

UK and Oman to Expand Cooperation on Energy, Security, and Technology

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Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq have agreed to strengthen ties between the UK and Oman, focusing on cooperation in energy, defence, technology, and regional security. The meeting took place in London on 30 July and forms part of a broader push to reinforce the UK's relationships across the Gulf region.

A Downing Street spokesperson confirmed that the leaders discussed strategic investment in clean energy, support for innovation, and closer defence coordination. The agreement marks a continuation of the UK's long-standing relationship with Oman, which spans over four centuries and includes regular joint military exercises and diplomatic engagement.

Both leaders also addressed the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, calling for the urgent delivery of aid and backing long-term efforts toward peace in the region. Starmer reiterated his government's position on recognising a Palestinian state, indicating this could move forward by September unless there are improvements on the ground.

Oman's diplomatic role in regional stability was also acknowledged, particularly in its efforts to ease tensions with Iran. The UK government praised Oman's contributions and emphasised its importance as a partner in promoting dialogue and de-escalation in the Middle East.

The discussion took place against the backdrop of Oman's Vision 2040 strategy, a long-term plan to diversify the Omani economy and reduce its reliance on oil. The UK sees this as a key opportunity to increase investment and build commercial links, particularly in renewable energy and technological sectors.

The meeting highlighted mutual interests in maintaining regional stability, boosting trade and investment, and responding to humanitarian challenges. While the Labour government continues to face scrutiny at home, especially on economic and foreign policy decisions, the UK's engagement with Oman reflects an effort to maintain traditional diplomatic relationships and position the UK as a reliable partner in a complex global environment.

The renewed cooperation may lead to further developments in joint projects, trade agreements, and defence partnerships in the coming months.