Office]

Sent: 02 February 2016 12:56

To: [Redacted] [Gulf Team]

Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: FW: Briefing for new MPs to visit Saudi Arabia

[Redacted]

[Redacted] would like to flag this to the Foreign Secretary. Could we get a paragraph for the daily update by 1700 today?

If you have any issues please do let me know.

Thanks

[Redacted]

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From: [Redacted] [Private Office]

Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2016 06:25 PM  
To: [Redacted] [Gulf Team]  
Cc: [Redacted]  
Subject: RE: Briefing for new MPs to visit Saudi Arabia

Thanks [Redacted], Mr Ellwood has agreed to do this during second week of February. Spads: TBA

Our office will arrange and invite the dept to attend.

[Redacted]

**From:**[Redacted] [Gulf team]  
**Sent:** 19 January 2016 18:19  
**To:** [Redacted] [Private Office]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Briefing for new MPs to visit Saudi Arabia  
[Redacted],

Mr Rehman Chishti MP is leading a delegation of MPs to Saudi Arabia on 15 – 18 February, which has been organised by the Saudi Embassy in London. Prince Sultan has arranged for interested new MPs to visit Saudi Arabia. The delegation list is:

Royston Smith MP  
Martin Vickers MP  
+ 1 more MP

Mr Chishti has already spoken to Mr Ellwood about conducting a briefing prior to them going to Saudi Arabia, and I understand that he was keen to offer the briefing himself. The delegation also asked to be briefed upon arrival by the Embassy in Riyadh.

I would be grateful if you could confirm that the Minister is willing to brief the delegation, and if so, please could you contact [Redacted] in Rehman Chishti's office to arrange the briefing – [Redacted]

Many thanks,

		[Redacted]
Email exchange between Gulf Team officials and the office of Minister Ellwood	19 January – 8 February 2016	<p><b>From:</b> [Redacted] [Private Office]  <b>Sent:</b> 08 February 2016 17:50  <b>To:</b> [Redacted] [Gulf Team]  <b>Subject:</b> RE: Briefing for new MPs to visit Saudi Arabia</p> <p>Received with thanks.</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p><b>From:</b> [Redacted] [Gulf Team]  <b>Sent:</b> 08 February 2016 17:48  <b>To:</b> [Redacted] [Private Office]  <b>Cc:</b> [Redacted]  <b>Subject:</b> RE: Briefing for new MPs to visit Saudi Arabia</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>Please find attached the briefing for Mr Ellwood.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p><b>From:</b> [Redacted] [Private Office]  <b>Sent:</b> 04 February 2016 18:21  <b>To:</b> [Redacted] [Gulf Team]  <b>Cc:</b> [Redacted]  <b>Subject:</b> RE: Briefing for new MPs to visit Saudi Arabia</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>Just something short a list of the top issues as a reminder and maybe a bit of background [Redacted] but nothing major (def</p>

no more than 1-2 sides).

No need for pre-brief but if someone from desk could come along to take a note (although it would only be for follow up points) and help answer any other questions they have.

Thanks,

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted] [Gulf Team]

**Sent:** 04 February 2016 18:17

**To:** [Redacted] [Private Office]

**Cc:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** RE: Briefing for new MPs to visit Saudi Arabia

Hi [Redacted]

What would the Minister like for this? Does he require a hard copy of the latest issues and an oral pre-brief?

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted] [Private Office]

**Sent:** 02 February 2016 14:43

**To:** [Redacted] [Gulf Team]

**Cc:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** FW: Briefing for new MPs to visit Saudi Arabia

Dear [Redacted],

This briefing for the MP's going out to Saudi has been set up for 10.30 Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> over in Parliament – interview room1, Portcullis house.

		<p>Please would you arrange for briefing etc?</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p><b>From:</b> [Redacted] [Private Office]  <b>Sent:</b> 22 January 2016 17:39  <b>To:</b> [Redacted] [Private Office]  <b>Subject:</b> FW: Briefing for new MPs to visit Saudi Arabia</p> <p>We'll need to call [Redacted] on Monday.</p> <p><b>From:</b> [Redacted] [Private Office]  <b>Sent:</b> 19 January 2016 18:24  <b>To:</b> [Redacted] [Private Office]  <b>Cc:</b> [Redacted]  <b>Subject:</b> FW: Briefing for new MPs to visit Saudi Arabia</p> <p>[Redacted],</p> <p>Mr Ellwood has agreed to do this briefing, please could you contact [Redacted] in the MP's office, number below, and set up a meeting (a clear one hour slot please) in the w/c 8 February.</p> <p>Thanks,  [Redacted]</p>
<p>Email exchange between BE Riyadh</p>	<p>14 January – 11 February</p>	<p><b>From:</b> [Redacted] [BE Riyadh]  <b>Sent:</b> 11 February 2016 14:13  <b>To:</b> [Redacted] [BE Riyadh]  <b>Cc:</b> [Redacted]</p>

officials, Gulf team officials and office of Rehman Chishti	2016	<p><b>Subject:</b> Re: MP trip to Saudi Arabia</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>Yes. Will do.</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p><b>From:</b> [Redacted] [BE Riyadh] <b>Sent:</b> Thursday, February 11, 2016 02:12 PM <b>To:</b> [Redacted] [BE Riyadh] <b>Cc:</b> [Redacted] <b>Subject:</b> RE: MP trip to Saudi Arabia</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>Would you be willing to lead on this in [Redacted] absence? [Redacted]</p> <p><b>From:</b> [Redacted] [Gulf Team] <b>Sent:</b> 11 February 2016 15:54 <b>To:</b> [Redacted] [BE Riyadh] <b>Cc:</b> [Redacted] <b>Subject:</b> FW: MP trip to Saudi Arabia</p> <p>[Redacted],</p> <p>Please see email below from Rehman Chishti's office asking if it would be possible for someone from the Embassy to brief the MPs visiting Riyadh next week. Grateful for your views.</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>
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**From:** [Redacted] [Parliament]  
**Sent:** 12 February 2016 16:38  
**To:** [Redacted] [Gulf Team]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: MP trip to Saudi Arabia

Dear [Redacted]

Just wondered if there had been any progress on this yet?

Regards

[Redacted]  
The Office of Rehman Chishti MP  
[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted] [Parliament]  
**Sent:** 11 February 2016 09:50  
**To:** [Redacted] [Gulf Team]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: MP trip to Saudi Arabia

Dear [Redacted]

Further to our conversation, the Minister briefed the delegation on Tuesday and said that he would kindly arrange for a representative from the British Embassy to brief the delegation on their arrival next week and arrange for a briefing note to be circulated in advance.

The delegation is leaving on Monday 15 February at 7.25pm and arrive in Riyadh at 4.55am on Tuesday (16 February). They would like to receive a briefing around 9am at their hotel if possible.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

		<p>[Redacted]  The Office of Rehman Chishti MP  [Redacted]</p> <p><b>From:</b> [Redacted] [Parliament]  <b>Sent:</b> 14 January 2016 14:41  <b>To:</b> [Redacted] [Gulf Team]  <b>Cc:</b> [Redacted]; CHISHTI, Rehman  <b>Subject:</b> MP trip to Saudi Arabia</p> <p>Dear [Redacted]</p> <p>Further to my telephone conversation, Mr Rehman Chishti MP is leading a delegation of MPs to Saudi Arabia next month, organised by the Saudi Embassy.</p> <p>Mr Chishti has spoken to Tobias Ellwood MP about organising a briefing for the MPs before the visit.</p> <p>Mr Chishti was wondering if someone from the FCO may be available to give a briefing. The group of MPs are meeting next Wednesday (20 January) in Parliament if that would be convenient.</p> <p>I look forward to hearing from you.</p> <p>Regards</p> <p>[Redacted]  The Office of Rehman Chishti MP  [Redacted]</p>
Email exchange	15-16 February	<p><b>From:</b> [Redacted] [BE Riyadh]  <b>Sent:</b> 16 February 2016 11:47</p>

between BE Riyadh officials & Gulf Team officials	2016	<p><b>To:</b> [Redacted] [Gulf Team] <b>Cc:</b> [Redacted] <b>Subject:</b> FW: MPs visit</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>FYI</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p><b>From:</b> [Redacted] [BE Riyadh] <b>Sent:</b> 16 February 2016 08:15 <b>To:</b> [Redacted] [BE Riyadh] <b>Subject:</b> FW: MPs visit</p> <p>All</p> <p>For info.</p> <p>Full programme for the visiting MPs:</p> <p>Tuesday</p> <p>09:45 Visit to King Faisal Foundation 11:00 Meeting at the Majlis (Friendship and FAC) 12:00 Lunch with members of the Majlis 18:00 Visit to the Human Rights Organisation 20:30 Visit to the Derad Centre</p> <p>Wednesday</p> <p>09:45 Minister of Education [Redacted] 14:00 Meeting with the Governor of SAMA</p>
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16:00 Janadariyya

Thursday

10:15 Meeting with the Minister of Justice

11:30 Human Rights Commission (governmental)

13:00 King Salman Humanitarian Centre

Friday

01:00 Depart for Airport

03:00 Depart for London

**From:** [Redacted] [BE Riyadh]

**Sent:** 15 February 2016 15:12

**To:** Simon Collis

**Cc:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** MPs visit

Simon

We discussed the visiting MP's programme and you said that you would attend the following:

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>

09:00 Breakfast briefing (at Conference Palace)

11:00 Meeting of the Joint Committees (Friendship and Foreign Affairs) Majlis Al Shura

(this is followed by a lunch at 12:00)

		<p>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup></p> <p>09:45 Minister of Education</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup></p> <p>10:15 Minister of Justice</p> <p>[Redacted]: grateful if you could make the necessary arrangements. I will attend to take the note.</p> <p>[Redacted]: fyi - they are also due to visit the King Salman Humanitarian Centre at 13:00 on Thursday.</p> <p>The delegation will be:</p> <p>Royston Smith  Mark Pawsey  Rehman Chishti (Head)  David MacIntosh  Martin Vickers</p> <p>The visit has been organised by the Saudi Embassy and they will be accompanied by [Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>
<p>Readout  from call on  Minister of  Justice</p>	<p>18  February  2016</p>	<p><b>From:</b> [Redacted] [BE Riyadh]  <b>Sent:</b> 18 February 2016 11:48  <b>To:</b> Simon Collis  <b>Cc:</b> [Redacted]  <b>Subject:</b> Call on the Minister of Justice</p>

		<p>Simon</p> <p>I accompanied the visiting delegation of Conservative MPs on their call on the Justice Minister (Shaikh Walid Al Samaani) this morning (18 Feb).</p> <p>The atmospherics of the meeting could not have been warmer. But the 30 minute meeting focused almost entirely on the [Redacted]</p> <p>Rehman Chishti MP, Head of the Delegation, spoke eloquently on the value of the bilateral relationship to HMG (speaking as member of parliament from the ruling party). He went through our lines in familiar terms on the decision to [Redacted] Chishti said that he was PPS to the Attorney General and would follow up with the relevant parts of HMG to [Redacted].</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>Chishti mentioned Nimr Al Nimr, [Redacted]</p> <p>Finally, Mark Pawsey MP raised the case of [Redacted] to thank [Redacted] for Saudi help in providing medication. [Redacted]. In any case, the Justice Minister thanked him.</p> <p>Comment</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted] [BE Riyadh]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>
Readout of meeting with KSRelief	18 February 2016	<p><b>From:</b> [Redacted] [DFID]  <b>Sent:</b> 18 February 2016 12:28  <b>To:</b> [Redacted]Gulf Team; Simon Collis; Edmund Fitton-Brown [Redacted]  <b>Cc:</b> [Redacted]  <b>Subject:</b> Readout: UK MPs / KSRelief</p>

A group of Conservative backbench MPs visited KSRelief earlier today and were given an audience with [Redacted] and the members of the Executive Board. This was at the invitation of the Saudi embassy in London and not a BE Riyadh organised trip. The visit, although short, was high profile with media team at the centre covering it.

[Redacted] provided a quick summary of KSRelief's activities in Yemen and beyond. He emphasised the newness of the centre, [Redacted]

Importantly, he stressed [Redacted] He referenced our having been the first to engage properly with the Centre, to provide capacity building and referred to our plan for joint activities, including a UK visit, and me as the permanent delegate at the centre. These latter areas are reflective of their perceptions as nothing has been formally agreed [Redacted] but it was all meant positively and intended to keep DFID engagement ongoing no doubt. He framed the relationship in the context of wider UK/KSA relations which he characterised as wide ranging ('political, economic and beyond which bring many benefits') but acknowledged pressure [Redacted]

There was a rapid Q&A session which was also of interest:

1. What proportion of KSA GDP is spent on aid, and what proportion is KSRelief's budget? Is this ring-fenced as in the UK?  
[Redacted]
2. Do they have a criteria to determine their priorities?  
[Redacted]
3. How do they manage security risks in Yemen?  
[Redacted]
4. And what about the unsafe areas?  
[Redacted]
5. What is KSA doing to assist nearby countries with the migration crisis? And will this involve taking in more people to KSA?  
[Redacted]

		<p>6. Why don't more refugees come here? [Redacted]</p> <p>Comment</p> <p>The session wrapped up pretty abruptly as the MPs were heading to [Redacted] The Centre were aware of this in anticipation of the meeting when they were asking me for background on the MPs. [Redacted] [Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>
Readout of meeting with King Salman	19 February 2016	<p><b>From:</b> Simon Collis  <b>Sent:</b> 19 February 2016 16:11  <b>To:</b> [Redacted] [BE Riyadh]  <b>Cc:</b> [Redacted]Jane Marriott; Neil Bush ([Redacted])  <b>Subject:</b> SAUDI ARABIA: PARLIAMENTARIANS' VISIT, AND AUDIENCE WITH THE KING</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>You are compiling a report to issue after the weekend on the visit of 5 Conservative backbenchers led by Rehman Chisti and arranged by the Saudi Embassy.</p> <p>It was a very positive and useful piece of parliamentary engagement against the background of recent criticism of Saudi Arabia. [Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted] In following up, we should aim to arrange a proper programme [Redacted] which might include subjects not covered during the FS's and my very regular contacts with him. [Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted] It was attended – in this protocol order - by the Head of the Shura Council, Prince Khalid of the SC Foreign Affairs Committee, Musaid Al Ayban, Culture and Information Minister Adel Al Tureifi, and Adel Al-Jubeir. [Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted] said Saudi <b>foreign policy</b> was focussed on stability and security. <b>UK-Saudi</b> relations were important and historic, but we could do more to conserve and develop them. More trade and investment would be good for people and strengthen</p>

		<p>the good relations between governments.</p> <p>[Redacted] Simon</p>
Readout of meeting with Ministry of Education	21 February 2016	<p><b>From:</b> [Redacted] [British Council]  <b>Sent:</b> 21 February 2016 05:25  <b>To:</b> Simon Collis * [Redacted]  <b>Cc:</b> [Redacted]  <b>Subject:</b> Call on [Redacted]</p> <p>Dear All,</p> <p>Read out on our call on MoE last week with a delegation of Conservative MPs, led by Rehman Chishti.</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p><b>Call on [Redacted] 17 February 2016</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both sides emphasised the importance, depth and longevity of the UK Saudi relationship, both in general terms and in terms of education collaboration.</li> <li><b>Schools</b> The [Redacted] [Redacted] There is a clear opportunity to position the UK as a leading partner in all of the above. [Redacted] <b>Action: Contact DfE to elicit an invitation from SoS to [Redacted] for a visit.</b> [Redacted]</li> <li><b>School Inspection</b> Rehman Chishti MP raised the issue of collaboration [Redacted]. NB the CEO of the Public Education Evaluation Commission, [Redacted] attended the recent Education World Forum. <b>Action: [Redacted]</b></li> <li><b>Higher education</b> [Redacted] confirmed that top universities (Russell Group) will be invited [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] emphasised the fact that women now make up over 50% of the student population at all levels of education in KSA including HE.</li> </ol>

		<p>- He alluded to a forthcoming exhibition and fair in Riyadh 'Investing in Education'. Our response to this fair, for investors and suppliers, is being led by [Redacted] from the BTO in Dammam. [Redacted]</p> <p>5. Next steps</p> <p>- [Redacted] responded positively to an invitation to join the UK Alumni Awards ceremony on March 8<sup>th</sup> and present the awards. <b>Action: follow up invitation by Sunday 21 Feb.</b></p> <p>[Redacted]</p>
Report of visit	1 March 2016	<p><b>From:</b> Diptel RIYADH [Redacted]  <b>Sent:</b> 01 March 2016 08:58  <b>To:</b> Diptel FCO  <b>Subject:</b> SAUDI ARABIA: VISIT OF CONSERVATIVE MPS [DIPTTEL 1601153]</p> <p><b>Diptel RIYADH (Sensitive)</b>  Foreign &amp; Commonwealth Office Diplomatic Telegram</p> <p><b>Summary</b>  <b>Saudi MFA organise a visit of Conservative MPs, led by Rehman Chishti MP, with calls on senior Saudis from the King down. A worthwhile piece of parliamentary engagement by the Saudis in response to negative UK media and parliamentary coverage.</b></p> <p>1. The Saudi Embassy in London arranged a visit for a group of backbench Conservative MPs (Rehman Chishti, Royston Smith, Mark Pawsey, David MacIntosh, Martin Vickers) to Saudi Arabia on 16-18 February. Their high-level programme enabled the delegation to gain informed insights into the key issues in current UK-Saudi relations, and the Saudi perspective on regional issues including Syria and Yemen. [Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>2. [Redacted] It was attended by the Head of the Shura Council, Prince Khalid of the SC Foreign Affairs Committee, Minister Musaid Al Ayban, Culture and Information Minister Adel Al Tureifi, and Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir. [Redacted]</p>

3. [Redacted] said Saudi **foreign policy** was focussed on stability and security. **UK-Saudi** relations were important and historic, but we could do more to conserve and develop them. More trade and investment would be good for people and strengthen the already good relations between governments.

4. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

5. [Redacted]

6. [Redacted] There were plenty of other producers, the Saudis were [Redacted].

7. [Redacted]

8. In response to Cheshti's invitation, [Redacted] said he would be delighted to visit Parliament for the same kind of engagement [Redacted].

#### **Majlis Al Shura**

9. The delegation met the Majlis Al Shura's Foreign Affairs and UK Friendship Committees together. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

10. [Redacted] Other reforms will include [Redacted] The UK could be a leading partner in all of the above, [Redacted]

11. On higher education, [Redacted] confirmed a new policy to invite top universities (Russell Group) [Redacted] in Saudi Arabia [Redacted]. He stressed also the need for soft skills to increase graduate employability. Women were now over 50% of the student population.

[Redacted]

12. A warm meeting with [Redacted] focused on the [Redacted]. The Saudi side had informed the UK of their members of the planned Joint Committee and remained very keen for the Committee to start work. Chishti undertook to follow up.

		<p>13. [Redacted]</p> <p>14. In addition to these calls, the delegation also visited the Kingdom’s landmark Prince Muhammad bin Naif Centre for Counselling and Care (Deradicalisation centre), called on the (governmental) National Human Rights Commission and the National Society for Human Rights (quasi NGO). [Redacted] They also called on the Governor of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (Central Bank), the King Salman Humanitarian Centre, and the King Faisal Foundation think tank.</p> <p><b>Comment</b></p> <p>15. This was a positive and useful piece of parliamentary engagement against the background of recent criticism of Saudi Arabia. [Redacted] The visit was also an opportunity to highlight the diversity of UK links with Saudi Arabia, and the scope to further develop these beyond traditional areas of co-operation.</p> <p>COLLIS</p> <p>Authorised Simon Collis   Ambassador [Redacted]</p> <p>Contact [Redacted]</p> <p>Action [Redacted]</p> <p>Cc[Redacted]</p>