THE US-UK “SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP IN A POST-BREXIT ERA
David Prodger, UK Consul General, Miami

David Prodger took up his appointment as British Consul General in Miami in August 2014. He has served in a number of roles, both in the UK and overseas, within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) since joining in 1999. Prior to this he worked in the private sector as a land surveyor, project manager and business development manager.

His previous post was as Deputy Head of Security Policy in FCO London where his prime responsibility was leading UK European security policy. This included: overseeing UK policy towards NATO including in preparation for the 2014 UK-hosted NATO Summit in Wales; leading the UK’s EU common security and defence policy; overseeing bilateral security policy relations between the UK and other European countries; and relations between the UK and the EU and NATO Allies, as well as other partners; conventional arms control in Europe policy; and UK space policy.

David has also served as Deputy Head of Mission and Consul General at the British Embassy in Brussels, where he also led the political and public diplomacy team. Before that he was Head of the Commercial Team at the British Embassy in Buenos Aires where his main responsibilities were to promote UK exports and work closely with British investors during and after the 2002 economic crisis. He has also held other posts in the FCO covering the Middle East and Latin America.

Prior to joining the FCO, David was a Chartered Surveyor, working with the UK’s national mapping agency, Ordnance Survey, on projects to assist international land reform in Central and Eastern Europe, sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean. He has also worked as a computer analyst in market research and in
the upstream oil exploration and production business with BP and others across a range of locations from Papua New Guinea, the Persian Gulf, the North Sea and Colombia.

The Right Honourable Henry McLeish, former First Minister of Scotland

The Right Honourable Henry McLeish, former First Minister of Scotland, served in the government of former United Kingdom Prime Minister Tony Blair, dined with Queen Elizabeth II, met with former President George W. Bush in the Oval Office, and had a private audience with Pope John Paul II in the Vatican.

As Minister for Devolution and Home Affairs at the Scottish Office from 1997 to 1999 he was instrumental in shaping Scotland’s first Parliament in almost 300 years. He was also responsible for law and order including the police and the prison service. Elected to the Scottish Parliament in 1999 he was Minister for Enterprise and Life Long Learning overseeing higher education, industry, science, technology and the economy.

He became First Minister of Scotland in 2000: taking responsibility for Scotland’s emerging role on the European and world stage, leading official government missions internationally and implementing Scotland’s social and economic policies. He became a member of the Privy Council – an honour bestowed by Her Majesty the Queen - in the same year. He played a key role in the process of devolution, which returned key aspects of legislative power and Government authority from the UK to Scotland. After 30 years in elected politics, Mr McLeish retired from public office in 2003.