

## **Membership Position: United Kingdom**

### **General Information**

**Official Name:** United Kingdom

**Capital:** London

**Population:** 64.1 Million

**Major Languages:** English (the official language), Scots (about 30% of the population of Scotland), Scottish Gaelic (about 60,000 in Scotland), Welsh (about 20% of the population of Wales), Irish (about 10% of the population of Northern Ireland), Cornish (some 2,000 to 3,000 in Cornwall) (2012)

**Major Religions:** Christian (includes Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist) 59.5%, Muslim 4.4%, Hindu 1.3%, other 2%, none 25.7%, unspecified 7.2% (2011 est.)

**Regional/Economic Organizational Membership:** ADB (nonregional member), AfDB (nonregional member), Arctic Council (observer), Australia Group, BIS, C, CBSS (observer), CD, CDB, CE, CERN, EAPC, EBRD, EIB, EITI (implementing country), ESA, EU, FAO, FATF, G-20, G-5, G-7, G-8, G-10, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (national committees), ICRM, IDA, IEA, IFAD, IFC, IFRC, IGAD (partners), IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), MIGA, MINUSMA, MONUSCO, NATO, NEA, NSG, OAS (observer), OECD, OPCW, OSCE, Pacific Alliance (observer), Paris Club, PCA, PIF (partner), SELEC (observer), UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNFICYP, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNISFA, UNMISS, UNRWA, UNSC (permanent), UPU, WCO, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, ZC

### **Governmental System**

Great Britain is a constitutional monarchy. This means that the official head of the State is the monarch (a king or a queen) but his or her powers are limited by the constitution. The government is formed by the party which has the majority in Parliament and the Queen appoints its leader as the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is the “Head of Her Majesty’s Government”, meaning that he leads the Cabinet and guides the House of Commons to guide law-making process in the government. The Cabinet is the executive organ of government. It’s made up by

the leading ministers and heads of government departments (about 20 people). So the Government is a larger body (about 80 people).

### **Foreign Policy**

The Commonwealth of Nations is an intergovernmental organization formed by territories that were under the rule of the former British Empire. The goal of the organization is to spread world peace, promotion of individual liberty and representative democracy, and the pursuit of equality among all citizens.

### **Issues Summary**

Many of the issues facing the United Kingdom are nations that are rejecting independence, such as Scotland, Wales, England, and Northern Ireland. This leaves uncertainty in the UK as the Prime Minister must restructure how taxes, welfare, and public spending is distributed to nations that demand greater independence.

### **Relationship with the UN**

The United Kingdom is a charter member of the United Nations and one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

### **Relationships with Other UNSC Members**

The United Kingdom has a special relationship with the United States that dates back over three hundred years ago when the US declared independence against the British Empire. The US and the UK both share large economic trades, in which each country is among the other's top trading partners.