

Attorneys General lead international cooperation to combat cybercrime



Attorney General Geoffrey Cox QC MP signing the Statement surrounded by (from right to left) the Attorney General of the USA, Attorney General of New Zealand, Associate Deputy Minister of Canada and Minister of Home Affairs for Australia.

At a meeting held in London, the Quintet signed a statement reaffirming their support of the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime – also known as the Budapest Convention – as a strong, legally-binding framework to combat cybercrime.

The statement also supports the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Group on Cybercrime (IEG), the United Nations forum in which substantive experts gather to discuss responses to cybercrime, and is best placed to take account of a comprehensive set of viewpoints and possible solutions on the subject of cybercrime. The IEG will produce recommendations on cybercrime to the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Commission) in 2021.

The Quintet also discussed a range of shared issues affecting their various jurisdictions including corporate criminal liability, sentencing frameworks, hostile state activity, social media and data privacy issues and the use of artificial intelligence to improve efficiency in the legal system.

Commenting on the meeting, UK Attorney General, Geoffrey Cox QC MP, said:

The Quintet is bound by a respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law. We also share a common concern about the evolution and complexity of challenges posed by cybercrime.

International cooperation is vital in the fight against cybercrime and my Quintet counterparts and I believe the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention) is the best means to

do this. We hope that our statement sends a clear message: we stand united in our efforts to tackle this threat.

Published 31 July 2019

Last updated 1 August 2019 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 1 August 2019 Added link to Quintet communiqué.
2. 31 July 2019 First published.

[International Trade Secretary Liz Truss meets with New Zealand Minister for Trade and Export Growth](#)

Earlier this week (Monday 29 July) the International Trade Secretary Liz Truss met with David Parker, New Zealand's Minister for Trade and Export Growth, to discuss a future free trade agreement between the UK and New Zealand.

They discussed the strong and historic UK-NZ relationship and agreed to move as quickly as possible towards a free trade agreement once the UK is in a position to do so, as it prepares to leave the EU on the 31st October.

They also committed to working together in other areas, such as the UK's potential accession to CPTPP [Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership], and ensuring that FTAs work for all businesses big and small.

International Trade Secretary Liz Truss said:

The UK and New Zealand's relationship is already strong and deeply rooted in a shared history, but the future of this relationship is even brighter. I want New Zealand to be one of the first free trade agreements the UK signs as we prepare to become an independent trading nation once again.

Our two nations are strong advocates of free trade and the rules-based system, and once we leave the EU we intend to reinforce this position more than ever before.

Trade and Export Growth Minister David Parker said:

We welcome the UK's commitment to negotiations for a free trade agreement with New Zealand as soon as it is in a position to do so. This offers an early opportunity to build on our existing close links through conclusion of a high quality, comprehensive and inclusive trade deal capable of growing opportunities for both sides.

[Change to the VMD email address: Now live](#)

Our email address has changed from @vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk to @vmd.gov.uk so the VMD staff email addresses are now initial.surname@vmd.gov.uk.

Our general contact and enquiry email address is postmaster@vmd.gov.uk.

Please use our new address in all your communications to us and update your records and documents accordingly.

[Army restructures to confront evolving threats](#)



Lt Gen Ivan Jones, Commander Field Army (CFA). Crown copyright.

Lt Gen Ivan Jones, Commander Field Army (CFA), has described plans for rebalancing his command which will see changes to the structure of the Field Army's primary formations.

Lt Gen Ivan Jones, Commander Field Army said:

The character of warfare continues to change as the boundaries between conventional and unconventional warfare become increasingly blurred. The Army must remain adaptable and evolve as a fighting force. The three complementary British Army Divisions harness the wide range of British Army capabilities, providing choice to the Government in defence of the UK's interests.

Whilst retaining its operational focus, the intention is to rebalance the Army's formations in order to meet the challenges of constant competition and maintain its high-end warfighting capability.

Lt Gen Jones added:

The Field Army must build on the strong foundation of the 3rd Division's world class warfighting force. 1st Division provides specialist soldiers and equipment to develop other nations' armies, deal with disaster and humanitarian crises worldwide and enable our warfighting division. 6th Division focuses on Cyber, Electronic Warfare, Intelligence, Information Operations and unconventional warfare through niche capabilities such as the Specialised Infantry Battalions.

The speed of change is moving at a remarkable rate and it will only get faster and more complex.

This change will be integrated within broader Defence, national and alliance efforts and enable the Field Army to operate and fight more effectively above and below the threshold of conflict. The Field Army rebalancing is part of the Army's response to the emerging Defence thinking and will create a Field Army of integrated, interdependent and complementary formations from 1 Aug 2019.

- 1st (United Kingdom) Division (1 (UK) Div) with its blend of lighter infantry, logistics, engineers and medics will provide more strategic choice and a range of capabilities, conducting capacity building, stabilisation operations, disaster relief and UK resilience operations. It will include: 4th (Infantry) Brigade, 7th (Infantry) Brigade, 11th (Infantry) Brigade, 51st (Infantry) Brigade, 8th Engineer Brigade, 102nd Logistic Brigade, 104th Logistic Brigade, 2nd Medical Brigade
- 3rd (United Kingdom) Division (3 (UK) Div) will remain as the Army's primary armoured warfighting force comprising: 1st Armoured Infantry Brigade, 12th Armoured Infantry Brigade, 20th Armoured Infantry Brigade, 1st Artillery Brigade, 101st Logistic Brigade, 25th Engineer Group, 7th Air Defence Group

- 6th (United Kingdom) Division. The re-designation of Force Troops Command (FTC) to 6th (United Kingdom) Division (6 (UK) Div) will provide the Army's asymmetric edge , orchestrating Intelligence, Counter-Intelligence, Information Operations, Electronic Warfare, Cyber and unconventional warfare. 6 (UK) Div will include: 1st Signal Brigade, 11th Signal Brigade, 1st Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Brigade, 77th Brigade and the Specialist Infantry Group

There will be no changes to personnel numbers, resourcing, cap badges or locations.

1st August marks the rebirth of a Division which served throughout the First World War and during the Second War. More recently, 6 (UK) Div was formed between 2008-2011 and deployed to Afghanistan as Headquarters Regional Command (South).

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Marine Management Organisation **appoints new Chief Executive Officer**

Tom joins the MMO from the Department of Work and Pensions, where he is currently Director of Child Maintenance. With over 25 years in public service, Tom has had a hugely successful career leading and transforming large scale, complex operations, and has been recognised nationally for his work.

MMO Chair, Hilary Florek, said:

I am delighted to welcome Tom to lead the organisation as we prepare to implement our new regulatory regime outside the European Union. He brings a wealth of experience in delivering successful outcomes in major projects and in particular in inspiring and engaging colleagues.

We are looking forward to working with him as together we drive forward our aims for the sustainable development of our English coasts and seas.

Tom said:

I am very much looking forward to this new challenge and helping MMO colleagues achieve their ambitious aims for the environment, our seas and the UK industries and commerce that depend upon them.

Tom starts the role in September 2019.