

# Change of Her Majesty's Consul-General to Jerusalem: Spring 2021

Press release

Ms Diane Corner OBE has been appointed Her Majesty's Consul-General to Jerusalem in succession to Mr Philip Hall OBE.



Ms Diane Corner OBE has been appointed Her Majesty's Consul-General to Jerusalem in succession to Mr Philip Hall OBE. Ms Corner will take up her appointment during Spring 2021.

## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

Full name: Diane Corner

Married to: Peter Stocker

Children: Four daughters

2019 to present Full-time Language Training (Arabic)

2019 Washington, Counsellor – Foreign and Security Policy

2018 to 2019 FCO, Senior Co-ordinator for International Appointments, Multilateral Policy Directorate

2017 to 2018 Independent consultant for the United Nations and other organizations, and study for MA in International Relations and Contemporary War at Kings College London

2014 to 2017 Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary General and Deputy Head of UN Mission in Central African Republic (MINUSCA)

2013 to 2014 Kinshasa, Her Majesty's Ambassador and non-resident Ambassador to the Republic of Congo

2009 to 2013 Dar Es Salaam, British High Commissioner and UK Representative to the East African Community

2008 to 2009 Freetown, Acting High Commissioner

2005 to 2008 FCO, Director, Prism then Shared Services Programmes

2004 to 2005	Cabinet Office, Chief Assessor for Civil and Diplomatic Services Fast Stream recruitment
2003 to 2004	FCO, Head of Human Resources, Employment Policy Department
2001 to 2003	Harare, Deputy High Commissioner
2000	Senior Course, NATO Defence College, Rome
1998 to 2000	FCO, Deputy Head, OSCE/Council of Europe Department
1994 to 1998	Berlin, Deputy Head of Mission, British Embassy Office
1991 to 1993	Cabinet Office, Desk Officer for China/Hong Kong and Middle East
1989 to 1991	FCO, First Secretary, Central and Southern Africa Department
1988	UNGA Support Officer, UK Mission to the United Nations, New York
1985 to 1988	Kuala Lumpur, Second Secretary – Chancery
1983 to 1985	FCO, Desk Officer for South Africa
1982	Joined FCO

### **Further information**

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## **[Shielding update: letter to patients, 22 June 2020](#)**

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## **[Homes England reaffirms commitment to](#)**

# the north east by relocating to Newcastle office

Government housing agency Homes England has signed a deal with Newcastle City Council to lease office space in the city centre's new building, The Lumen.

The agency currently has a north east base in Gateshead, with the relocation to Newcastle expected to take place later this year.

With several live development sites in the region, Homes England is committed to investing in the area. Schemes include the East Quayside development, which will see almost 300 build-to-rent apartments on the banks of the River Tyne, and Newburn Riverside, where the agency is preparing to submit an outline planning application for up to 1,250 homes later this year.

Homes England is also working in partnership with Newcastle City Council and Places for People Igloo on the continued development of the Ouseburn scheme, where work is currently on site for the next phase of 28 new homes at Lower Steenberg Yard.

The Lumen is located at the heart of Newcastle Helix, a unique partnership between Newcastle City Council, Legal & General and Newcastle University. The 24-acre development brings together industry leaders, businesses and top researchers into an internationally renowned innovation cluster. It is an exemplar of sustainable urban development which combines prestigious commercial and residential space with first-class research and education facilities. Newcastle Helix comprises £350 million of capital development and aims to host 4,000 jobs, 500,000 square foot of office space and more than 500 homes once complete.

Homes England's new 19,316 square foot office space will have capacity for up to 300 staff and demonstrates the agency's commitment to be a significant employer in the north east region and contributing to the government's levelling-up agenda. Fit-out works are due to complete in the Autumn, creating an agile and collaborative office space designed for the future. Homes England has been represented in negotiations by property agent Avison Young.

Simon Dudley, Interim Chair of Homes England, said:

With this move, we are reaffirming our commitment to employing the majority of our colleagues outside of London and locating ourselves in the heart of regions which are key to us delivering our mission of getting more homes built where they're most needed.

While moving back to an office-based work life may still be some time away, we are taking a long-term view and remain committed to investing in the north east region and being a significant employer here. Moving to this larger, more collaborative office space will

allow the agency to grow and ramp up our work in the north east.

Councillor Ged Bell, Cabinet Member for Employment and Culture at Newcastle City Council, said:

The Lumen has marked a huge milestone in the Newcastle Helix story, and we are thrilled that Homes England will be moving in later this year. Not only is Newcastle Helix a place for business, it's a place for innovation and new ways of living.

By being based in Newcastle Helix, Homes England will be able to benefit from being co-located with business, academics and local experts – supporting them to accelerate the delivery of much-needed new homes. With grade A office space, cutting edge facilities, shared working spaces and flexible floor plates The Lumen is a place where companies can collaborate and be part of a vision that looks to improve lives, now and in the future.

Tony Wordsworth, Director of Offices at Avison Young, said:

The Lumen building brings forward a significant contribution to the dwindling supply of Grade A office stock in Newcastle's city centre. The Lumen is a sustainable building with excellent transport links and will meet Homes England's requirements for a high-specification, accessible office space from which to operate in the north east.

This letting shows there is a strong level of latent demand for high-quality city centre offices, which bodes well for other schemes in the development pipeline.

Gordon Aitchison, Director of Investment and Development at LGIM Real Assets, said:

The Lumen is an exceptional space, providing opportunity for collaboration with leading academics, researchers and business people. I am sure the site will be a fantastic new base for Homes England, helping to drive economic, social and housing growth in the north of England.

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# £80 million boost to cut emissions from homes and industry

Press release

Nearly £80 million investment from government to reduce carbon emissions from industry and homes.



- Nearly £80 million investment from government to reduce carbon emissions from industry and homes
- first phase to help heavy industry go green, helping to cut energy costs, protect jobs, and cut carbon emissions
- new green homes programme will retrofit homes with latest green tech, helping people save money on their energy bills

Energy Minister Kwasi Kwarteng has announced nearly £80 million of government investment to help cut carbon emissions from homes and energy intensive businesses.

The funding will be invested in a wide range of programmes, including pioneering heat network trials and an innovative new programme to bring down the cost of retrofitting residential properties with the latest energy efficiency technologies.

Funds announced today include:

- £30 million towards the first phase of the Industrial Energy Transformation Fund (IETF), which supports energy intensive manufacturers, like car factories and steel plants, to cut their carbon footprint
- £25 million for heat networks, which reduce carbon and cut heating bills for customers, including one which will harness geothermal water sitting in disused mines to heat 1,250 homes
- £24 million for innovative projects to help develop energy efficient homes by installing green tech and insulation in houses

Energy Minister Kwasi Kwarteng said:

We want to invest now to ensure we continue to propel the UK towards a stronger, greener future.

This new £80 million investment will help to reduce emissions across our economy, which will save people money on energy bills and protect jobs in heavy industry.

[Phase 1 of the IETF](#), for which guidance is published today, is worth an initial £30 million in support of the manufacturing sector. The fund allows companies with high energy use to apply for grants to install technology that reduces their energy bills and cuts carbon emissions.

Worth an eventual £289 million in England, Wales and Northern Ireland up until 2024, the IETF also seeks to help bring down the costs of technologies that reduce energy consumption and emissions in heavy industrial processes.

£25 million will go towards heat networks, including one in Gateshead, which will harness hot geothermal water sitting in disused mines to heat 1,250 homes. With thousands of redundant mine shafts criss-crossing the country, experts say that if the mine shaft technology proves successful and economically viable, it could be scaled up to power around 6 million homes around Britain.

The final £24 million green homes investment will comprise of:

- £7.7 million to install green technology and insulation in over 300 council houses, to bring down the cost of retrofitting homes – with pilot projects in Cornwall, Nottingham, and Sutton
- £14.6 million to pilot the roll-out of innovative heat pumps to 750 homes in the South East of Scotland, the South East of England and Newcastle
- £1.8 million to support the development of innovative green home finance products by lenders.

The announcements today form part of the wider efforts to ensure the UK meets its legally binding target to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

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## [DWP service update](#)

Press release

On 26 June 2020, the Financial Conduct Authority placed a number of restrictions on Wirecard Card Solutions LTD.



Those who hold accounts by which Wirecard is the parent company will be affected. Their pre-payment cards will no longer be of use at cash machines and in shops, and they will no longer be able to access their accounts until the restrictions are lifted.

This will affect the following brands, among others:

- Revolut
- Pockit
- Soldo
- Anna Money
- Curve

If you receive DWP payments of any kind into accounts held by the brands listed above, or have not been able to access your account since Friday 26 June 2020, please call the enquiry line specific to the benefit or pension you receive.

These numbers can be found at the top of any correspondence customers have received from the DWP and are listed below. More information can be access on the relevant benefit pages [here](#).

We will not ask for your account details, but will request your security information. We will ask that those affected provide alternative method of payment details so that we can issue the support you need as soon as possible.

We will be contacting claimants affected by this issue. We would never ask for your account details on these calls.

We understand this may be a worrying time, and are here to help you with your benefit payments and let you know about other help that is available.

Universal Credit

0800 328 5644

Attendance Allowance

0800 731 0122

Bereavement Benefit

0800 731 0139

Bereavement Support

0800 731 0469

Carers Allowance

0800 731 0297

Pension Credit

0800 99 1234

State Pension

0800 731 7898

Personal Independence Payment

0800 121 4433

Disability Living Allowance

0800 121 4600

Industrial Injuries

0800 121 8379

Employment Support Allowance

0800 328 5644 (choose option 2)

Income Support

0800 169 0310

Jobseekers Allowance

0800 169 0310

Maternity Allowance

0800 169 0283

Social Fund

0800 169 0140

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