

# British Embassy Asuncion celebrates Birthday Party and Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen

Government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, business people, civil society organisations, media representatives, academics, members of the British community in Paraguay, as well as members of the public associated with the Embassy were among the list of distinguished guests. The social gathering took place in Puerto Liebig.

The event was sponsored by British companies in Paraguay, as well as friendly companies that accompanied the celebration of The Queen's Birthday. In this edition the companies Shopping China for the British brands Richmond Gin and White & McKay whisky; Wines and Spirits for the British brand Twinings; Berkemeyer Law Firm; De La Rue; Rosa del Este S.A.; Ferrere Law Firm; Shopping Británico; Atome Energy PLC in Paraguay; Law Firm Peroni, Sosa, Tellechea, Burt, & Narvaja; Casa Rica; De La Sobera; Fénix Insurance; Intertek; Mini; Proper Import; Anglo; and Jaguar Land Rover joined the event.

## The Queen's Birthday Party and Platinum Jubilee in Paraguay

On site, attendees enjoyed themed décor based on Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the UK and around the world, entertainment based on British culture, a selection of wines, and food by Talleyrand. Drinks made with British spirits, courtesy of the British Embassy collection and event sponsors, as well as imported British beer from Proper Import were also served.

As part of the entertainment, guests were provided with a games room and a photo booth with themed elements. Samples of iconic products such as the well-known Mini cars, as well as a generator with a phone charging station added to the commercial and industrial touch, a key element of the relationship between Paraguay and the UK. The event was completely carbon neutral, with the support of Impactive, a specialist zero emission venture.

## Staff at the British Embassy in Asuncion

The decoration of the event was under the coordination of Mrs. Paola Victoria, with the support of Just Flowers. The main protagonist of the evening was Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II: photographs and other elements alluding to the monarch and her 70 years of service set the scene for the evening.

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# UK Government, UNODC support Paraguay against environmental crimes

World news story

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Paraguay's Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADES), with the financial support of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) of the United Kingdom, presented tools from the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) to fight environmental crimes.



Photo: UNODC

The UNODC's Environment Team and MADES brought together more than 70 justice operators and law enforcement agents to establish a baseline regarding the State's response to wildlife and forest crime. The event took place in the capital Asuncion last 17, 18 and 19 May 2022.

During the event, the ICWC presented its Indicator Framework. Paraguay became the fifth country in the region to implement this self-assessment tool that allows authorities to identify their needs and strengths, as well as to establish a baseline to monitor progress in combating crimes that affect the environment, violate the legal system and intensify the loss of biodiversity.

Representatives of the Public Prosecutor's Office, National Police, Supreme Court of Justice, National Administration of Navigation and Ports (ANNP), National Animal Health Service (SENACSA), Secretariat for the Prevention of Money Laundering (SEPRELAD), National Anti-Drug Secretariat (SENAD), (MADES), among others, produced a participatory diagnosis of the State's responses in the fight against wildlife and forest crime. This diagnosis and reports to follow will allow Paraguay to monitor progress and explore possible areas of cooperation with all stakeholders.

In the words of John Davie, Charge D'Affaires at British Embassy in Asuncion:

It is a priority in the national political agenda, and for the

United Kingdom, to continue joining efforts in the fight against environmental crimes; in order to achieve the balance of the planet and the health of all people.

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## Homes England appoints first Chief Operating Officer



Kirsty will join the Government's housing and regeneration agency in September and will work closely with CEO, Peter Denton, in delivering the mission of the agency.

Kirsty currently leads the customer and corporate functions of CQC, as well as having responsibility for a complex portfolio of policy, digital and organisational change.

Peter Denton, Chief Executive of Homes England, said:

Kirsty joins us at an exciting time for Homes England. The new COO role is crucial for us as we think about the next phase of the agency, and Kirsty's experience of leading large-scale operations and complex transformation programmes across central government will help us to continue to strengthen our ability to deliver at pace.

We're looking forward to welcoming Kirsty in September.

Kirsty will work closely with Peter and the Executive Leadership Team, ensuring that the agency is appropriately organised and structured to successfully deliver its objectives as it prepares to deliver the governments

housing and regeneration ambitions.

Kirsty Shaw, COO of Care Quality Commission, said:

I'm delighted to be joining Homes England as its first COO and am looking forward to helping to build the skills and capabilities the agency needs to help it deliver the significant programme of building homes, unlocking land and helping to support the Government's Levelling Up ambitions.

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## [Defence Secretary travels to Ukraine to meet President Zelenskyy](#)

Press release

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace travelled to Kyiv to meet President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov to discuss Ukraine's efforts to fight off Russia's brutal and unjustified invasion.



The working visit took place this week to allow the Defence Secretary to hear first-hand how the operational needs of Ukraine's Armed Forces are developing as the nature of the conflict continues to change. This will ensure that the

UK's continued support is evolving to meet those requirements and is tailored to the situation on the ground.

The Defence Secretary visited Minister Reznikov on the first of the two day visit, before speaking with President Zelenskyy about how the UK support will continue to meet Ukraine's needs as the conflict enters a different phase.

The three agreed to work even more closely going forward in support of their shared goal of enabling Ukraine to liberate itself from illegal Russian occupation. They also discussed the range of equipment and training the UK is currently providing and what further support we can offer to help Ukrainian forces to defend their country.

The meetings focused on the UK continuing to provide operationally effective lethal aid that meets the current and future threats facing Ukraine and follows up on a number of other in person meetings. In March, Minister Reznikov visited the Ministry of Defence and in April a Ukrainian military and political delegation visited Salisbury Plain training area to discuss UK provision of lethal aid. These face to face meetings allow for in-depth discussions on what support is required to meet the requirements of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

Britain was the first European country to send lethal aid to Ukraine and has since sent military aid worth more than £750 million, including thousands of anti-tank missiles, air defence systems and armoured vehicles. The UK has also played a key convening role in the international effort to supply weapons to Ukraine, most notably hosting the first two international donor conferences. The Defence Secretary will ensure the insights and future requirements established from this visit will be used to support the wider international response.

Following the new phase of the conflict in the Donbas, the UK recently announced it would gift M270 multiple-launch rocket systems (MLRS) to Ukrainian forces defend themselves from Russian long-range artillery, which has been used indiscriminately to devastate population centres.

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## **[DBS launches its 'Making Recruitment Safer' campaign](#)**

On Thursday 9 June, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) launched its new 'Making Recruitment Safer' campaign which aims to promote the range of support we can offer to employers.

The campaign highlights the free advice and training that DBS can offer to organisations and groups of all sizes, at both a national and regional level.

Training and support covers DBS checks, and the legal duty or power to make a barring referral. If appropriate, it can also include the opportunity to access tailored, DBS training workshops and resources.

To help promote the campaign, DBS is working with key high-profile partners in the charity, faith, and education sectors, including the NSPCC, Strengthening Faith Institutions, the National Youth Agency, and the Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years. These partners will promote the support and training available from DBS to organisations and groups in their networks who employ staff and volunteers.

Eric Robinson, CEO of DBS, said:

DBS performs a vital role in helping to protect children, young people, and vulnerable adults by supporting employers to make safer recruitment decisions. We are pleased to launch our new campaign to highlight the free training and advice we can provide to organisations through our Regional Outreach service.

This service provides organisations with a single point of contact for all DBS-related queries and questions, as well as the opportunity to access tailored, DBS training for their staff and volunteers. The team also collates feedback to ensure future improvements can be made to DBS services and processes.

The first stage of the campaign focuses on charitable organisations and groups who work with children, and is being endorsed and promoted by the [NSPCC](#) and the [National Youth Agency](#).

Xyna Prasad, from the National Youth Agency (NYA), said:

The NYA considers DBS to be our first point of contact for advice and support on how we can make fully-informed recruitment decisions and continue to protect children and young people within the sector. DBS is a trusted organisation which supports the sector to make safer recruitment decisions and ensure that we have access to the right and relevant information on DBS checks.

Helen Westerman, Service Head of Local Campaigns at the NSPCC, said:

The NSPCC has been working closely with the Disclosure and Barring Service, to ensure that ourselves and our members have access to relevant and accurate information on the different levels of DBS checks that are available when recruiting new staff into our organisations.

DBS have provided a number of free workshops and resources to ourselves and our members, to advise on how we can all make our recruitment processes safer. We consider DBS an essential partner in helping us all to make fully-informed recruitment decisions and to continue to protect and safeguard children and young people.

More information about the free support and advice available to organisations from DBS, can be found in our [Regional Outreach service guidance](#), where a list of Regional Outreach Officers can also be found.