



**WESTMINSTER
AFRICA**
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Business Newsletter December 2025

Forthcoming Events:

Christmas Networking Reception

Wednesday 3rd December 2025

6pm to 8pm

Ugandan High Commission,
Trafalgar Square

by kind permission of Her Excellency
the Ugandan High Commissioner

Attendance by Invitation only

Webinar with

His Majesty's Trade Commissioner
for Africa

John Humphrey



Monday 8th December 2025

1.00pm to 2.00pm

Trade Mission to Uganda

w/c 15th February 2026

Following the Ugandan Prime Minister's
visit to the UK

To express your interest in any of
these events:

secretariat@waba.org.uk

Laurence Robertson

Chief Executive

It's certainly been a busy time over the last couple of months.

Annie and I visited South Africa for a couple of weeks, and while it was mainly a holiday, we did hold two important meetings while there, including one with His Majesty's Trade Commissioner to Africa, which we provide details of in this newsletter.

We have also been busy attending other events on behalf of WABA, as well as making arrangements for our own up and coming events, which are detailed on these pages.

And then there was the Budget a couple of days ago. You will be well aware of the measures taken, which I refer to briefly below, but I am happy to carry out any further research you may require on these issues.

Also, we detail two of our forthcoming events opposite. We have had a very good response to our Christmas Networking Reception, though we can squeeze on or two more people in if you haven't responded yet. And our webinar with John Humphrey will be very interesting and useful.

We have also set out a solid programme for 2026, starting with our event in Speaker's House on 3rd February, but also including the traditional lunches and receptions.

In the meantime, I should like to wish you, your families and your staff all the very best for Christmas and the New Year. I hope to see you soon.

Best wishes

Laurence

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WABA EVENTS 2026

3rd February Speaker's State Rooms Reception,
House of Commons

15th February Trade Mission to Kampala,
Uganda

23th March Theoc Consultancy Reception,
Carlton Club St James SW1A 1PJ

14th May Spring Lunch, Dining Room A,
House of Commons

16th July Summer Lunch, Dining Room A,
House of Commons

7th September Summer Reception,
Cholmondeley Room, House of Lords

19th November Winter Lunch, Dining Room A,
House of Commons

WABA Meets HH



WABA was present when His Excellency Hakainde Hichilema visited the UK at the beginning of October on a private tour.

Laurence had been in touch with the UK High Commissioner to Lusaka about the visit and was pleased to attend the meeting in the House of Commons and to meet the President again.

Laurence had met the President when the former had been Trade Envoy to Zambia and hosted His Excellency at the dinner in the Commons.

It was good to meet the President again and to hear again of his ambitions for Zambia and how it is so pro-business.

The UK has a new-ish High Commissioner in Lusaka, Rebecca Terzeon, and WABA is looking to organise a webinar with her to learn more about the opportunities for British businesses.

WABA Meetings in Johannesburg



Looking very relaxed, Laurence and Annie met His Majesty's Trade Commissioner to Africa, John Humphrey, in Johannesburg recently.

John hails from Bolton, as Laurence does, and while this coincidence didn't dominate the conversation, it was an interesting talking point!

John also gave a very comprehensive and up-to-date assessment on business prospects in Africa and has agreed to hold a webinar with WABA members on 8th December - please see front of this newsletter.



While in Johannesburg, WABA also met Ms Tshepo Ncube, President of the British Chamber of Business for Southern Africa.

Tshepo is also a senior executive in the bank, absa, in South Africa.



A very useful discussion took place on ways in which WABA and the Chamber might collaborate. We have agreed to hold a webinar in the coming weeks to discuss these issues further, and this will be open to all WABA members.

Budget Measures

There don't appear to be any specific measures which will affect international trade. There are proposals to help companies redomicile themselves to the UK, but nothing else is leaping out.

Gov.uk gives more details of the Budget and it's also worth checking the Office of Budget Responsibility's report, which presents a wider background.

You might like to check your business rates position as there was some concerns expressed about revaluation proposals.

In addition, you will have noticed that the government no longer proposes to provide day-one employment protection to new employees.

Please do let us know if you need any particular policy area researching.

Conservative Conference

WABA was represented at the Conservative Party Conference in Manchester in early October.

Laurence and Annie attended. While there, they visited a number of business stands, including Heathrow, and attended the International Trade Reception, the Commonwealth Reception and the Irish Embassy Reception.

They also met a number of Ambassadors and High Commissioners, including Uganda's High Commissioner, Mrs Nimisha Madhvani.

Meeting the DRC

WABA met the Ambassador from the DRC in London to discuss trade opportunities, as a number of our members are interested.

DMA is organising a trade mission to the DRC in the first quarter of next year and can be accessed as follows:

[UK-DRC Trade & Investment Mission – Fill in form](#)



Meeting Archbishop Ezekiel Kondo K Kuku of Sudan, in the House of Commons recently. He was here to discuss the humanitarian situation in Sudan. Also in attendance was our own Archbishop of Canterbury-elect, Dame Sarah Mullally. The event was organised by our member and colleague, Glen Promnitz...

...and this is Glen at the celebrations for the **Ugandan National Day**, which Annie, Laurence and a number of other WABA members attended.



Focus on WABA Member....

Hefin Rees KC

Hefin Rees KC has recently joined as a member of WABA. Hefin is the Chairman and Founder of the UK charity Spotlight on Africa who have, over the last 20 years, been engaged in health, education, water, and economic empowerment projects in Uganda.

They are now expanding into Rwanda, Burundi, and Malawi with export credit finance deals under negotiation with UKEF for large social infrastructure projects involving a teaching hospital in Uganda, a University in Rwanda, and major educational projects in Malawi.

They have built health clinics in Uganda that see over 50,000 patients every year, a maternity hospital delivering 2,500 babies safely every year, and 2 primary schools with a secondary school currently under construction.

Hefin is also a leading silk at the commercial set of chambers in London of Three Verulam Buildings, Gray's Inn, dealing with complex and high value international commercial disputes.

He has also sat as a part-time judge in England for 10 years and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, sitting as an international arbitrator on major commercial and mining disputes in Africa.

Hefin said:

“I am really looking forward to meeting the other members of WABA and to learning about their experiences in different countries in Africa. With such extraordinary potential as a continent, Africa provides such tremendous opportunities for all WABA members to explore and develop through WABA’s deep network of collective experiences and contacts.”



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If you would like us to feature you or your company
in our next Newsletter, please contact us:

secretariat@waba.org.uk