

Press release: Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Sudan in April 2018

Mr Irfan Siddiq OBE has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to Sudan.

Mr Irfan Siddiq OBE has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to Sudan in succession to Mr Michael Aron who will be transferring to another Diplomatic Service appointment. Mr Siddiq will take up his appointment in April 2018.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Full name: Irfan Siddiq

Married to: Penélope Siddiq

Children: Two

2017 – 2018 Plan International, International Advocacy Director
(secondment)

2016 – 2017 FC0, Head, Secondment Unit

2013 – 2016 Baku, Her Majesty's Ambassador

2011 – 2013 FC0, Head, Arab Partnership Department

2010 – 2011 Baghdad, Deputy Head of Mission

2007 – 2010 Damascus, Deputy Head of Mission

2005 – 2007 FC0, Private Secretary to the Foreign Secretary

2004 – 2005 Washington, secondment to US State Department as Political Officer

2003 – 2004 Baghdad, Political Officer, Coalition Provisional Authority

2002 – 2003 Cairo, Second Secretary (Political/Press)

2000 – 2002 Full time language training (Arabic)

2000 – 2000 FC0, Desk Officer, Middle East Peace Process Section

1999 – 2000 New Delhi, Second Secretary (Economic/Commercial)

1998 –1999 FC0, Desk Officer, NATO

1998 Joined FC0

Further information

[Press release: Holiday firm to pay £8,500 after being caught burning waste](#)

A Lincolnshire holiday park company has been ordered to pay over £8,500 after illegally burning waste on one of their sites.

Seaside Leisure Parks Ltd, which operates five parks across the county, was convicted for burning a waste pile consisting of mattresses, sofas, and plastic chairs among other things on 4 July 2017. The Environment Agency (EA), which brought this case against Seaside Leisure, also found evidence of previous waste fires on site.

When EA staff attended the fire in July 2017, they observed acrid smoke from the fire blowing across the caravan site – with the nearest caravan being only 25 meters away.

The Fire and Rescue Service had to attend to put out the fire. Following this incident, the company did not take the appropriate action to remove the waste for another month, instead leaving the waste and fire residues on site. By not paying for legal disposal of the waste, Seaside Leisure Parks Ltd avoided costs of approximately £2,000. The company had previously been warned for the same type of offending in two letters from the EA in 2010. At interview, the company admitted that the waste costs formed a considerable part of their running costs.

Seaside Leisure Parks Ltd was convicted at Lincoln magistrates' Court, and ordered to pay a £5,000 fine as well as £3,496.50 in costs and a victim surcharge of £170.

Commenting, EA Enforcement team leader Mark Rumble said:

Businesses have a legal duty to dispose of their waste correctly. This duty is in place to protect communities and the environment from pollution.

By burning waste illegally on site, Seaside Leisure Parks Ltd put people and wildlife at risk in the interest of financial gain. We hope this verdict demonstrates to other businesses the importance of complying with environmental laws. We will take action against those who do not comply.

[News story: CMA advises Liquefied Petroleum Gas customers on switching rights](#)

In 2017 just 1.3% of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) customers, living on metered estates, switched energy supplier. In response to these low switching figures, the CMA is collaborating with UKLPG, the trade association representing LPG suppliers, to remind customers of their switching rights and supply options.

The CMA has published a [switching factsheet](#) and [short animation](#) for LPG customers on metered estates. Both guides highlight what customers need to know and do in order to switch.

Alongside the CMA's switching factsheet and animation, UKLPG has updated its guidance for members about how best to communicate with residents about their supply and switching options.

Peter Hill, CMA Assistant Director (Remedies):

Having choice is key to ensuring you get a good deal on your energy supply. Switching has to be a collective, unanimous decision on an LPG metered estate – this is why we are urging customers to join with neighbours to make switching decisions together and not to rush into a new contract without speaking to those who live around them first.

UKLPG's Chief Executive Rob Shuttleworth said:

LPG provides low carbon gas to hundreds of thousands of homes not connected to the gas grid. On metered estates, LPG is stored in large communal tanks and then piped to homes to be used just like mains gas.

We welcome the CMA's new publications for metered estate residents and to support this we have produced further [Q&A guidance](#) to equip customers with the information they need to fully understand their energy supply options, this can be accessed via our [website](#).

Press release: Boost for UK auto sector as Toyota confirms new Auris will be built in the UK

- Business Secretary welcomes announcement during visit to Toyota's Burnaston plant in Derbyshire. Derby will be the sole production site for this model in Europe, with engines primarily sourced from Toyota's Deeside plant in north Wales
- Decision secured in part thanks to government investment of more than £20 million last year to support the installation of a new production platform in Burnaston, worth over £240 million
- Announcement confirms the success of the UK's landmark Industrial Strategy [Automotive Sector Deal](#) to secure the future of car production in the UK

International confidence in the UK's automotive sector was bolstered today (Wednesday 28 February) as Toyota announced it will build its new generation Auris model at its Burnaston factory in Derbyshire.

In a further vote of confidence for UK engineering expertise, the majority of engines for the new model will be sourced from the company's Deeside factory in north Wales, helping secure 3,000 jobs across the 2 sites.

Business Secretary Greg Clark welcomed the decision during a visit to the Burnaston factory earlier today, where he met teams who will be working on the new model. The decision was helped in part by government investment of more than £20 million announced last year to support the upgrade of the facility and the installation of a new production platform to make the plant more competitive and enable it to build more advanced vehicles.

The investment follows the publication of last month's landmark sector deal between government and the automotive sector, a vital moment in establishing the UK's leadership in meeting the [Future of Mobility](#) and [Clean Growth](#) Grand Challenges.

Business Secretary Greg Clark said:

We have been clear in our commitment to ensuring the automotive sector continues to go from strength to strength which is why, through the [Industrial Strategy](#), we established a landmark Automotive Sector Deal that will see us working with industry to put the UK at the forefront of new technologies and future investment decisions.

Toyota's decision to build its new Auris model in Burnaston is testament to the highly-skilled and committed workforce that helps make the UK's automotive sector one of the most productive in the

world, and this government will continue work to create the best possible environment to maintain this fruitful relationship.

Secretary of State for Wales Alun Cairns said:

Toyota's commitment to the UK is an enormous economic boost for Deeside and Wales as a whole. Toyota has played a crucial role in helping to demonstrate why Wales continues to be a prime location to invest and do business through its anchor status on Deeside.

I visited the company's HQ in Toyota City in Japan last year where I was encouraged by the long term approach given to their investment decisions.

This major announcement is fantastic news and a massive vote of confidence for UK manufacturing and for Wales as a go-to inward investment destination.

Toyota has a long-established relationship with the UK, producing 4 million vehicles and 5 million engines over the last 25 years. Today's announcement follows Toyota's decision last year to invest over £240 million to upgrade Burnaston to improve the plant's competitiveness by installing its latest production platform – the Toyota New Global Architecture – to ensure the plant produced the most advanced models for the European market. This will be the third generation Auris to be built at the Burnaston factory, underlining the skill and expertise of the plant's world-class staff.

The UK's automotive sector continues to thrive with the UK currently the third largest European car producer with the highest productivity among Europe's automotive producing nations. The sector generates £14.6 billion, representing 8.2% of the UK's total manufacturing gross value added.

[News story: CMA opens SSE Retail/Npower merger investigation](#)



SSE Retail and Npower propose to create a new company to serve their combined domestic retail customers.

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) will now assess whether this deal could significantly reduce competition in the supply of energy to domestic customers in the UK.

The CMA has been discussing the deal with SSE Retail and Npower since it was announced. Now that the companies have provided the information necessary to start an investigation, the CMA has launched its review.

The CMA will investigate the merger on competition grounds, in line with its [merger guidance](#).

The deadline for the initial decision is 26 April 2018. Further details, including how interested parties can submit evidence, are available on the investigation [case page](#).

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