

Sir George Norton appointed as next Commandant of the Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS)

News story

Sir George Norton will assume command on 21 July 2020.



Sir George Norton MOD Crown Copyright

The Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS) is pleased to announce the appointment of Lieutenant General Sir George Norton as its next Commandant. Sir George joins RCDS after 38 years of service in the British Army, most recently as the UK Military Representative to NATO and to the European Union. He will assume command on 21 July.

The current Commandant, Rear Admiral John Kingwell, said:

I am delighted to welcome Sir George to RCDS; his wealth of experience makes him ideally placed to lead both the College's cross-government efforts and the College itself. I look forward to working with him and to handing over to him next month.

Between now and when he takes up the post, Sir George will be leading the National Security Senior Faculty within RCDS in the delivery of short, strategic fora and educational events for British and international decision-makers.

Sir George Norton said:

I am delighted to be appointed to this role. I much look forward to joining an excellent team and leading the College in the fulfilment of its international and cross-government responsibilities,

particularly at this time of complex and accelerating strategic change.

Located in Belgravia, London, close to the heart of government, RCDS is the senior college of the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom. Each year its principal academic course prepares more than 100 senior British and international military, civil service and private sector officials for strategic leadership roles.

In line with government direction to slow the spread of COVID-19, all defence sites have taken measures to prioritise the safety of students and staff. They continue to train and educate students in line with government guidance, in particular by implementing opportunities for more digital ways of working and learning. Further information on the College can be found on the [Defence Academy website](#).

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UK Government supports nearly 800,000 jobs across Scotland

New statistics show that nearly 800,000 jobs (up to the end of May) across Scotland have been saved by the UK Government's unprecedented package of coronavirus support.

The [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](#) has furloughed 628,000 Scottish jobs, and the UK Government has spent £425 million on supporting 146,000 self-employed people in Scotland through the [Self-Employment Income Support Scheme](#).

Both schemes were announced by the Chancellor in March, at the start of the pandemic, as part of a package of measures to support jobs, businesses and individuals affected by the outbreak.

Rishi Sunak, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said:

The UK Government is doing everything we can to, protect jobs and businesses in Scotland and across the UK during the crisis. Our unprecedented job retention and self-employment support schemes have supported the livelihoods of millions and will help ensure our recovery is as swift and possible.

Scottish Secretary Alister Jack said:

So far, nearly 800,000 jobs across Scotland have been saved by direct UK Government coronavirus support. Through the job retention scheme 628,000 Scottish jobs have been furloughed, and the UK Government has spent £425 million on supporting 146,000 self-employed people in Scotland. People and businesses in Scotland have also benefited from UK-wide schemes such as VAT deferral, company loans and Universal Credit. In addition, the Scottish Government has been allocated an extra £3.8 billion in coronavirus funding through the Barnett Formula.

The UK Government is doing whatever it takes to get Scotland, and the whole of the UK, through the coronavirus pandemic and ensure our economy can get back on track. This unprecedented package of UK Government support is protecting Scottish jobs and businesses, and will ensure that Scotland's economy can recover for the future.

The UK Government has pledged to extend the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme until the end of October, with flexible part-time furloughing beginning in July to support businesses as the economy reopens.

The Self-Employment Income Support Scheme has also been extended with those eligible able to claim a second and final grant in August of up to £6,570.

The two schemes are part of a comprehensive economic package of support including business loans, income tax and VAT deferrals, increased levels of Universal Credit and mortgage holidays.

GAD helps develop support for the trade credit insurance sector

News story

GAD has helped develop trade credit insurance schemes backed by £10 billion of government guarantees.



The Government Actuary's Department (GAD) has played a central role in new measures to support the credit insurance market, with a reinsurance underpin.

GAD was part of the advisory and analytical team behind the development of the [Trade Credit Insurance schemes](#) backed by £10 billion of government guarantees. This will provide essential cover to thousands of business-to-business transactions and will see the majority of trade credit insurance coverage maintained across the UK.

Cross government working

In developing this unique challenge, GAD worked closely with the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and other government departments and agencies.

The scheme is available on a temporary basis for 9 months; it has been backdated to 1 April 2020 and will run until the end of December 2020, with the possibility of extension. It is available for insurers operating in the UK market and the measures will support thousands of businesses by protecting against customer defaults or payment delays.

Modelling scenarios

Actuary Jacqui Draper who led on the project in GAD said:

“We produced financial models to help the government understand the implications of guaranteeing business-to-business transactions previously supported by trade credit insurance. Our modelling meant that policy makers could explore costs under various scenarios to better understand the potential implications of different scheme structures.

“Policy makers then used these models during their negotiations with the insurance industry to estimate the potential implications on government finances. This means the scheme ensures firms are supported with risk which is shared appropriately between the government and insurers.”

Helping UK business

Trade Credit Insurance underwrites an estimated £350 billion of economic activity of more than 630,000 businesses in the UK each year. Implementation

of the scheme is subject to state aid approval, agreement of full form documentation with insurers and acceptance of applications from insurers for participation.

This reinsurance scheme will help struggling businesses at risk of having their credit insurance withdrawn or their premiums raised beyond sustainable levels. This will help business to continue to operate, protecting jobs and supply chains.

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[Regulating the waste industry during the coronavirus pandemic](#)

Press release

The Environment Agency continues to respond to reports of illegal waste sites, even during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.



The illegal waste site in the Bulkington area of North Warwickshire

On Wednesday 3 June the Environment Agency's West Midlands illegal waste site team joined forces with the Warwickshire Police Rural Crime team to attend an illegal waste site in the Bulkington area of North Warwickshire.

They found the land was being filled with general waste materials and topped off with soil. The land was not permitted to be receiving waste materials of any kind.

At the time of their attendance, officers witnessed two articulated lorries at the site, which were in the process of being unloaded. The officers instructed the drivers to refill the lorries with the waste they had

deposited and move off the site. An excavator that was on hire was also repatriated to its owner.

During the visit, police officers also identified and seized a previously stolen piece of plant machinery. An investigation into the illegal waste activity is now under way.

A spokesperson for the illegal waste sites team, said:

There may be a global pandemic affecting the UK but that doesn't give waste criminals an excuse. We remain committed to reducing waste crime and reducing the opportunities for those operating illegally to do so.

Land and property owners need to be extra vigilant during this pandemic to avoid being a victim of waste crime. Waste criminals are targeting land and property, they may offer cash to store waste promising to come back and remove it but never do, or, they may dump the waste without the owner's knowledge.

We urge owners to check empty land and property regularly and make sure they are secure as any waste stored on their property without the relevant permissions could leave the landowner liable to prosecution and costs to remove the waste.

Everyone has a part to play to help solve the waste crime problem and make sure waste is managed responsibly. If you pass your waste to someone else to take away for you, you must first check they are registered with the Environment Agency so it doesn't end up in the hands of operators who break the law.

Businesses and householders should carry out checks to ensure that they are using legitimate companies to deal with their waste. You can check if a waste carrier is genuine by visiting the Environment Agency's [public register](#).

Anyone who suspects a company is operating illegally can call the Environment Agency 24/7 on 0800 80 70 60 or report it anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Notes to editors

- An illegal waste site is any site routinely operating without a permit or outside of its permit limits. They pose a risk of harm to the health of people and the environment.
- Waste site owners should make sure their site is legal and [check they have the right permit](#) for their activities.
- You must [register with the Environment Agency](#) to legally operate as a

waste carrier, broker or dealer.

- [More information on the Environment Agency's regulatory approach.](#)
- To support business to meet the challenge of operating during the pandemic, the Environment Agency has put in place a number of regulatory position statements, which help businesses minimise risks to the environment and human health where, for reasons beyond their control, compliance with certain regulatory requirements may not be possible due to coronavirus.

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[Domestic Abuse Bill 2020: letter from ministers to Jess Phillips MP](#)

Correspondence from Victoria Atkins MP and Alex Chalk MP, to Jess Phillips MP following the second reading of the Domestic Abuse Bill 2020.

The letter thanks members for their contributions and sets out the government's position on some of the issues raised ahead of committee stage.