

Note No. A189/17

Protocol Directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office presents its compliments to all Diplomatic Missions in London and wishes to draw to their attention the following information.

Hurricane Irma has hit four British Overseas Territories (Anguilla, Montserrat, the British Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands) as well as other countries and territories in the region. Her Majesty's Government, in collaboration with the local authorities, is doing everything possible to assist the British, foreign and Commonwealth nationals in the British Overseas Territories affected by the hurricane. A UK ship, RFA Mounts Bay, has delivered assistance in Anguilla and is now positioned in the British Virgin Islands providing vital support. Further military and humanitarian support is on its way under the overall co-ordination of the FCO.

If Diplomatic Missions have reliable information that named nationals of their countries are affected by the situation in the British Overseas Territories, they should email specific enquiries to the FCO Crisis Centre on crisis@fco.gsi.gov.uk Protocol Directorate kindly requests that Missions assist the FCO in handling demand by **not** contacting the Crisis Centre with speculative enquiries or to ask in general terms if nationals of their countries have come to the FCO's attention. If the FCO has specific information about any foreign or Commonwealth casualties, Protocol Directorate will contact the relevant Mission as soon as possible.

Protocol Directorate further requests that the contact details given above should be used only by Diplomatic Missions and their governments. However, members of the public wishing to enquire about friends or family should be directed to call the public hotline: +44 (0) 20 7008 0000.

Protocol Directorate would like to avail itself of this opportunity to thank Diplomatic Missions for their kind cooperation and to renew to them the assurances of its highest consideration.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE LONDON SW1A 2AH

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