

Russia's contempt for international law is clear: UK statement to the OSCE

Thank you, Mr Chair. In Tuesday's Special Permanent Council, I spoke of the devastating impact of Russia's illegal invasion on the civilian population of Ukraine and the imperative need for accountability. Today I will focus on the many obligations and commitments Russia has willingly entered into, commitments made to promote trust and open dialogue in the pursuit of peace, to limit unnecessary suffering and protect the innocent from the horrors of war. Commitments which it is failing to meet.

We are now four months into Putin's barbaric war of choice in Ukraine, and there can be no shred of doubt as to the illegality of Russia's actions in pursuit of its imperialistic objectives. We recall that [on 2 March, 141 countries – an overwhelming majority – voted to condemn Russia's invasion in the UN General Assembly](#). As a member of the United Nations, and indeed a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, Russia has committed to uphold the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Yet the Russian government's unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine has been anathema to these principles. And while the Russian government has tried to distract us with lies and disinformation, including in this room, no amount of spin or false narratives can obscure the truth. Russia alone is responsible for this horrific war, and the resulting needless deaths of thousands. Its contempt for international law is clear.

Just in the last few weeks between the 25 June and the 1 July, at least 46 Ukrainian civilians were killed in three strikes on civilian infrastructure, with many more injured. Time and again, we see violation after violation of international law as Russia indiscriminately deploys munitions against civilians and in residential areas, including thermobaric weapons and heavy artillery. How can President Putin, his government and his military justify the sheer devastation it is causing? How can Russian diplomats defend these actions? In addition, in direct violation of Article 56 of Additional Protocol (I) to the Geneva Conventions, Russia attacked nuclear infrastructure in Chernobyl and Zaporizhzhia, risking the lives of thousands of people, as well as an environmental catastrophe. Targeting any civilian installation, unless it is contributing to the military effort, is illegal, as is targeting civilians. Russia knows this, so our conclusion must be that it simply does not care.

As well as a legal requirement to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure, President Putin and his armed forces must abide by their obligations under the third Geneva Convention; that all prisoners of war should be treated humanely, afforded appropriate medical treatment and basic necessities, and be protected from humiliating and degrading treatment. We strongly condemn the exploitation of Prisoners of War for political purposes. We are appalled by the sham trials and sentences passed upon members of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, who as serving military personnel are entitled to combatant immunity for their participation in hostilities.

Russia's actions have also shown flagrant disregard for its commitments under the Budapest Memorandum and Minsk agreements. Under the Budapest Memorandum, Russia committed to "refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine". Ukraine entered into the Budapest Memorandum, alongside Russia, in good faith and voluntarily surrendered the world's third largest nuclear weapons arsenal in exchange for these assurances. We realise now, that Russia had no intention to follow through with the commitments it made. It was never serious about peace.

Mr Chair, by failing time and time again to adhere to its commitments, Russia has isolated itself on the world stage. Russia's actions are not those expected of the prosperous and modern state which President Putin tells us it is. They are not behaviours that inspire trust and confidence. And they are most certainly not behaviours consistent with OSCE principles and commitments. By contrast Ukraine's bravery in the face of such aggression has united and fortified the international community's support. We, together with our partners, call again on Russia to end this illegal war, withdraw its troops from the whole of Ukraine, and to live up to its international obligations and commitments.

[Weston-super-Mare man prosecuted for supplying illegal security to Oktoberfest](#)

Press release

Stephen Berrisford pleaded guilty at North Somerset Magistrates' Court to supplying unlicensed security to the town's Oktoberfest last year.



Security Industry Authority

On Friday 1 July, Weston-super-Mare man, Stephen Berrisford pleaded guilty at North Somerset Magistrates' Court to supplying unlicensed security to the town's Oktoberfest last year. Mr Berrisford was fined £133 and is required to pay court costs of £500 and a victim surcharge of £34 by 31 August 2022. He

is a sole-trader trading as Steve Security & Supply and is in possession of an SIA licence.

Friday's sentencing follows the prosecution of another Weston-super-Mare man, Chadd Heath on 6 May, where [Heath pleaded guilty to working as unlicensed security at Oktoberfest](#) last year.

SIA investigators visited the Oktoberfest as part of routine licence inspection in partnership with Devon and Cornwall Police licensing officers on 1 October 2021. They saw three people wearing security jackets at the entrance gate and asked to see their security licences. Two people correctly displayed their licences, which were verified by the investigators. The third person, Chadd Heath, did not display a licence, and the SIA investigators challenged him.

That night, Heath wore a jacket marked with the word 'Security' which he said he was wearing to keep himself warm. Heath revealed that he did not have a licence and was therefore working illegally. The SIA investigators found that the security was deployed by Steve Security & Supply and on the same night contacted Mr Berrisford, the sole trader of the enterprise to check Mr Heath's status. Mr Berrisford said that Heath was working as a steward and therefore did not need to be licensed.

The SIA investigation officer found out from the Oktoberfest organisers that they had procured seven door supervisors and no stewards to protect the event.

Mr Berrisford was interviewed by the SIA under caution on 4 February 2022 and reiterated that Chadd Heath worked as a steward. This led to the SIA bringing a prosecution against Stephen Berrisford for deploying unlicensed security.

Jenny Hart, the SIA's Criminal Investigations Manager, said:

This latest prosecution brings to an end an investigation into a man who holds an SIA licence who deployed unlicensed security to a very popular, local event. He betrayed the trust of the organisers and put the guests at risk. As a result of this prosecution, he now has a criminal record and is liable to have a licence status review which means it could end his private security career.

Notes to editors:

- By law, security operatives working under contract must hold and display a valid SIA licence
- [Read about SIA enforcement and penalties](#)
- The offence relating to the Private Security Industry Act (2001) that is mentioned is:
 - Section 5 – supply of unlicensed security operative

Further information:

- The Security Industry Authority is the organisation responsible for regulating the private security industry in the United Kingdom, reporting to the Home Secretary under the terms of the [Private Security Industry Act 2001](#). The SIA's main duties are the compulsory licensing of individuals undertaking designated activities and managing the voluntary Approved Contractor Scheme.
- For further information about the Security Industry Authority or to sign up for email updates visit: www.gov.uk/sia. The SIA is also on [LinkedIn](#) [Facebook \(Security Industry Authority\)](#) and [Twitter \(@SIAuk\)](#).

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[DASA is searching for innovations to enhance veterans' healthcare](#)

- DASA has launched a new Themed Competition: the Veterans' Health Innovation Fund
- Funded by the Office for Veterans' Affairs (Cabinet Office)
- Up to £2.7 million funding available for innovative veterans' healthcare technologies and solutions

The [Defence and Security Accelerator](#) (DASA) is pleased to launch a new Themed Competition called the [Veterans' Health Innovation Fund](#). Run on behalf of the [Office for Veterans' Affairs](#) (Cabinet Office), this competition seeks cutting-edge technologies and innovations that improve the techniques and pathways for meeting veterans' physical and mental health needs.

Outputs from this competition will improve UK capability to save and enhance lives through advancing technologies, interventions and treatments in health. This will enable better future commissioning of treatments.

Key dates and funding

Up to £2.7 million is available to fund multiple proposals for the Office for Veterans' Affairs Health Innovation Fund, with up to £300,000 available per proposal.

The deadline to submit a proposal is midday 31 August 2022.

Do you have an idea? [Read the full competition document and submit a proposal.](#)

Driving innovation in veterans' healthcare

The Office for Veterans' Affairs (OVA) was awarded £5m by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the October 2021 Budget to drive innovation in veteran's healthcare, to ensure that treatment is informed by the latest research and developments in clinical care.

While the UK has developed cutting-edge treatment and technologies to support former service personnel who are wounded, injured or sick, this competition seeks to build on existing successes, plug knowledge gaps, and develop new research that will support veterans' healthcare.

This will improve the UK's ability to save lives through advancing technologies, interventions and treatments in health.

Challenge areas

Submitted proposals must address 1 or more of the following challenges areas:

Challenge 1: Digital, data and technology

This challenge area is aimed at harnessing the latest digital and technology capabilities to improve our understanding of veterans' healthcare needs.

Examples include:

- artificial intelligence
- virtual reality
- using data to predict long-term health outcomes
- using non-invasive technologies to treat veterans

Challenge 2: Surgical technology, bioengineering and rehabilitation with blast injuries

This challenge area is aimed at proposals that offer improvements in innovative surgical techniques, bioengineering and rehabilitation interventions to support veterans who have been subject to blast injuries.

Examples include:

- regenerative engineering
- customised metabolic prosthetics
- intervention technologies for conditions, including mild traumatic brain injury

Challenge 3: Public Health, pain management, hearing loss and visual impairment

This challenge area looks into the impact of pain, hearing loss and visual impairment. DASA and the OVA are particularly interested in applications that offer to trial interventions and treatments to improve the health outcomes of veterans. This challenge area is also interested in bids that look at treatments for public health challenges faced by veterans.

Challenge 4: Initiatives to help identify and/or provide solutions to disparities in female veterans' health and healthcare

This challenge area is interested in projects that could improve our understanding of female veterans' health challenges, and what care pathways can be put in place to better support them. For example, proposals that look at addiction (including alcohol misuse) and other mental health conditions such as those that result from exposure to trauma.

Want to learn more about these challenge areas? [Read the full competition document here.](#)

Webinar

18 July 2022

This webinar will provide more information on the challenge areas and how to submit a proposal. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions in the Q&A. If you would like to get involved, please register on the Eventbrite page.

[Register now](#)

Submit a proposal

Do you have a solution or novel approach that may help our ability to drive innovation for veteran's healthcare? Submit an idea and help DASA and OVA ensure veterans' treatment is informed by the latest research and developments in clinical care.

[Learn more and submit a proposal.](#)

[Head of Evaluation Task Force speaks in new "A Modern Civil Service" Podcast](#)

News story

Catherine Hutchinson, Head of the Evaluation Task Force, has shared her views on policy evaluation in government in the new "A Modern Civil Service" Podcast.



The [Modernisation and Reform](#) unit at the Cabinet Office has launched a new “A Modern Civil Service” podcast that focuses on matters around building [a skilled, innovative and ambitious Civil Service](#) for the UK.

In the first episode “fail fast; fail small; fail smart”, Catherine Hutchinson, Head of the Evaluation Task Force, sits down with host Sapana Agrawal, Director of Modernisation and Reform, to discuss all things evaluation.

Catherine says, “if you’re not failing, you’re not doing your job properly,” as she highlights how learning from past mistakes is the key to how evaluations help government deliver more effective and efficient services to the British people.

Catherine goes on to cover the differences between randomised controlled trials (RCTs), counterfactuals and adaptive evaluations and suggests some top tips on how to improve your own evaluation.

About the Evaluation Task Force

Our [short video](#) provides an introduction to the Evaluation Task Force.

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[Passenger trapped in tram doors and dragged at Shudehill tram stop](#)

News story

Passenger trapped in tram doors and dragged at Shudehill tram stop, Manchester, 27 May 2022.



The tram in the platform at Shudehill during post-accident testing

At around 11:16 hrs on 27 May 2022, a passenger was dragged around 13 metres before falling onto the platform at Shudehill tram stop, after their bag became trapped in a departing tram's closing doors. They sustained injuries to their face and hand. The tram driver was unaware of the presence of the passenger when the tram departed from the tram stop.

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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