



UKOTA statement: UK Overseas Territories Representation in the UK

The governments and peoples of the UK Overseas Territories are represented in the UK by their official Representatives and, in most cases, through their London offices. When interests align, the UK Overseas Territories may speak with one united voice through the UK Overseas Territories Association (UKOTA).

In addition to being the voice of their individual Territory governments in the UK, the Representatives and London office staff also look after the interests of their people when they are in the UK. This includes temporary residents such as students, medical patients or tourists, as well as people from the Territory who have moved permanently to the UK.

Only individuals or organisations duly appointed by Territory governments are entitled or permitted to speak on behalf of the UK Overseas Territories, either individually or collectively. Only they can represent the Territories at events or in meetings with politicians or the media.

A UKOTA spokesperson commented: “The UK Overseas Territories rightly attract much interest from a wide range of individuals and organisations. But the people of the Territories elect their governments, and only those governments appoint the people who can authoritatively speak for them. No matter how well-meaning, other interventions can sometimes be counter-productive”.

The Representatives are the main point of contact for politicians throughout the UK, including the Westminster Government. Representatives also represent their Territories at major national events in the UK such as the Commonwealth Day service and the State Opening of Parliament.