

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION – INTERSESSIONAL MEETING 22-24 JUNE 2021

STATEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5

Thematic Session - Completion and Sustainable National Capacities

Wednesday 23 June

Mr President,

Last November, the United Kingdom announced the successful completion of clearance operations in the Falkland Islands. To ensure transparency on the Programme, we would like to report that last month an anti-vehicle landmine washed up on Yorke Bay Beach.

There is evidence that landmines that were laid close to the shoreline on beaches in the Falkland Islands were swept away by tidal action. The Falkland Islands Government is aware of the potential for these mines to wash back onto the shore. The United Kingdom anticipated and provided information on this issue in our Article 5 Work Plan submitted in April 2020.

Any mines found will be made safe by the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team from the UK's Royal Air Force Armament Engineering Flight, based on the Islands.

The Falkland Islands Government has worked for over 30 years on sensitive handling of the presence of anti-personnel mines on the Islands by identifying and implementing risk education and reduction programmes that meet the needs of the entire community. Having grown up in close proximity of landmines, civilian adults and children are aware of the risks and are instructed to follow a 'mark, leave, report' process on finding any unexploded ordnance.

Through the education department and health services, the Government has delivered a holistic programme to ensure that information on mine action is regularly updated and meets the needs of the community.

Thank you Mr President.