

New Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration appointed

Home Secretary Priti Patel has today (15 March 2021) welcomed the appointment of David Neal as the new [Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration](#).

The Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration is an independent monitoring body sponsored by the [Home Office](#) that reports on the efficiency and effectiveness of the immigration, asylum, nationality and customs functions carried out by the Home Secretary, officials and others on her behalf.

Mr Neal takes up the role having formerly served as head of the Royal Military Police and Commander of the 1st Military Police Brigade.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

I congratulate David Neal on his appointment as Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration and look forward to working with him as he sets his inspection plan and makes recommendations to drive improvements across the Border, Immigration and Citizenship System.

Mr Neal will start his new role on 22 March 2021 and has been appointed on a 3-year term following a rigorous recruitment process in line with the Governance Code on Public Appointments.

David Neal said:

I am delighted to return to public service in such an important and high-profile role in an area which affects us all. I am honoured that the Home Secretary has appointed me as Chief Inspector, a role that is vital in monitoring and reporting on the efficiency and effectiveness of our country's border and immigration functions. I look forward to leading the team and continuing to deliver a comprehensive and high-quality inspection programme.

David Neal's appointment follows the tenure of David Bolt who steps down from the role of Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration on 21 March 2021.

David Neal was appointed by HM The Queen as the Provost Marshal (Army) and commanded the 1st Military Police Brigade from 2016 until 2019.

He led the Royal Military Police through major reforms including the Service

Justice System Review, and was responsible for Operation Northmoor, the Royal Military Police investigation into allegations of illegal killings by British troops in Afghanistan.

From 2015 to 2016 he was the senior Military Police and Gendarmerie officer in NATO's Allied Rapid Reaction Corps.

From 2012 to 2015 he was responsible for the assurance and inspection of the United Kingdom's detention facilities across the world, including in Afghanistan and on Royal Navy ships.

From 2011 to 2012 Mr Neal was an instructor and mentor at the Joint Services Command and Staff College educating and developing UK and international students from the military and civil service, in preparation for their assumption of high rank.

Mr Neal graduated from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 1994 having read English Literature at Bangor University. He is a Chartered Security Professional and Chartered Manager.