

[Near miss with track workers at Paddington Subway Junction](#)

News story

Near miss with track workers at Paddington Subway Junction, west London, 18 July 2022.



Forward facing CCTV showing the track workers moving clear of the train (courtesy of Great Western Railway)

At around 01:17 hrs on 18 July 2022, a passenger train travelling towards Paddington station was involved in a near miss with two track workers. At the time of the incident, the two track workers were facing away from the train and walking very near to the track on which it was approaching. The train was traveling at around 24 mph (39 km/h) when the near miss occurred. The track workers moved clear of the path of the train around one to two seconds before it passed them.

We have undertaken a [preliminary examination](#) into the circumstances surrounding this incident. Having assessed the evidence which has been gathered to date, we have decided to publish a [safety digest](#).

The safety digest will be made available on our website in the next few weeks.

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Further bankruptcy restrictions for Bounce Back Loan abuse

Five individuals have separately been made subject to bankruptcy restrictions totalling 48 years as the Insolvency Service continues to identify and tackle abuse of the Bounce Back Loan scheme.

In each of the five separate cases, the Bounce Back Loans were either wrongfully obtained through overstating their businesses turnover, or on behalf of a company that had already ceased trading prior to the pandemic, or were simply misused for personal use rather than legitimate business spending.

- Charlene Wilson was a self-employed beauty therapist based in Jarrow. She received a £50,000 Bounce Back Loan by overstating her turnover and spent around £15,000 on personal expenses. She has accepted bankruptcy restrictions for 8 years.
- Georgiana Cercel ran a beauty business from her home in Lincoln while studying full-time. She received a £50,000 Bounce Back Loan by overstating her business turnover, and gave £10,000 to her sister. She is subject to bankruptcy restrictions for 10 years.
- Florin Bodale worked as a building contractor through his company Varga Construction. He obtained a £50,000 Bounce Back Loan by overstating his turnover, although he told investigators he believed he had been asked for total turnover for the previous 3 years. However this amount would still have been less than half the turnover he stated. He has accepted a 10-year bankruptcy restrictions undertaking.
- Sarah Sweeting ran a farm shop home delivery service from October 2020. She obtained a £22,000 Bounce Back Loan despite not being eligible as businesses had to have been trading prior to March 2020. Of the £22,000, she transferred around £14,000 to her husband. She is subject to a 10-year bankruptcy restrictions undertaking.
- Abbas Moradmand ran a tyre business from 2018 to 2019 after which point he worked as a taxi driver. After a short closure the business re-opened and continues to trade under new ownership. However, Moradmand secured a Bounce Back Loan of £26,894 to which he was not entitled as it was based on an application on behalf of his former tyre business. He has accepted a 10-year bankruptcy restrictions undertaking.

Their bankruptcy restrictions mean none of the above individuals are able to borrow more than £500 without disclosing their bankrupt status. They also cannot act as a company director without permission from the court.

In each of the above cases the local Official Receiver is working on potential recovery action.

Kevin Read, Official Receiver at the Insolvency Service, said:

In all of these cases it was obvious, or it should have been obvious, that they either misused the Bounce Back Loan for personal benefit, took a larger loan than they were eligible for, or weren't eligible for a Bounce Back Loan at all.

This is taxpayers' money they have abused and we will not hesitate to impose bankruptcy restrictions in these circumstances.

Notes to editors

Charlene Kylie Wilson is of South Shields, and her date of birth is July 1988. Details of her undertaking is available on the [Individual Insolvency Register](#)

Georgiana Mariana Cercel is of Lincoln, and her date of birth is July 1995. Details of her undertaking is available on the [Individual Insolvency Register](#)

Florin Petrisor Bodale is of Harrow, and his date of birth is June 1990. Details of his undertaking is available on the [Individual Insolvency Register](#)

Sarah Louise Sweeting is of Bromley, and her date of birth is November 1974. Details of her undertaking is available on the [Individual Insolvency Register](#)

Abbas Moradmamand is of Bournemouth, and his date of birth is January 1971. Details of his undertaking is available on the [Individual Insolvency Register](#)

Bankruptcy restrictions are wide ranging. The effects are the same whether you are subject to a bankruptcy restrictions order or to an undertaking. Guidance on the main statutory consequences flowing from a [bankruptcy restrictions order or undertaking](#).

[Information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct.](#)

Contact Press Office

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

[Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Chad: Jon Dean](#)

Press release

Mr Jon Dean has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Chad in succession to Mr Mark Matthews.



Mr Jon Dean has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Chad in succession to Mr Mark Matthews who will be transferring to another Diplomatic Service appointment. Mr Dean will take up his appointment at the beginning of September 2022.

Curriculum vitae

Full name: Jon Mark Dean

Year	Role
2020 to 2021	New York, Head of Corporate Services
2018 to 2020	United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, Secondment, New York
2014 to 2018	FCO, Head of Iraq Team, Middle East and North Africa Directorate
2013 to 2014	Juba, Deputy Head of Mission and Consul
2013	Yaoundé, Deputy High Commissioner and Consul (3 months)
2012	New York, UK Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Second Secretary Political (3 months)
2009 to 2012	Brasília, Second Secretary Political
2007 to 2008	FCO, Desk Officer, Kosovo
2005 to 2006	FCO, Desk Officer, EU Environment Policy
2005	Joined the FCO
2002 to 2004	PricewaterhouseCoopers, Systems Assurance Associate
2001 to 2002	Oxford University, Master of Science
1999 to 2001	International Fund for Agricultural Development, Rome, Participatory Impact Assessment Consultant

Further information

All the latest news is available on the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office page of the gov.uk website at: www.gov.uk/fcdo

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[First Meeting of the UK Commission on Covid Commemoration](#)

News story

The UK Commission on Covid Commemoration held its first meeting.



UK Commission on Covid Commemoration

The Commission met for the first time, virtually, on Friday 29 July 2022.

They considered existing Covid commemoration initiatives highlighting their interest in understanding what is already being done around the United Kingdom. The Commission agreed that the recently launched [local Covid Commemoration survey](#) would provide a great source of information and play an important part in setting a helpful context to their work and ensuring that their work supplements and supports existing initiatives.

The Commission is looking forward to taking this very important work forward and starting to engage with stakeholders and the public.

The Commission will meet again in early September.

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[Call for Bids: China Network's International Programme \(Open](#)

Societies) Fund 2022/23

World news story

The British Embassy in Beijing is pleased to open a call for bids to the China Network's International Programme (Open Societies) for projects running between 15 October 2022 and 31 March 2023.



All projects should aim to support improvements to and/or increase understanding and awareness of contemporary human rights in China. Issues on which we welcome bids include – but are not limited to:

- Freedom of expression including media freedom and countering disinformation
- Religious and cultural rights, including for minority groups.
- Technology and human rights
- Criminal justice reform
- Civil Society resilience

This bidding round will only fund projects running between 15 October 2022 and 31 March 2023. All project outputs, including finalised research/analytical products, must be completed by 31 March 2023.

We anticipate a further call for bids early in the next calendar year. If bidders see potential for their project to extend into a subsequent project

beyond 31st March 2023, bidders are welcome to explain how this might be achieved in the project summary.

Selection Criteria

Bids will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Project design: Feasibility of activities and outputs including the capacity of implementing organisation to deliver outcomes.
- Impact: Supporting identifiable, meaningful improvements to or deepened awareness and understanding of open societies and human rights issues in China. Working together with other diverse partners to enhance impact of the project.
- Scalability: The potential for the project to act as a building block for subsequent expansion/work improving human rights.
- Viability and risks: Clear engagement/buy-in of key stakeholders. Robust analysis of key risks including clear consideration of Covid-related risks (particularly if operating in China), and a plan of action to manage and mitigate those risks.
- Value for money: Comparable and reasonable costs against the scale of achievable outcomes

We draw your attention to the below key points:

- Proposals should be between £20,000 – £80,000 (210,000 RMB – 840,000 RMB).
- All funding must be activity-based (i.e. not for general support staff costs (admin, finance support), office rental etc.).

Process

1. Project proposals must be received by 23:59 (GMT) on Friday 9 September 2022. Late proposals will not be considered.
2. Proposals must be submitted using the attached forms only (Project Proposal Form and Activity Based Budget), which must be completed in English.
3. Proposals must be submitted to: China.InternationalProgramme@fcdo.gov.uk

Important Information to Note

- Project payments will be paid in arrears in two instalments. Implementers must have enough resourcing to fund half of the project costs at a time.
- If the project involves work with children or vulnerable adults, implementing partners can reflect a proportion of safeguarding costs as legitimate overheads in their bid, or include programme-specific safeguarding budget lines.

- If the project is approved, implementers will be expected to sign a Grant Agreement with the British Embassy Beijing.

Attachments

[Project Proposal Template](#)

[Activity Based Budget Template](#)

Guidance

[Project Proposal – Guidance](#)

[Activity Based Budget – Guidance](#)

[Grant Agreement Template](#)

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