

Home Secretary meeting with INTERPOL Secretary General

News story

Home Secretary Priti Patel welcomed INTERPOL Secretary General Jürgen Stock to the Home Office on Wednesday 6 July 2022.



Home Secretary Priti Patel and INTERPOL Secretary General Jürgen Stock

The Home Secretary welcomed the Secretary General back to London and emphasised the high priority she attaches to international co-operation in order to enforce the law – and that she was always seeking to ensure that the police and law enforcement agencies have the tools they need to do that.

The Secretary General thanked the Home Secretary for her warm welcome and congratulated her on the leadership she continued to show internationally, in particular at the G7 Interior Ministers' meeting in London in September 2021 and since. He also wanted to congratulate British police and the National Crime Agency for their work with European partners in recent days on the operation to arrest suspected people traffickers across Europe.

The Home Secretary sought assurances that Russia was not able to abuse INTERPOL systems following its invasion of Ukraine. The Secretary General was adamant that he is now implementing INTERPOL's strongest monitoring process to ensure that there can be no such abuse of INTERPOL systems for political purposes in contravention of INTERPOL's Constitution and that action would be taken immediately in the event of any non-compliance being identified. The Home Secretary thanked him for this reassurance.

They went on to discuss a variety of issues, including how partners continue to work together to tackle criminality in such fields as corruption and online child sexual exploitation and abuse. They agreed on the importance of communicating how INTERPOL could support its membership in tackling international criminality and providing reassurance that robust mechanisms were in place to prevent misuse of its systems and therefore build trust.

They also noted the ongoing globalisation of crime, with criminals using new technology for nefarious means just as law enforcement agencies are harnessing new technology to detect criminality and bring perpetrators to justice.

The Home Secretary and Secretary General also looked ahead to INTERPOL's 100th anniversary in 2023 and agreed that it would be an excellent opportunity to promote the evolution of its work, noting that the UK will then host the annual INTERPOL General Assembly in 2024.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

INTERPOL is a critical pillar of global law enforcement. People need to know that their government is doing all it can to keep them safe and the work we do with INTERPOL is an essential element of that.

INTERPOL – as a global police information hub – plays a vital role in working with our police and law enforcement agencies to protect the British public and make our streets safer.

INTERPOL Secretary General Jürgen Stock said:

I was pleased to congratulate the Home Secretary on her leadership in promoting co-operation to protect communities and bring criminals to justice and to thank her for her continued support in the implementation of the G7 commitments and INTERPOL's work to make the world safer, especially in preventing online child sexual abuse.

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[UN Human Rights Council 50: UK statement on Central African Republic](#)

World news story

The UK delivered a statement during the High Level Interactive Dialogue on the human rights situation in the Central African Republic (CAR).



UK Government

Thank you, Mr Vice-President.

I would like to begin by welcoming the recent abolishment of the death penalty in the Central African Republic. The United Kingdom recognises this as a vital step towards ensuring human rights for all.

However, we remain dismayed by on-going human rights violations and abuses by all parties in CAR. These can trigger displacement across the country and contribute to the deteriorating humanitarian situation. As of 1 May 2022, 658,000 Central Africans have been internally displaced whilst 738,000 have fled to neighbouring countries.

Continued targeting of humanitarian personnel and the indiscriminate killing of civilians is unacceptable and must stop.

We call on the Government of CAR to open an independent investigation into the allegations of violations of International Humanitarian Law and the violations and abuses of human rights in the CAR, including allegations of abuses committed by the Central African Armed Forces and the private Russian mercenary group, Wagner. The Wagner Group plays a destabilising role in the country, worsening the humanitarian situation and undermining UN work. The government must ensure all actors are held to account.

Mr Agbetse,

We would welcome your views on how this Council can best work to address the deepening humanitarian crisis, including what support the international community can provide to CAR in this regard.

Thank you.

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WTO TRIPS Council July 2022: UK statements

PARAGRAPH 8 OF THE MINISTERIAL DECISION ON THE TRIPS AGREEMENT ADOPTED ON 17 JUNE 2022

Thank you, Chair.

The UK would like to thank you and the Secretariat for navigating the TRIPS Council through a complex negotiating process during MC12. While the process for reaching the consensus-based TRIPS Decision was by no means perfect, and lessons could be learned, your leadership and guidance was valuable in helping us reach an outcome and will no doubt be required moving forward. We also extend our gratitude to all Members for their cooperation and patience throughout the process.

The UK has listened carefully and understood concerns raised by developing countries, particularly those regarding use of the compulsory licensing system. Bearing such feedback in mind, the UK engaged constructively in discussions on how compulsory licensing could help developing countries to achieve their public health policy objective of accessing COVID-19 vaccines.

After a series of intense negotiations, we understand the aim of this Decision is to make it easier for eligible Members, who choose to do so, to make exports of life-saving COVID-19 vaccines more streamlined, while preserving incentives to invest in innovation embedded in IP rights.

The UK will engage constructively and in good faith, being guided by evidence and noting the distinction between vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics. We welcome all Members' views and the opportunity to engage bilaterally on the matter.

We are pleased to see the IP framework has been put in use by licensing partnerships for COVID-19 treatments underway, including via the Medicines Patent Pool.

Chair, we also thank delegations for the unofficial room document RD/IP/49 circulated today. This text will certainly form part of our analysis of the matter. Given the complexities of therapeutics and diagnostics, we will use the time available, and we call on others to do the same, to gather and analyse evidence and engage bilaterally during the summer months, so that we

are able to deliver on the mandate via multilateral evidence-based discussions after the summer. We see the TRIPS Council, with you, Chair, at the helm, as the right forum to hold these discussions.

Thank you, Chair.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND INNOVATION: IP LICENSING OPPORTUNITIES

Thank you Chair,

We would like to thank the US for drafting and presenting this paper, and share some of the UK's experience in this area.

Firstly, on the kinds of licensing that are possible in the UK for each right:

In essence – a licence is an agreement between the IP right owner and another party. It grants them permission to do something that would be an infringement of the rights without the licence.

IP can be “licensed-out” or “licensed-in”. The rights owner can “license-out” to another company in return for a fee. A business can “license-in” if it wants to use another company's IP to develop its own business and products. In the UK, licences can be for patents, trade marks, designs and copyright as well as trade secrets/know how. Any licence arrangement, including any financial element, is made directly between the licensee and the right owner.

In the case of patents, the patent holder can request that the patent be endorsed with a “licence of right” in the register. This means that the owner must grant a licence to anyone who wants one.

The licence will still be an ordinary, commercial licence and the terms and fees will be a private matter between the licensee and licensor. The main advantages of having a patent endorsed with a licence of right is that it lets other people know that the owner is willing to licence the patent. Annual renewal fees are also reduced to half the usual cost if the patent is endorsed with a licence of right.

Though notifying the UK Intellectual Property Office of the grant or assignment of a licence for patents is not mandatory, it is recommended and will be recorded in the patents register.

Trade marks can also be licensed by the owner to give a licensee permission to use their registered mark. This can form part of a wider commercial arrangement, such as a franchise agreement. The terms of the licence are also between the licensee and the licensor, for example if the licence is exclusive, so the mark cannot be used by anyone else, including the registered owner, or limited to a particular geographical area.

Again – notifying the UK Intellectual Property Office of the grant or assignment of a licence for a trade mark is not mandatory, but is recommended and will be recorded in the trade mark register.

A design owner can give someone else permission to use their registered design by granting them a licence, and in this instance, notifying of the grant or assignment of a licence for registered designs is required and will be recorded in the designs register.

Licences can also be granted for unregistered designs. In addition to usual licensing arrangements, a licence of right must be made available to third parties in the last 5 years of the term of protection for a UK unregistered design right.

A copyright owner may decide whether and how to license use of their work, and any licence agreed can relate to one or more of the rights granted by copyright, and can also be limited in time, geographical extent or any other way. An exclusive licence can also be granted, which enables the licensee to use the copyright work in the manner specified by the licence to the exclusion of all others, including the copyright owner. Notably, licensing may be carried out by direct negotiation, or through agents or collective management organisations (CMOs).

A copyright owner may also prefer to allow limited access to, and use of, their work without charge – and one way to do this is by using a Creative Commons Licence.

In instances where a copyright owner is unknown or cannot be found, individuals or businesses may apply to the UK Intellectual Property Office for an “orphan works” licence. Subject to completion of a diligent search, and payment of appropriate fees, such a licence will be limited to the UK for a maximum length of seven years and will be non-exclusive. The paid licence fees are retained for eight years in case the right holder comes forward.

We would also like to note that the UK is also considering IP licensing as part of its Futures Programme, to anticipate potential evolution in the kinds of IP licensing that may occur due to emerging technologies and new business models.

The UK would also like to briefly look at the benefits of IP licensing:

When a company licenses the right to manufacture and sell products, the costs and risks are shared between the licensor and the licensee. The licensor will receive revenue from licensing but will not take the risk of manufacturing, promoting, or selling the licensed products. The licensee will have the right to use the IP without incurring the expense and risk of undertaking research, or the cost of developing the product.

Some of the potential benefits to the licensor will include increasing revenue by broadening the reach of IP into different markets. Market penetration would be increased by licensing another business to sell in territories that the owner cannot cover.

Though exceptions and limitations exist within the IP framework, a licence usually provides a higher degree of business certainty than relying on an exception.

The potential benefits to a licensee include reducing research and development costs by 'licensing-in' innovation. By taking a licence, a business may tap into expertise that it does not have in-house. A business may save time and get its products or services to market more quickly by acquiring a licence to use existing IP, rather than starting from scratch. Acquiring a licence to use existing IP may help a business obtain a competitive advantage over its competitors.

So, both licensors and licensees can benefit from collaboration to develop new products and services, creating a highly beneficial partnership.

I hope that these highlights from how licencing of IP works in the UK have been of interest to members, and I would like to again thank the US for their paper on this topic.

Thank you, Chair.

[Update on the proposed acquisition of Ultra Electronics Holdings plc by Cobham Ultra Acquisitions Limited](#)

Press release

The acquisition of Ultra by Cobham has been cleared to proceed.



Following advice from the Ministry of Defence and after careful consideration of responses to a consultation, the Business Secretary has today (Wednesday 6 July) cleared the acquisition of Ultra by Cobham to proceed.

The announcement follows the Business Secretary consulting on steps to address the national security concerns raised by the proposed acquisition of Ultra, a UK defence company, by Cobham, a defence, aerospace, and communications company that was acquired by US private equity firm Advent

International. The government consultation on the undertakings offered by the companies to address the concerns identified ran until 3 July 2022.

The Business Secretary has accepted the undertakings from the parties to mitigate national security risks, with a small number of changes to reflect the responses to a consultation on them.

The undertakings to mitigate the national security concerns came into force today and details are available on the [decision notice](#). In summary, the undertakings are:

- SecureCos: creating 2 new 'SecureCos', UK legal entities which encompass the UK Ultra facilities that deliver the sensitive capabilities to HM Government
- Board Representation: placing an HM Government appointed non-executive director on the Board of each SecureCo to protect UK national security interests and provide oversight of any disinvestment or divestment of sensitive capability
- Articles of Association: giving HM Government the right to approve the Articles of Association of each SecureCo and draft their strategic objectives which would transfer to any future owner, locking that protection in. Any changes would be subject to the HM Government Director's agreement
- Step-In Rights: giving HM Government strong step-in rights (similar to a 'special share'), enabling transfer of ownership of the SecureCos on national security grounds, either to a third party or the government
- Access to Intellectual Property: giving HM Government the power to access intellectual property and / or to transfer knowledge or training necessary for HM Government to exercise its step-in rights effectively
- ITAR Protections: requiring Advent to institute an HM Government-approved control plan to prevent International Traffic in Arms Regulations controls applying to ITAR-free products designed and manufactured by Ultra

Separate to the public interest intervention and the mitigation of national security concerns, the government has agreed a [deed](#) offered by the parties to:

- maintain a corporate headquarters of the Ultra Group in the UK
- increase engineering R&D expenditure by at least 20% by the end of 3 years
- continue in good faith with Ultra's proposal to establish a centre of excellence for cyber capabilities in Maidenhead
- by the end of the 3-year period, increase the number of UK-based engineering R&D FTEs by at least 15%
- by the end of the 3-year period, increase the number of UK-based manufacturing FTEs by at least 10%
- maintain the aggregate number of UK-based engineering and manufacturing FTEs above a baseline level, equivalent to the number of associated FTEs at deal close minus any headcount changes associated with Ultra's existing transformation programme
- establish a scholarship fund of up to £5,000,000 to support over 100

university undergraduates from under-represented backgrounds in the UK to pursue degrees in engineering and related disciplines

- by the end of the 3-year period at least double the number of apprentices employed by Ultra

In addition, by the end of the 3-year period, Cobham commits to establishing programmes intended to:

- promote the objective of reducing Ultra's greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050
- promote the objective of increasing the levels of diversity in the UK workforce of the Ultra Group

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[Defence Academy hosts Capture the Flag challenge](#)

News story

The Defence Academy has held a Capture the Flag competition which saw personnel from across Defence battle it out in cyber-security challenges.



Air Marshal Ian Gale, Director General of Joint Force Development, at the event.

Over 50 teams took part in the event which was designed identify future talent and combat skills by testing competitors' existing skills.

A team from 21 Signals Regiment narrowly took the first-place position, edging up from second place just two minutes before the competition's end.

One of the aims of the Defence Academy is to deliver a cyber workforce with a

consistent cyber operations skill set and a technological edge.

Air Marshal Ian Gale, Director General of Joint Force Development, attended the event and said; “Events like this are crucial in identifying those personnel who have an aptitude for working in the cyber domain.

“As part of Joint Force Command the Defence Academy play a critical role in training and educating our personnel to face the threats of the future.”

Whilst the Defence Academy caters to those already working in Defence there are plenty of resources to develop your own cyber skillset.

The NCSC offer a certified training scheme which offers high quality cyber security training whether you’re a newcomer to the field or have skills you would like to develop further.

[Access NCSC Training Scheme](#)

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