



Your Excellency's, Lords, Baronesses, distinguished guests, welcome to the 2019 National Day of the State of Qatar.

As we end another successful and strengthening year in the Qatar UK relations, I would like to begin by thanking everyone for your continued support and friendship in the wide sectors that bring our nations together.

This year we were delighted to receive a visit from His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar. His Highness praised the *'very strong relationship'* between Qatar and the UK, as did the UK Prime Minister, noting that he was proud to say London *'is landmarked with symbols of that relationship'*.

We need only look at a few investment examples to show how much of a committed economic partner Qatar is to the United Kingdom. Harrods, The Shard, Chelsea Barracks, Canary Wharf, to name a few, and which create thousands of jobs across the country.

This year Qatar has seen some important developments. His Highness the Amir, at the opening of the 48th Advisory Council Session, announced that there will be the formation of a High Committee for the Advisory Council elections, who will be responsible for preparations towards the elections for the Advisory Council. We are proud of this historic milestone and Qatar will continue to move forward despite the unjust blockade imposed on my nation. Qatar continues to be an international state, which promotes stability and peace throughout the region and the world.

With our partners in the UK, our shared values continue to deepen throughout a wide range of sectors. This year marks the 10-year anniversary of the opening of South Hook LNG Terminal. South Hook terminal distributes large amounts of Gas throughout the United Kingdom, through the state of the art facilities in Wales. Qatar is proud to be a partner for energy security in the United Kingdom.



Direct investment into the UK economy continues, with over £35 billion already invested in the UK. Qatar is proud to be an economic partner to the United Kingdom.

Qatar, itself, currently has over 79 British companies operating in Doha at the value of £1.79 billion and 692 joint Qatar UK Companies at the value of £2 billion and over 300 UK companies registered to work on the World Cup 2022 projects.

As we prepare for the 2022 World Cup, our shared love for sport brings our nations and people even closer together. Be it the large number of UK companies working in Qatar to complete infrastructure projects, to the thousands of UK fans who will celebrate Qatar beating England in the World Cup Final. On that note, may I again congratulate our National Football team on winning the Asia Cup this year; it has truly been a great year of sports for Qatar.

We were also proud of the success of the IAAF athletics championships, where British Athletes came to Doha, won medals and brought these medals back, proudly, to the UK as Champions of your nation.

To celebrate the IAAF games, this year the Embassy hosted an event in Lee Valley, where Team GB trains and were preparing for the Doha games this year. We had local schools attend and participate in a range of athletic activities during the Qatar National Sports Day. I was excited to see some potential future champions in the making.

I would also like to welcome you all to Doha for the Club World Cup this December. This will be taking place between 11th to the 22nd of December. We will see some of the world's best clubs competing in Doha to be crowned Club World Champions. Liverpool are having a great season so far, we wish them the best of luck when playing in Doha.



Qatar and the UK share a deep and historical security partnership, through the procurement of Typhoon jets, to the joint air squadron protecting both our nations' skies; and with our shared outlook towards a safer, better and more peaceful world.

As Christmas approaches, so will tens of thousands of Qatari citizens who will be joining us all in London and throughout the United Kingdom. The UK is the most popular tourist destination, for Qataris, which speaks volumes to our relationship.

I would like to thank all the Qatari students who have supported today's event. Moreover, I would like to take a moment to recognise the important educational relationship between Qatar and the UK. Over 4000 Qataris study in the UK and they are proud to call this their home during these important years of their lives.

I would like to end by thanking our sponsors. Qatar National Bank, a great institution and our lead sponsor today. Qatar Airways, which has over 100 weekly flights between Qatar and the UK. Qatari Diar who are leading on incredible projects across London and beyond. Qatar Islamic Bank and Al Rayan Bank, accommodating the growing area of Islamic Banking in the UK.

Thank you all once again for attending and celebrating another great year of Qatar UK Relations on this, the National Day of the State of Qatar.

His Excellency Mr Yousef Ali Al-Khater
Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary of the State of Qatar to
the Court of St. James's, Ireland and Iceland