

News story: UK troops deploy to South Sudan to support peacekeeping mission

Touching down in country today, an additional 35 UK military personnel will join the current UK presence providing support to the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

This latest addition to the British contingent will provide engineering support to the UN mission, undertaking projects such as the construction of a jetty on the River Nile, helicopter landing sites and other infrastructure improvements, and will be based mainly in Malakal.

In particular, the Royal Engineers will support the construction of a temporary field hospital in Bentiu. On completion of this, a permanent hospital facility, which will support over 1,800 UN peacekeepers and UN staff, will be constructed. These hospitals will be staffed by medical personnel drawn from all three services.

This latest arrival means around 240 British personnel are now based in South Sudan, primarily split between Malakal and Bentiu in support of UNMISS.

The latest deployment of British troops has arrived in South Sudan. Picture: UNMISS.

Along with a small number of staff officers in the UNMISS headquarters in Juba, the total number of UK military deployed will rise to nearly 400 over the coming months, making it one of the UK's largest operational deployments across the world.

Speech: "The Syrian Regime are using starve or surrender tactics. That is abhorrent and a clear breach of International Humanitarian Law."

Thank you Madam President and thank you also to you, Stephen, for your important briefing today and indeed for all your sterling work.

I want to begin as you did Stephen by wholeheartedly condemning the terrorist attack on desperate civilians as they were being evacuated as part of the Four Towns agreement. It is utterly tragic that over 120 people, including a very high number of children, were brutally killed. The United Kingdom

condemns this terrible attack. We will work to ensure that whoever is responsible is held to account. I wish also to salute the unity and bravery of the humanitarian response including the response of the White Helmets.

Despite a ceasefire being in place since the end of 2016, we continue to witness terrible ongoing violence. In April alone, we know that the Regime or its allies have carried out aerial attacks on at least six hospitals and three schools in Syria. Six hospitals. Three schools. This is utterly deplorable. I hope others will join me in condemning all such incidents. All of us need to do everything in our power to bring the suffering to an end. And so I ask my Russian colleague, what is Russia doing with its leverage to ensure the Regime stops attacking schools and hospitals?

These attacks once again bring into laser focus the urgent and desperate humanitarian needs of 13 million people in Syria. I am especially concerned by the difficulty in reaching the 1.5 million people who live under siege-like conditions and a further 3.2 million in other hard to reach areas in Syria. All of them urgently require food, water, and medicine.

Roughly 5 million Syrians live in besieged and hard-to-reach areas, but the only regime-besieged area to be reached in 2017 was Khan al Shieh, where 6,000 people were reached with aid. The other besieged areas reached are Deir Ez Zour, besieged by Daesh, where the UN carries out air drops; and the Four Towns, besieged by the Iranian-backed Hizballah and armed opposition groups. This is a tiny proportion of aid reaching those people who are in most need of it.

Let me be clear. The Syrian Regime are using starve or surrender tactics. That is abhorrent and a clear breach of International Humanitarian Law.

I am especially concerned about the 420,000 innocent civilians in the besieged part of Eastern Ghouta, where supplies are rapidly running out. There are urgent medical needs, shortages of basic food items, and no water or power supplies.

I fully support Stephen's call for a pause in fighting to allow the UN and its humanitarian partners to safely enter Eastern Ghouta.

At the International Syria Support Group meeting in Geneva on 20 April, Russia committed to press the Regime to allow the UN and its humanitarian partners to access Douma, one part of Eastern Ghouta. What is the situation one week later? The Regime has not acted. There is still no convoy. We owe it to the people of Douma to do everything we can to improve this situation.

The UN has received the requisite assurances from the relevant armed opposition groups to allow them to deliver assistance to Douma, and it has identified a safe route to enter. The only things now lacking are for the Assad regime to issue a facilitation letter and to pause its aerial bombardment of the area for long enough for the UN and its humanitarian partners to enter.

If Russia is unable to ensure that the regime allows access, we call on the

Security Council to act to ensure the UN is able to deliver urgent supplies to Douma in the first instance.

Madam President, I will reiterate now what I have said many times before, there can be no sustainable peace until there is a political transition. The Asad regime bears overwhelming responsibility for the suffering of the Syrian people. I implore the whole of the Security Council to work in unity to end the conflict for the sake of the Syrian people.

Thank you.

[News story: Rare Meissen figure at risk of leaving the UK](#)

The Commedia dell'arte figure is at risk of being exported from the UK unless a buyer can be found to match the asking price of £270,000.

Meissen is renowned across Europe as being the first true hard-paste porcelain factory in 18th century Europe. The rare, fragile and translucent porcelain imported from China and Japan was a source of wonder to kings, princes and aristocrats across Europe at the time, with many attempting to replicate these efforts. The production of hard-paste porcelain was preceded by the creation of a very fine high-fired earthenware.

This stoneware figure is an outstanding example, which demonstrates the cutting-edge technology of the time. It is one of an extremely rare group of models after the Italian Commedia dell'arte theatre, for which the factory at Meissen subsequently became famous.

The item was formerly owned by Emma Budge, a prominent Jewish art collector whose collection was sold at the Graupe Auction House in Berlin in 1937 following her death. The Nazis replaced the executors of her will with their own and the proceeds from the sale were paid into a blocked account. Emma's heirs never received any of the money. The figure was eventually acquired by a prominent member of the Jewish community who escaped Nazi Germany in April 1938.

The decision to defer the export licence follows a recommendation by the [Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest](#) (RCEWA), administered by The Arts Council England.

The RCEWA made its recommendation on the grounds of the figure's aesthetic importance and for its outstanding significance to the study of Meissen porcelain and 18th century sculpture.

The decision on the export licence application for the figure will be

deferred until 1 October. This may be extended until 1 January 2018 if a serious intention to raise funds to purchase it is made at the recommended price of £270,000 (plus VAT of £4,500).

Organisations or individuals interested in purchasing the figure should contact the RCEWA on 0845 300 6200.

An image of the figure can be downloaded from our [flickr site](#).

ENDS

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Notes to editors

1. Details of the figure are as follows: A Meissen Böttger stoneware figure from the Commedia dell'arte, partly polished and with original colouring. 16.4cm high, 85.cm wide, 8.2cm deep. Circa 1710-13. Some surface wear to the colours, slight crack in upper right arm.
2. Details of provenance: Emma Budge Collection. Sold in the Emma Budge Sale, Paul Graupe, Berlin, 27 to 29 September 1937, Lot 779.
3. The [Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest](#) is an independent body, serviced by The Arts Council England, which advises the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on whether a cultural object, intended for export, is of national importance under specified criteria.

[News story: Travel advice on EXPO 2017 in Astana, Kazakhstan](#)

Expo 2017 is an International Exposition scheduled to take place between 10 June and 10 September 2017 in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Dates:

Advice for visitors travelling to Kazakhstan for the Expo 2017 International Exposition in Astana from 10 June to 10 September 10, 2017

Venue:

EXPO 2017 Pavilion in Astana is located between main streets of Astana: Kabanbai batyr avenue, Orynbor street, Hussein bin Talal and Turar Ryskulov streets. * during the exhibition, seven new shuttle-BUS routes will be launched, which will have 250 buses, running from all major points of the city – shopping centres, railway stations and the airport to the territory of the EXPO with a minimum number of stops it can take around 30 minutes to get to the exhibition centre from the city centre * the pavilion is about 3 km from Baiterek City Center, 11 km from the central railway station, 8 km from Astana International airport

Astana, Kazakhstan – Expo 2017 site map can be found [here](#) As well as this advice, check out our [travel advice for Kazakhstan](#)

Visas and Passports

- until 31 December 2017 you can travel to Kazakhstan without a visa, provided your stay does not exceed 30 days (the day you arrive counts as day 1, regardless of arrival time).
- if you wish to stay longer than 30 days, you'll need a visa. You should contact your nearest [Embassy of Kazakhstan](#) for further information.
- your passport should be valid for a minimum period of 6 months from the date of your request for a visa. Your passport should also have at least 1 blank page for your visa
- your passport should be valid for the proposed duration of your stay
- if you violate the conditions of your visa, you could face a short term of imprisonment and/or a ban on entry to Kazakhstan for up to 5 years
- you should carry your passport with you for identification purposes
- always take care of your passport, as getting a replacement is costly and time-consuming. Keep a photocopy separately from the original document, this will help speed up the replacement process if needed
- if you lose your passport, you'll need to get an Emergency Travel Document from the [British Embassy, Astana](#). The service is available within the Embassy working hours

Registration

- for most visits, British passport holders don't need to register with the local authorities
- when entering Kazakhstan, travellers receive a white registration card. You must fill in and retain this card throughout your stay in Kazakhstan.
- if you don't need to register with the local OVIR office (the Department for Visas and Registration under the Ministry of Internal Affairs), you must keep your white immigration card stamped by Kazakh Immigration throughout your journey and present it on departure.
- if you intend to enter through a land or sea border point check with the [Kazakhstan Embassy](#) to see whether registration is required.

Insurance

- take out appropriate [travel insurance](#), even if you're only going for one night; it could save you a lot of money if you get into difficulties. Note there is no reciprocal healthcare agreement between the UK and Kazakhstan.

Local Information

Personal Security:

- be prepared for increased controls and security checks
- most trips are trouble free, however, mugging and theft occur in cities and rural areas foreigners can be targeted.
- although homosexuality isn't prohibited by law, public attitudes are less tolerant than in the UK and public displays of affection may attract negative attention. There's no provision under Kazakhstan legislation guaranteeing freedom from discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation
- look after your personal belongings, in particular your passport and your money
- smoking and drinking alcohol is prohibited in public places; this includes airport and its areas, transport, bus stops, underground crossings, cultural, sports and governmental establishments, playgrounds and parks
- don't get involved with drugs – the penalties are severe

Transportation

- get information on how to get to the [Astana International Airport](#) and [Railway Station](#) to the city centre
- use official taxis which display the name and telephone number of the taxi company. agree a price with the taxi driver for your journey in advance
- buses are the only public transport; price for one way route is 90 KZT but can be overcrowded at peak times

Disabled Travellers

- we've been advised that [Astana EXPO Pavilions](#) will have facilities / access for disabled travellers
- the rest of Astana has very limited facilities for the disabled traveller – the pavements, even on the main roads can be difficult to negotiate for those with disabilities
- access to public transport is also difficult

###Currency:

- the official currency in Kazakhstan is Tenge (KZT). US dollars and Euros are the easiest currency to exchange in Kazakhstan. Sterling may also be exchanged at a more limited number of sites. Scottish and Northern Irish notes aren't accepted. Use only official exchange booths.
- ATMs are available and credit cards are widely used in Astana

- the government of Kazakhstan imposes limits on how much foreign currency can be imported or exported, and certain goods are subject to custom regulations. For further information please visit the website of the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan](#)

Climate and Time

- the average temperature in summer is around 20°C – 25°C during the day. Mostly very windy and dry. You can find information on <http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/1526273>
- Astana is plus 5 hours BST

Language

- the main language is Kazakh. Russian is also widely spoken
- younger generation usually has a good knowledge of English

Religion

- Kazakhstan has predominantly Muslim (70%) population although there are Orthodox Christians (23%) and Catholics (7%)
- respect local traditions, customs, laws and religions at all times and be aware of your actions to ensure they do not offend other cultures or religious beliefs

Consular Assistance

If there's a genuine emergency during your visit to Astana (e.g. one involving accident, injury or loss/theft of your passport) call +7 7172 556 200 and follow the instructions to be put through to a consular officer.

Lost or stolen passports

If your passport is lost or stolen report the loss to the local police as soon as possible and get a copy of the police report. You can't travel back to the UK without a valid travel document. You'll need to apply to the Consular Section of the British Embassy Astana for an Emergency Travel Document (ETD). Please see our [ETD web page](#) for more information.

For more information visit the [British Embassy, Astana](#) Contact the British Embassy Astana 62 Kosmanavtov st, Chubary district Renco Building, 6th floor Telephone: +7 7172 55 62 00 (including out of hours assistance) Email: astana.consular@fco.gov.uk Office hours: Monday-Thursday 9am to 5pm On Friday 9am to 4pm

Emergency services numbers

101 – Fire 102 – Police 103 – Ambulance

Further information

- EXPO 2017 official website: <https://expo2017astana.com/>

[Detailed guide: Waste Practitioner Support and Guidance](#)

Updated: New report added: Management of Waste Failing the Discreet Item Limit (April 2018)

Glossary of key terms

[Glossary of key terms and acronyms in the UK civil nuclear industry produced by Burges Salmon](#)

Legislation

[Guidance on UK Low Level Waste Management Legislation](#)

Introduces UK Government policy and strategy along with legislation relating to solid LLW management.

Waste treatment and disposal routes

[Accessing LLWR Waste Services Guidance](#)

Provides an overview of the waste treatment, disposal and support services available through LLW Repository Ltd.

[Map of the UK nuclear industry and LLW management facilities](#)

Shows the locations of organisations providing treatment and disposal services accessible through LLWR.

Actuals versus forecast data

[NWP/REP/124 Actuals Vs Forecast Data](#)

Provides a summary of actual versus forecast waste diversion and disposal for FY2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16. It compares actuals (as reported in the Waste Metric Dashboards) against forecasts from the UK Radioactive Waste Inventory 2013, the Waste Inventory Form 2013-2015 and the Joint Waste Management Plans for those years.

Waste Hierarchy

[A Good Practice Guide on the Waste Hierarchy](#)

The application of the Waste Hierarchy is mandated by UK policy and

environmental regulation; and is central to the delivery of the national LLW Strategy. It is recognised as good practice in all aspects of radioactive and non-radioactive waste management, and is an essential consideration for determining Best Available Technique.

Best Available Technique (BAT) / Best Practicable Means (BPM) resources and studies

Strategic BAT – this series of national strategic level optioneering studies provides guidance and technical underpinning for waste producers to inform their own local BAT / BPM assessments.

[National Strategic BAT for organic LLW](#)

[National Strategic BAT for LLW metals](#)

[National Strategic BAT for Soil, Concrete, Rubble, and Granular Material LLW](#)

[LLW Asbestos and Asbestos Containing Waste: Gate B \(Preferred Options\) Study Report](#)

[BAT Resource Guide](#)

Provides information to waste producers and other stakeholders on sources of information that could be used when undertaking a BAT/BPM assessment.

[Nuclear industry code of practice \(NiCoP\) on the BAT](#)

Presents the principles, processes and practices that should be used when identifying and implementing BAT for the management of radioactive waste.

[Carbon Emissions Assessment: Low Level Waste Routes](#)

A carbon footprint assessment has been completed for waste treatment and disposal routes for LLW available through LLW Repository Ltd's Waste Services Framework.

Discrete Items

[Discrete Item Decision Summaries](#)

A library of LLW Repository Ltd decisions on whether particular items of waste are Discrete Items or Non Discrete Items. The decision summaries are intended to help waste producers decide whether or not waste items they propose to consign to the Repository, should be recorded as Discrete Items on the LLWR Waste Consignment Information Form.

Project Waste Management Plans

[Guidance on Project Waste Management Plans \(PWMPs\)](#)

Guidance on how to use PWMPs and the benefits that result. A PWMP is a tool

to aid waste management planning and communications between waste generating teams and waste management personnel. The use of PWMPs is considered best practice.

[Project Waste Management Plan \(PWMP\) Template](#)

An editable, blank template can be directly adopted by waste producers, adapted to form a site-specific PWMP, or used to improve an organisation's existing processes where PWMPs are already in use.

Waste informed decommissioning

[Waste Informed Decommissioning Model](#)

Provides information and guidance on how waste informed decommissioning can be planned and executed in the nuclear industry. Waste informed decommissioning is a method of delivering decommissioning to ensure that the optimum decommissioning and waste management outcomes are achieved.

Boundary waste

[Cross Boundary Waste Decision Making Guidance](#)

Provides guidance on decision making for management of wastes close to the LLW and ILW (Intermediate Level Waste) categorisation boundary.

[Management of LLW and ILW/LLW Cross Boundary Pond Furniture](#)

Provides strategic guidance on the UK-wide inventory of pond furniture and the current and credible near-term approaches for managing LLW and ILW/LLW cross boundary pond furniture. Pond furniture is the metallic architecture used for the storage and handling of irradiated fuel in cooling ponds, which has been or is being stored under water.

On-site decay storage principles

[On-site Decay Storage Principles: Issue 1](#)

Aims to help waste producers in their decision making regarding the suitability of on-site decay storage for radioactive waste being managed. Four high-level principles have been developed along with a set of considerations that underpin the principles. These considerations clarify what the principles mean in practice by mapping out what a waste producer needs to consider before, during and after the decay storage period, addressing the full waste management lifecycle.

Managing the non-radiological properties of radioactive waste

[Introductory guidance on the managing the non-radiological properties of radioactive waste](#)

Designed to raise awareness on how to manage the non-radiological properties of radioactive waste consignments being diverted from disposal at the Low Level Waste Repository. Information on these properties may be requested by transport providers, landfill sites that accept Very Low Level Waste or Low Level Waste treatment facilities. The guidance document is split into 4 sections; sections 1-3 contain information on the regulation and management of non-radioactive waste; whilst section 4 introduces the 7 step process for classifying and coding non-radioactive waste, according to the Waste Framework Directive.

In addition to this guidance there is an [NWP eLearning module available](#).

Waste classification

[International Approaches to Radioactive Waste Classification](#)

A comparative review of eleven approaches to radioactive waste classification: the model currently in use in the UK, those recommended by the International Atomic Energy Agency and the European Commission, and a further eight in use or being developed by other countries (Belgium, Finland, France, Japan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the US).

Problematic wastes

Whilst waste treatment and disposal routes are relatively well established for the majority of the UK LLW inventory, there is a population of wastes (known as problematic or orphan wastes) for which there are no identified or available treatment and disposal routes. Identifying these wastes and implementing waste management solutions supports effective decommissioning. Studies have been undertaken to identify the inventory of problematic LLW in the UK and to identify potential waste management solutions for some high priority wastes.

[LLW Problematic Waste Technology Optioneering Summary Report](#)

This document provides a summary of a technology mapping study undertaken in FY14/15 for the priority wastestreams identified from the problematic waste inventory compiled that year – contaminated oils and oil contaminated materials; inorganic and organic ion exchange resins; radium; and surface contaminated items.

[Management of Contaminated Oils Feasibility Study](#)

Analyses the inventory of non-incinerable oils, provides an introduction to each of the 21 potential treatment technologies identified by the study and provides an assessment of the eight most promising technologies.

[LAW Problematic Waste Summary FY 2015/16](#)

Provides a summary of the Lower Activity Waste (LAW) problematic waste inventory collected from waste producers over FY 15/16. It includes information on the volumes of waste, type of waste for high volume groups and

reasoning for problematic status.

[Management of Waste Failing the Discrete Item Limit: Feasibility Study December 2016](#)

[Management of Waste Failing the Discrete Item Limit: Feasibility Study April 2018](#)

Identifies a list of credible options that might be used for the effective management of waste failing the Discrete Item limit; as laid out in the LLW Repository Ltd Waste Acceptance Criteria. It covers three main waste groups: metals with simple geometries, metals with complex geometries; and cemented drums.

Problematic Waste Integrated Project Team

In order to support delivery of the NDA's 2016 Strategy, a Problematic Waste Integrated Project Team (IPT) was established in May 2016. Its objective is to develop a co-ordinated and improved approach to the industry-wide management of problematic radioactive waste. The IPT is being led by LLW Repository Ltd and RWM on behalf of the NDA and includes engagement with a range of stakeholders.

[Scope of the Problematic Waste Integrated Project Team](#)

Provides a one page summary of the scope of the Problematic Waste Integrated Project Team, including its objectives, the work conducted to date and outputs. Contact details for obtaining further information are also provided.

[Summary of Previous Work on Problematic Waste](#)

Summarises existing work on problematic waste, both in the UK and overseas, and provides sign-posting to additional information on treatment processes and technologies for specific problematic waste types.

[Inventory Data Analysis and Prioritisation Calendar Summary](#)

Provides a high-level summary of a project undertaken in FY16/17 to analyse the 2016 problematic waste inventory and to consolidate it into a tool to support the IPT/Community of Practice in work programme prioritisation decisions.

[Problematic Waste Management Case Study: Treatment and Disposal of ILW Dessicant](#)

Provides a short case study on the management of ILW desiccant using a washing process, followed by incineration.

[Problematic Waste Management Case Study – Treatment and Disposal of High Activity Oils](#)

Provides a brief case study on the management of high activity oil waste using an acid washing process followed by incineration.

[Problematic Waste Inventory Summary](#)

Provides a high-level summary of the problematic waste inventory within the UK nuclear industry as collected in 2016.

Other available resources

[LLWR Environmental Safety Case & Permit](#)

[LLWR Waste Services](#)

LLWR offers customers a range of services to safely manage their low level waste in accordance with the Waste Hierarchy through the Waste Services Contract; information and resources are available to enable customers to consign waste through the supplier frameworks, including acceptance criteria, forms & templates, as well as customer notices.

[NDA-estate Joint Waste Management Plans \(JWMPs\)](#)

[Waste Metric Dashboard](#)

[UK Radioactive Waste & Materials Inventory \(UKRWI\)](#)

LLWR and the NDA work together to collate comprehensive and up-to-date information covering waste stream inventory, treatment, packaging and disposition data for LLW and ILW.

[Peer Review & Peer Assist programme and reports](#)

Peer Reviews and Peer Assists are undertaken with waste producers to identify good LLW management practices and opportunities for improvement.

[National Waste Programme Training](#)

Low level waste management classroom training and e-learning (available free of charge).

Contact

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