

## DESA's day at the House of Lords then Commons

(2nd May 2018)



**Ben Wallace Minister of State  
for Security and Economic Crime**



***The Right Honourable The Baroness Warsi PC***



**The Rt Hon. Admiral Lord  
West of Spithead GCB DSC PC**

**DESA** were very kindly served the famous House of Lords cream teas as guests of Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, Mother Lawyer, Author and Philanthropist gifted us an hour of her precious time at very short notice. So let me start by saying formally, a big thank you from the team at DESA and myself personally.

Ever the perfect host, the Baroness and Gavin (DESA Chief K9 instructor) firstly put business aside and discussed family issues and as an animal lover herself, some personal dog training issues. Tea and scones arrived and we moved on to business, we were given her undivided attention as we outlined the 'new' DESA its re-launch and its aims and objectives ie: To improve standards, effectiveness and public safety issues surrounding the UK's explosives search dog industry in General.

She freely gave us useful advice on the political landscape (and helpful suggestions) that we were facing and offered her ear and help in the future where ever she could for those aims. DESA's own worthy fight against terrorism was a subject (*'Terrorism'*) she has spoken out on before, on many occasions, as part of her previous Government positions and personal beliefs.

This mixed personal and business visit coincided nicely with our invite to Rt Hon. Admiral Lord West of Spithead and Minister of State for Security at the home Office Ben Wallace's networking reception, being held just next door in the House of Commons. The attendance from the **security industry** was good and the address from both and the team from the **International Security Expo 2018** was like listening to DESA's own mission statement. Particularly on showcasing to the world the UK's vast knowledge products and experience including in disaster response.

The Networking drinks and canapés on the terrace was, as always, maximised by us and several agreements to meet again to discuss and explore further with those where synergy existed were made. DESA having kept things slightly below the radar for several months now for a variety of reasons, mostly Political and in order to get all our ducks in a row, it was nice to again be able to talk freely about DESA. Mostly its not for profit aims and objectives for the specialist search dog sector involved in the fight against terrorism. It is clear the Industry has grown considerably and fairly rapidly and with it likewise, the problems have increased and grown. Nowhere more so than in the area of establishing credible standards and it's self regulation problems. The use of UAV's (Drones) for K9 specialist search work was something added to our training requirements early last year with our attendance at MAT Kosovo's excellent and Industry relevant event held in Kosovo, but this will feature more and more as we roll out 'New DESA'.

I have said before and I will repeat here. **Watch this space.** A big thank you to all the Lords, Ladies and likeminded organisations and businesses we met for their support and enthusiasm for our re-launch and DESA's future objectives.

**Jim Vernon (Snr) D.E.S.A (Drugs & Explosives Search Association)**  
*Former Chairman and Founder Member*

