

PM remarks at press conference in Sweden: 11 May 2022

Thank you, Prime Minister Andersson, and thank you for having me to your absolutely beautiful Harpsund retreat. It's breath-taking. It's great to be back in Sweden, and to see you once again.

This week many of us have been paying tribute to the brave men and women who secured victory and peace in Europe 77 years ago.

And so it's a sad irony that we have been forced to discuss how best to fortify our shared defences against the empty conceit of a 21st century tyrant.

When Europe celebrated VE Day in 1945 – a victory that was of course in no small part ensured by the heroism of the Russian people – we hoped that peace on our continent endure.

Well Putin's bloodthirsty campaign against a sovereign nation has put an end to that hope.

And we face a new reality.

But one that we face together.

Throughout this conflict, our Nordic partners have been leading international support, not just for Ukraine but also for European security.

From sending defensive weapons and equipment, to bringing together international partners and standing shoulder-to-shoulder with us in the UN, the Human Rights Council and International Criminal Court.

The war in Ukraine is forcing us all to make difficult decisions.

But sovereign nations must be free to make those decisions without fear or influence or threat of retaliation.

So I am very pleased today, with you Prime Minister Andersson, to sign this mutual security assurances declaration.

It's an agreement that brings our two countries even closer together.

It will allow us to share more intelligence, bolster our military exercises and further our joint development of technology.

The many carcasses of Russian tanks that now litter the fields and streets of Ukraine thanks to Swedish-developed, British-built NLAWs certainly speak to how effective that co-operation can be. But most importantly, this is an agreement that enshrines the values that both Sweden and the UK hold dear, and which we will not hesitate to defend and, as you put it so well

Magdalena, when we were out on the lake – we are now literally and metaphorically in the same boat.

[Insolvency Service transitions to regional hubs as part of efficiency drive](#)

News story

Over the next five years, the Insolvency Service is set to transition to regional centres, reducing the number of offices whilst maintaining high standards of customer service and delivering better value for money.



To enhance value for money for the taxpayer whilst maintaining excellent customer service, the Insolvency Service has announced plans to reduce its number of offices across England from 22 to 11 Regional Centres, in addition to maintaining its existing offices in Cardiff and Edinburgh.

Currently, the Insolvency Service operates from 22 different office locations across England, Wales and Scotland.

Over the next five years, the agency's smaller offices will be consolidated into larger existing offices. The move to regional centres will deliver savings of more than £20 million over the next 10 years, enabling improved collaboration and better utilisation of office space.

The Insolvency Service will continue to operate from Scotland, Wales, and each of England's regions. The agency will look to reinvest savings into improved online facilities, making the agency's services more customer focused, efficient and accessible.

The 11 existing offices which will become Regional Centres are:

- Birmingham
- Cardiff
- Croydon
- Edinburgh
- Exeter
- Ipswich
- Leeds
- London
- Manchester
- Newcastle
- Nottingham

Chief Executive of the Insolvency Service, Dean Beale, said:

This is an exciting development which will see us become a more modern and streamlined organisation in the right locations for our customers, enabling us to better meet their needs.

As well as supporting the government's effort to help the country build back better from the pandemic, we will be able to focus on improving our services while delivering best value for money for taxpayers.

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[Home Secretary stands firm on tackling guerrilla protest tactics](#)

Crucial new changes to public order law will put a stop to the relentless reoffending and significant disruption caused by a selfish minority of protesters, which impinge on the rights of the British public to go about their daily lives in peace.

Announced in the Queen's Speech, the Home Secretary will today introduce a new public order bill with a range of proposals to better protect the integrity of transport networks and fuel supply in England and Wales, making it a criminal offence to interfere with key national infrastructure.

Police will also be given the power to proactively stop and search people and seize items intended to cause serious disruption by 'locking on' – for example gluing themselves to busy roads or complex bamboo structures. This tactic is dangerous and removing people safely is a significant drain on police resource.

Despite a rise in these dangerous and highly disruptive protests in recent years, which have stopped the hardworking majority from going about their days, getting to work and even hospital, the measures introduced today were previously blocked in the House of Lords.

Home Secretary, Priti Patel, said:

What we have seen in recent years is a rise in criminal, disruptive and self-defeating guerrilla tactics, carried out by a selfish few in the name of protest.

Not only do these antisocial protests cause untold delays and misery for the law-abiding public wanting to get on with their lives, it tears police away from communities where they are needed most to prevent serious violence and neighbourhood crime.

This bill backs the police to take proactive action and prevent such disruption happening in the first place. These measures stand up for the responsible majority and it is time that Parliament got behind them.

Most recently, fuel supply has been disrupted by protesters tunnelling under oil terminals and cutting the brakes on tankers, and police officers have spent hours trying to unglue people's body parts from some of the UK's busiest and most dangerous motorways. This includes groups like Just Stop Oil, which alone has cost the police over £5.9 million in a matter of months.

The public order bill will:

- make it a criminal offence to:
 - interfere with key national infrastructure – including rail, road and air networks, printing presses, oil and gas refineries and power stations
 - 'lock on' (for example, gluing oneself to roads or structures), or coming equipped with the intent to lock on and cause serious disruption
 - obstruct the construction of our major transport networks, such as HS2
- give the police the power to stop and search:
 - individuals where there is reasonable suspicion they may be carrying items they intend to use to cause serious disruption by locking on and other public order offences
 - anyone within a tightly-defined area for items that could be used to commit locking on and other public order offences
- give the courts the power to impose serious disruption prevention orders on those with protest-related convictions or a history of causing serious disruptions at protests, to prevent them from continuing to commit such acts
- allow the leaders of the Metropolitan and City of London police forces

to delegate the powers to set conditions on protests to senior officers in their forces, ensuring police resources for responding to disruptive protests in London can be managed more efficiently

The measures complement the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act, recently passed into law, which will mean that from Thursday 12 May there is an increased penalty for wilfully obstructing a highway of a possible prison sentence of up to 6 months and/or an unlimited fine.

The act will also make public nuisance a statutory offence – ensuring that the penalties for both these crimes reflect the severity of such guerrilla tactics.

Deemed by police as one of the most challenging aspects of modern-day policing, the government's public order proposals have been drawn up based on policing feedback and will enable them to take more proactive action to prevent serious and dangerous disruption – and deter those determined to break the law.

Part of the reason today's measures were not supported in the Lords was because the House of Commons did not have the chance to scrutinise them, which this new bill allows for.

New Bill to enable implementation of Australia and New Zealand trade deals

- Bill will ensure Government is ready to enter the two trade agreements.
- UK businesses can grow and take advantage of greater access into these markets.
- Both the Australia and New Zealand deals will remove tariffs on 100 percent of UK goods exports, benefiting UK businesses.

The UK government has today introduced a bill which will help to bring into force its first independently negotiated Free Trade Agreements in more than 50 years.

The UK signed the Australia Agreement in December and the New Zealand Agreement in February. Together, they will deliver benefits to people, businesses and communities throughout the country and support the levelling-up agenda.

The UK-Australia Agreement is expected to increase trade by 53 percent, boost the economy by £2.3 billion and increase wages each year in the long-run. The UK-New Zealand Agreement is expected to increase trade by almost 60 percent and boost the economy by £800 million.

International Trade Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan said:

I am excited to see the UK implement its first 'from scratch' Free Trade Agreements in over 50 years and deliver on a key Brexit benefit – having our own independent trade policy.

This Bill will enable us to export our world-class goods and services and bring high-quality imports at reduced rates for British customers.

Introducing this Bill is an important step in ratifying these trade agreements so that UK businesses can begin benefiting and expanding their trade with Australia and New Zealand as soon as possible. To bring these agreements into force, the following will have to happen:

- Parliament must formally scrutinise the agreements under the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act.
- The Trade (Australia and New Zealand) Bill has to be agreed by Parliament.
- Necessary secondary legislation has to be passed by Parliament to make the changes required to our procurement regime to meet the terms of the Agreements.
- Only once the steps above have been completed can these agreements be ratified and brought into force.

In line with our commitment to transparency and scrutiny, the government has:

- Published the full text for both agreements as soon as they were signed, along with full independently scrutinised impact assessments.
- Ensured the Trade and Agriculture Commission – a panel of independent experts – has over three months to report on the agreements. The Trade & Agriculture Commission's report on the UK-Australia Agreement was published on 13 April. The Commission is due to report on the UK-New Zealand Agreement in June.

International treaties are negotiated and then entered into force by the government. Treaties do not always require legislation to come into force, but on some occasions changes to domestic law might be needed to implement a trade deal. For these agreements, this Bill will change our rules on procurement which in turn will widen access for UK suppliers to procurement

opportunities in Australia and New Zealand. The changes are needed to give Australian and Kiwi suppliers rights to access the benefits of the Agreements.

The new commitments in free trade agreements like these will not affect the power the UK has to reform its domestic procurement rules.

Both the UK-Australia and UK-New Zealand free trade agreements include commitments to addressing climate change like decarbonisation and increasing innovation in green sectors.

For the first time, UK service suppliers including architects, scientists, researchers, lawyers and accountants will have access to visas to work in Australia without being subject to Australia's changing skilled occupation list. Britons aged 18 to 35 will also be able to travel and work in Australia with a Working Holiday Maker Visa for up to three years.

The agreements include protections for the agriculture industry and food and drink quality standards, with all imports needing to comply with the UK's food regulations.

[Lord-Lieutenant of Gwynedd celebrates high achievers from the Armed Forces community](#)

Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gwynedd, Edmund Seymour Bailey Esq CStJ FRAGS appointed Cadet Flight Sergeant Duncan at an awards ceremony at Caernarfon Army Reserve Centre, Caernarfon, on April 28.

The role, which lasts for one year, includes attendance with the Lord-Lieutenant at a number of official engagements such as Remembrance events, Royal visits and parades.

More than 50 people attended the event, to mark the new appointment which will see Ysanne represent her peers and respective organisations at local and national level occasions.

Cadet Flight Sergeant Duncan will follow in the footsteps of Cadet Sergeant Elise Faragher from Tywyn, of Clwyd and Gwynedd Army Cadet Force and Cadet Flight Sergeant Mia Jones from Anglesey, of No 2 Welsh Wing RAF Air Cadets who were both awarded the Lord-Lieutenant's Certificate and Badge for being the 2021 representatives.

At the ceremony which recognised high achievers from the reserves and cadet communities, two adults were recognised for their outstanding service and

devotion to duty and awarded the Lord-Lieutenant's Certificate of Merit.

They were Staff Sergeant Instructor Louise Hughes of Clwyd and Gwynedd Army Cadet Force and Mrs Ann Kennedy of Holyhead Sea Cadet Corps.

There are nearly 5,000 cadets in Wales who gain skills and qualifications through working with local communities, charities and taking part in a variety of practical activities. The cadet syllabus is delivered by 1,500 volunteering adult Instructors and civilian assistants, who give up their spare time on weeknights and weekends.

The awards ceremony was organised by RFCA for Wales – an organisation that has supported the Armed Forces for over 100 years.