**Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman**

Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman took lunch with the British Queen on Wednesday and met with government officials to seal a new strategic partnership between the two kingdoms.

The three-day trip is focused on security and defence ties as well as efforts to build support for the Vision 2030 reform programme. Saudi Arabian officials also explored up to £65bn in fresh investments and a potential stock market listing for the national oil company, Aramco.

The crown prince lunched with Queen Elizabeth at Buckingham Palace ahead of talks with Prime Minister Theresa May that ranged from the reform agenda to the conflict in Yemen.

“The meeting agreed a landmark ambition for around £65bn of mutual trade and investment opportunities over the coming years, including direct investment in the UK,” the PM's spokesperson said. “This is a significant boost for UK prosperity and a clear demonstration of the strong international confidence in our economy as we prepare to leave the European Union.”

The prime minister gave strong support to Vision 2030, calling it “an ambitious blueprint for internal reform that aims to create a thriving economy and a vibrant society.”

Mrs May also welcomed “recent reforms in Saudi Arabia, including on women attending sporting events and the cinema, and being legally able to drive from June” and she and the Crown Prince agreed to ”explore ways the UK can support Saudi Arabia to progress and intensify these reforms, particularly on women’s rights.”

She raised British concerns about the situation in Yemen, and discussed Iran, agreeing with the Crown Prince “on the importance of working together to counter Iran’s destabilising regional activity, and Iraq, including the importance of supporting reconstruction efforts.”

Speaking in parliament before the meeting, Mrs May looked forward to hosting the 32-year old who has been given a red-carpet welcome by the British government. "The link with Saudi Arabia we have is historic, it is an important one and it has saved the lives of potentially hundreds of people in this country," she said.