

Planned system maintenance: 11pm 31 October to 4 November 2019

The UK is preparing to leave the EU on 31 October 2019.

When we leave, all existing EU Trade Marks (EUTM), Registered Community Designs (RCDs) and International Registrations designating the EU will only cover the remaining 27 EU Member States. These registered rights will no longer provide protection in the UK.

On exit day, holders of existing EUTMs and International trade marks designating the EU will be provided with a comparable UK trade mark. Holders of an existing RCD and an International design designating the EU will be provided with a re-registered design. The Intellectual Property Office (IPO) will need to amend our systems and undertake maintenance to recognise the creation of these rights.

This work will affect our internal and external services for trade marks and designs.

Essential work will take place from 11pm 31 October 2019 until 4 November 2019.

Effect on services

The following services will be affected:

Trade marks

Designs

To note: patents are unaffected by this disruption. You are still able to apply and renew through the normal process.

Effect on dates

Digital application services will be unavailable on this date.

If the filing date of 31 October 2019 – 04 November 2019 is important you can apply for a [trade mark](#) or [design](#) through our paper application channels.

Customers can file an [opposition](#) between 31 October 2019, 01 November 2019 or 04 November 2019 as services using the paper form are unaffected.

You will not be able to file a threatened [opposition](#) and we advise that you do this in advance of 11pm on 31 October 2019. Customers should contact our information centre at information@ipo.gov.uk if they need to file during this service disruption.

You should respond in advance of any deadlines set by the IPO for your trade mark (including Right Start payments) or design application if it falls on 31 October 2019, 01 November 2019 or 04 November 2019.

Effect on our customer service delivery

Internal services will be affected on 01 November and 04 November 2019.

This means we will be unable to view and advise on the progress of your trade mark or design application. All areas of our internal services, from receipt to post-registration of applications will be unavailable.

For more information please refer to [Intellectual property and Brexit](#).

Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia: Neil Crompton



Mr Neil Crompton has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in succession to Mr Simon Collis CMG

Mr Neil Crompton has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in succession to Mr Simon Collis CMG who will be retiring from the Diplomatic Service. Mr Crompton will take up his appointment during February 2020.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Full name: Neil Crompton

Married to: Rosa Zaragoza

Children: Two

2019 Full-time Language Training (Arabic)

2015 to 2019 FC0, Director, Middle East and North Africa Directorate

2014 to 2015 FCO, Deputy Political Director, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Directorate, and South Asia and Afghanistan Directorate
2012 to 2014 FCO, Director, South Asia and Afghanistan Directorate
2007 to 2011 Washington, Counsellor, Foreign and Security Policy Department, Joint Intelligence Committee Representative
2005 to 2007 FCO, Iran Coordinator, Iran Department
2003 to 2005 FCO, Head of Iraq Policy Unit
1999 to 2003 Tehran, Deputy Head of Mission
1998 to 1999 Full-time Language Training (Farsi)
1997 to 1998 FCO, Head of Iran Section
1995 to 1997 FCO, Senior Research Officer, Middle East and North Africa Group

Further information

Published 22 October 2019

[Government lifts restrictions on flights to Sharm El-Sheikh](#)



Restrictions on flights between Sharm El-Sheikh Airport and the UK have been lifted, the government has announced today (22 October 2019).

Improvements in security procedures at the airport, and close co-operation between the UK and Egypt on aviation security, mean commercial airlines can now be allowed to operate routes to and from the airport.

This is the first step in the resumption of flights to Sharm El-Sheikh, which is a popular destination for UK holidaymakers. This decision supports air carriers to provide more choice to travellers hoping to visit the country.

The government will work with air carriers that have expressed an interest in operating flights as they develop their plans.

Grant Shapps, Secretary of State for Transport said:

We look forward to services to Sharm El-Sheikh resuming, and lifting the restriction is the first step in that process.

The safety and security of British nationals remains our top priority and this decision follows close co-operation between our aviation security experts and their Egyptian counterparts, and improvements in security procedures at the airport.

We will now work closely with airlines who wish to resume flights to and from the airport.

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UN General Assembly 74 First Committee: thematic debate on nuclear weapons

The United Kingdom aligns itself with the statement made by the EU. Allow me to add the following in our national capacity.

Mr Chair,

The UK remains committed to a world without nuclear weapons, with undiminished security for all, and to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The 2020 Review Conference, on the 50th anniversary of the Treaty's entry into force, provides an opportunity to celebrate its successes and come together to strengthen its future.

The Treaty and the IAEA safeguards that underpin it have helped to make us safer and more prosperous. They have extended the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, provided a framework for substantial disarmament and minimised the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Our commitment to the step-by-step approach to nuclear disarmament under the NPT remains undiminished. That commitment is not just rhetorical; we have demonstrated it by our actions over the years.

While the UK's independent nuclear deterrent remains essential to our security today, and will do so for as long as the global security situation demands, it is maintained at a minimum credible level. We have reduced our deterrent to a single delivery system, and our operationally available

warheads to no more than 120, of which just 40 are deployed. We also remain committed to reducing our overall stockpile to no more than 180 warheads by the next decade.

The ongoing programme to maintain and renew elements of our nuclear deterrent capability to ensure its continued safety and reliability is a necessary aspect of being a responsible Nuclear Weapon State, and is fully consistent with our obligations under Article VI of the NPT

The UK continues to support the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and Organisation, and the start and early conclusion of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty in the Conference on Disarmament. We have maintained a voluntary moratorium on the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other explosive nuclear devices since 1995.

The UK contributes actively to work on nuclear disarmament verification, including through international initiatives such as the IPNDV and the Quad Partnership with Sweden, Norway and the US. In that regard we are proud to co-sponsor resolution L.22 on Nuclear Disarmament Verification, which we commend to the Committee.

The UK also welcomes other efforts to explore realistic paths to nuclear disarmament, including the United States' Creating the Environment for Nuclear Disarmament initiative and Sweden's Stepping Stones initiative.

We are also committed to increasing transparency, to the extent possible, and to improving our reporting on our NPT obligations and undertakings.

The UK does not, however, intend to support, sign or ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The Ban Treaty risks undermining the NPT, ignores the security environment and does not address the technical and procedural challenges that must be overcome to achieve nuclear disarmament in a secure and responsible manner.

Mr Chair,

At the same time, we must acknowledge the serious challenges that exist in the security environment.

Russia's decision to continue to develop and deploy destabilising new nuclear capabilities threatens global security. Earlier this year, their decision to deploy a prohibited missile system led to the collapse of the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty. We regret that Russia showed no willingness and took no demonstrable steps to return to compliance with its international obligations. Russia bears sole responsibility for the Treaty's demise.

We remain committed to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and as such are deeply concerned by Iran's moves to reduce nuclear compliance. We urge Iran to reverse its actions and adhere fully to its commitments. We are working closely with partners on diplomatic efforts to engage Iran on negotiations for a long-term framework for its nuclear programme as well as on its destabilising regional activity.

North Korea's nuclear programme poses a threat to regional and global security and the integrity of the NPT regime. We urge North Korea to engage in further dialogue to decrease tensions on the Korean Peninsula and to undertake complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation.

It is against the backdrop of this challenging security environment that the NPT remains so important. It is a fundamental pillar of international security and the only framework we have to limit nuclear proliferation and pave the way for a world without nuclear weapons. That is why the UK continues to campaign for the universalisation of the NPT. As the 2020 Review Conference approaches, we remain determined to work with partners across the international community to strengthen the NPT that benefits us all.

Driving commercial use of quantum technology: apply for funding

New products and services based on the latest quantum technologies could transform the automotive, healthcare, infrastructure, telecommunications, cybersecurity and defence sectors.

Quantum physics underpins the electronics, media, computing and infrastructure systems we use in our daily life.

A second generation of quantum technologies based on new quantum effects potentially offers more secure digital communication, improved construction and radical increases in computing power.

Innovate UK, as part of UK Research and Innovation, has up to £30 million to invest in projects that remove technological barriers to speeding up commercialisation of these quantum technologies. The funding is from the UK government's Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund.

Projects must use latest quantum technology

Projects should involve at least 2 partners and must look at removing a technological barrier to speeding up commercialisation of second-generation quantum technologies.

They must address at least one of the following areas:

- connectivity: techniques for securing data in storage and in flight
- situational awareness including autonomous systems, sensors and detectors for the built environment, transport and infrastructure, imaging and sensing of things currently invisible
- transformational computing to solve intractable problems

2-phase competition

Potential projects express an interest in the first phase.

If they are successful, they will be invited to apply for funding in the second phase.

Competition information

- the competition opens on 28 October 2019, and the deadline for expressions of interest is at midday on 27 November 2019
- businesses of any size may apply
- we expect total costs of projects to range in size between £4 million and £20 million
- [a briefing event takes place on 30 October 2019](#)