

Speech: PM press conference with Australian PM Malcolm Turnbull: 10 July 2017

Good afternoon.

I am pleased to be hosting Prime Minister Turnbull – whom I have known for many years – on his first visit to Downing Street.

This morning, we visited the site of last month's brutal terror attack at Borough Market, where eight people tragically lost their lives, among them two Australians.

We paid tribute to the professionalism and bravery of the police and emergency services who undoubtedly prevented further loss of life, and the heroism of local business owners who shielded people from the terrorists.

I am deeply grateful to Prime Minister Turnbull and the Australian people for the solidarity and support they have shown the UK. At times such as this we are reminded of the importance of the strong ties that have bound our two nations together for over a hundred years.

And we will continue to stand together as close allies and firm friends against those who want to destroy our precious values and our way of life.

As the UK leaves the EU and forges a new role in the world, I am clear we should take the opportunity to strengthen our close partnership with Australia.

So today we have talked about how we can step up our cooperation in a range of areas, including security and defence, trade and investment, and on the world stage.

Let me take each of these in turn.

Security and defence

For over a century our soldiers have served together to preserve the fundamental values of freedom and democracy that we share. They stood shoulder to shoulder in two World Wars, in Iraq and in Afghanistan.

And this month, as we commemorate a hundred years since the Battle of Passchendaele, we again remember their service and their sacrifice.

Today we are leading partners in the Counter-Daesh Coalition, and as the fight moves from the battlefield to the internet we will work together to tackle the spread of Daesh's hateful ideology online.

We have also discussed how we can address the challenge of end-to-end

encryption which creates a safe haven for terrorists to communicate.

Alongside this, our national cyber security centres cooperate closely to crack down on malicious cyber activity. Our law enforcement agencies work together to tackle serious and organised crime – particularly the illegal financial flows that fund criminal gangs and terrorists.

And our intelligence-sharing partnership under the Five Eyes alliance is central to our efforts to address the shared threats we face.

Later this month our Defence and Foreign Ministers will meet in Sydney for their annual ministerial dialogue, to look at how we can deepen our security and defence co-operation to protect our shared interests and project our values around the world.

Trade and investment

The UK and Australia are major trading partners and investors in each other's economic success. Our strong and growing trade relationship is worth close to £14 billion.

We have both made clear our intention to continue to deepen our trade and investment relationship as the UK leaves the EU.

Our Brexit negotiations have started well. And I made clear to Prime Minister Turnbull that an ambitious and comprehensive bilateral trade deal with Australia remains a priority for the UK.

Australia was the first country with whom the UK established a Trade Working Group following the vote to leave the EU, and we are keeping up a regular and productive dialogue on the future of our free trading relationship.

We will continue to work together to push for greater global trade liberalisation and reform.

And I'm pleased to confirm that International Trade Secretary Liam Fox intends to travel to Australia in the coming months as part of these ongoing talks, and ahead of a further meeting of the Working Group later this year.

Global issues

The UK and Australia remain close partners on the international stage. We work alongside each other through the Commonwealth, United Nations and G20 to address the shared global challenges we face.

Last week's missile test in North Korea showed yet again the danger the regime poses to our friends and allies. We are united in our condemnation of their continued nuclear weapons and ballistic missile tests, which are in flagrant breach of the UN Security Council resolutions.

And at the G20, the Prime Minister and I discussed with our partners how we can step up international efforts to increase pressure on Pyongyang, and find a peaceful solution to the ongoing threat North Korea poses to global

security.

Australia and Britain are also proud members of the Commonwealth, and its unique, vibrant and diverse alliance of nations. And I am delighted that the UK will host the 2018 Commonwealth Summit in London and Windsor next April, just after the Commonwealth Games take place on the Gold Coast.

The Prime Minister and I are united in our commitment to work together to support the renewal of the Commonwealth. We agreed that the Summit offers a platform to re-energise and revitalise the network, to cement its relevance to this and future generations.

Conclusion

So thank you Prime Minister, thank you Malcolm, for visiting us today, and for the excellent discussions we have had.

It's always a pleasure to welcome our Australian friends to London, even more so when we have just beaten them at cricket. That's women's cricket, of course.

The ties between our countries have endured for generations, and I look forward to working closely with you to strengthen those bonds in the years ahead.

[News story: Store Twenty One: information for employees and creditors](#)

Store Twenty One was the trading name of Grabal Alok (UK) Limited (company registration number 04246489).

Information for employees

If you are an employee of Grabal Alok (UK) Limited you will be entitled to redundancy pay and compensation in lieu of notice.

Grabal Alok (UK) Limited entered into a Company Voluntary Arrangement on 15 July 2016. This is the first insolvency date. If you are still owed any arrears of pay or holiday prior to this date you will be able to make a claim for this, but the Insolvency Service cannot pay any arrears of pay or holiday pay accrued after 15 July 2016. If you have an entitlement to wages or holiday pay accrued after 15 July 2016 you will become a creditor in the liquidation.

Claims will be paid by the Redundancy Payments Service. The liquidator will provide you with the information you need to make your online claim.

If you were self-employed and provided services to Grabal Alok (UK) Limited you are not entitled to a redundancy payment. You will be a creditor in the liquidation.

Information for creditors

If you have supplied goods or services to Grabal Alok (UK) Limited for which you have not been paid you will be a creditor in the liquidation.

To make a claim for the money you are owed email the [Official Receiver](#) providing your company details and the amount you are owed. Please put "Grabal Alok (UK) Limited – creditor" in the subject line of your email. If you do not have access to email you can telephone the Insolvency Enquiry Line.

Information for suppliers

Any purchase orders issued by the company before the winding up order should be considered cancelled with immediate effect. Any monies owing in relation to previous orders will rank as an unsecured claim in the liquidation. Please do not supply any goods ordered prior to the winding up order without the authorisation of the liquidator or one of his authorised representatives.

Goods and services supplied during the period of the liquidation will be paid for out of the assets coming into the hands of the liquidator provided that the order is in writing and signed by one of the authorised representatives. The liquidator is currently reviewing purchase orders issued by the company before his appointment and is in the process of contacting relevant suppliers about those orders and providing them with details of the authorised representatives.

[News story: Ministry of Defence Police awarded a gold banding in the Business in the Community Diversity Benchmark](#)

This is the UK's most comprehensive benchmark for workplace gender and race diversity where organisations are assessed on a range of key areas, including:

- career progression
- recruitment

- supplier diversity
- senior management and board representation of ethnic minorities and women

Business in the Community (BITC) said:

Congratulations to Ministry of Defence Police on being awarded gold for both gender and race diversity in the workplace in the Business in the Community Diversity Benchmark.

They have demonstrated a strong commitment to creating inclusive workplaces where employees are valued and rewarded for their contribution to the organisation, regardless of gender or race.

I hope other employers will learn from their example and use it to drive real change within their own organisations.

Business in the Community Diversity Benchmark: Gender gold award. All rights reserved

The gold banding marks a significant leap in the force's progress as they were previously awarded a Bronze banding for their 2016 submission.

The Force's Gender Champion, Deputy Chief Constable Andy Adams is delighted with the result and said:

A gold banding recognises our achievements and commitment to diversity, inclusion and wellbeing. This benchmark helps us identify what we are doing well and where we need to improve.

Our workforce is the key to our success therefore it is critical we recruit and retain the best people. This accomplishment will support our efforts to further diversify the force and create an environment where all our staff can contribute to providing the best service.

The benchmark measures age, gender and race workplace diversity. It is a management tool to help organisations evaluate their performance, including peer comparisons, and inform evidence-based decision-making around workplace diversity.

BITC works with organisations to ensure that age, gender, race and wellbeing do not limit an employee's engagement and success in the workplace.

Press release: Nearly-new car buyers advised to check tax rates

DVLA is reminding those thinking of changing their car this summer to find out if new tax rates could affect them.

New vehicle tax rates came into force for all cars and some motorhomes registered from 1 April 2017. Those looking to buy a nearly-new car can check online to make sure they know what they'll need to pay.

The amount of tax to pay will depend on the type of vehicle. The standard rates are:

- £140 a year for petrol or diesel vehicles
- £130 a year for alternative fuel vehicles (hybrids, bioethanol and LPG)
- £0 a year for vehicles with zero CO2 emissions

There is an additional payment of £310 per year for 5 years (from the second time the vehicle is taxed), if the vehicle has a list price of more than £40,000 at first registration.

More information on the tax rates can be found at www.gov.uk/newvehicletaxrates.

These changes do not affect cars registered before 1 April 2017.

News story: Sports Grounds Safety Authority Board Member Extended

The Culture Secretary has extended the term of Peter Rowley OBE as a Board Member of the Sports Grounds Safety Authority until 12 November 2017.

Peter Rowley retired as a director and Chief Executive of Darlington Building Society in 2009. Since then Peter has developed a portfolio of interests in sport administration. He is Chairman of The Sports Council Trust Company, Chairman of British Weightlifting, the lead non-executive director of the Sports Grounds Safety Authority, Vice Chairman of StreetGames UK, a trustee of Middlesbrough Football Club Foundation and a trustee of Tees Valley Community Foundation. He has served previously as a board member of Sport England, an independent member of UK Sport's Audit Committee, chairman of SkillsActive UK and a director of Coachwise Ltd. Peter believes passionately in the power of sport to change lives and communities for the better and

received the OBE for services to sport administration in the New Year Honours List 2017.

The role is remunerated at £265 per day and the Board meets approximately 6 times per year. This appointment has been made in accordance with the Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments. The appointments process is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Under the Code, any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years must be declared. This is defined as including holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation, or candidature for election. Peter has declared no such political activity.