



Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport

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1 April 2025

Lord McFall of Alcluith
Speaker
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

INT2025/03484/DC

Dear Lord Speaker,

VE AND VJ DAY 80 - PARLIAMENTARY OVERSEAS TRAVEL

Further to my recent oral statement in the House, regarding the Government's plans to mark the 80th anniversaries of VE and VJ Day, I am writing to ask your help to encourage Members of Parliament when travelling abroad to consider VE and VJ Day in their planning during the course of this 80th anniversary year. It would be a great opportunity for Members of Parliament, to get involved in the commemorations and pay tribute to the millions of people across the UK and Commonwealth who served in the Second World War.

I have already shared with you the programme of activities that will mark these anniversaries to reach into and connect communities across the country, including through cultural and creative activity. DCMS is working in partnership with The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) to commemorate International War Graves of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. CWGC will run more than 150 mobile exhibitions travelling across the UK and a number of global commemorative sites to the Pacific, highlighting the stories of those who fought in the Second World War. CWGC is inviting members of the public to explore important history and connect by sharing their own personal stories. The Torch of Peace will be at the heart of the tour and act as an enduring symbol, honouring the contributions made by individuals, and as a baton to pass and share stories to future generations.

I would be grateful if you might encourage parliamentarians to visit international Commonwealth War Graves during the course of 2025.



I am copying this letter to The Government Whips' Office, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and All-Party Parliamentary Group for Foreign Affairs for consideration in arranging overseas parliamentary visits.

Thank you for your ongoing support in making the commemorations truly engaging.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Peacock', with a large, flowing loop at the end.

Stephanie Peacock MP
Minister for Sport, Media, Civil Society and Youth