

Press release: PM call with Prime Minister Szydło of Poland: 19 June 2017

The Prime Minister spoke to Prime Minister Beata Szydło of Poland this evening, who offered her congratulations following the general election.

Prime Minister May thanked Prime Minister Szydło for her messages of support following the recent terrorist attacks in the UK, and expressed her own condolences for the 2 Polish nationals that lost their lives in the Manchester attack.

She was clear that the bilateral relationship with Poland is a priority for the UK and that we are committed to deepening our partnership in a range of areas, including security and defence.

They discussed the Brexit negotiations which got underway today. Prime Minister May reiterated that we want to secure a deep and special partnership that supports a strong and prosperous EU.

She noted that we remain committed to coming to a swift agreement on the rights of EU citizens here and UK nationals in the EU.

They looked forward to meeting to discuss this further at the European Council this week, and also to setting a date for the UK-Poland Inter-Governmental Consultations later in the year.

Press release: PM call with Amir of Kuwait: 19 June 2017

The Prime Minister spoke to the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah this evening.

She congratulated the Amir on Kuwait's election to the UN Security Council next year and thanked him for his messages of support and condolence for the victims of recent terror attacks in the UK.

The Prime Minister welcomed the leading role Kuwait is playing in mediating between Gulf States to find a solution to the ongoing isolation of Qatar in the region, and offered to support this process.

They agreed on the need for all sides to take steps to de-escalate the

situation and restore Gulf Cooperation Council unity at the earliest opportunity. The Prime Minister stressed the importance of ensuring the long-term stability of the Gulf, which is also fundamental to the security and prosperity of the UK.

[Press release: PM chairs third meeting of the Grenfell Tower Recovery Taskforce](#)

Theresa May chaired meeting of the Grenfell Tower Recovery Taskforce and received updates on the support for those affected by the fire.

The Prime Minister has this afternoon (Monday 19 June) chaired the third meeting of the Grenfell Tower Recovery Taskforce.

She received updates on the support for those affected, including on housing, access to payments from the discretionary fund, healthcare and co-ordination on the ground.

While it was clear some progress is being made, the Prime Minister will continue to receive daily updates to ensure that the steps taken are being carried forward at sufficient scale and speed that help is getting to people who need it.

An officials-led taskforce meeting will take place tomorrow and the PM will chair a further Secretary of State level meeting on Wednesday when she expects to receive significant updates on the proportion of people who have received support across the areas identified.

Key updates include:

- In line with the Prime Minister's commitment to provide additional central government resource to bolster response efforts on the ground, as of this morning 5 government departments now have staff embedded within the Grenfell Fire Response Team on the ground, with a number of additional departments providing additional capability. Those Departments are: Department for Communities and Local Government, Department for Work and Pensions, Home Office, Foreign Office, and Department for Transport.
- DWP have today begun administering the first £5,000 payments from the discretionary fund directly into the bank accounts of eligible households affected by the fire.

- Nearly 100 letters providing further advice on how to come forward and claim discretionary payments have been personally delivered to affected residents staying in temporary accommodation, to ensure nobody who is eligible for support misses out on this funding to help with immediate costs.
- The Prime Minister received reassurances that the commitment to re-home people within the same or neighbouring borough would be met within the three-week deadline – and that reports of people being offered homes hundreds of miles away were false.
- Work is ongoing to assess the housing needs of all residents who have had to leave their home – with the first rehousing offers made today.
- A dedicated, 24/7 NHS mental health response line is now active to provide services and advice to anyone affected directly, or indirectly. Enhanced support has begun for first responders from today and the NHS London bereavement pathway has been put in place to support bereaved families in the longer term.
- Local NHS primary care services are also providing enhanced support, including primary care and pharmaceutical services at rest centres and extended opening hours at local GP services.
- By close of play today, DCLG expected to receive figures from all local authorities and housing associations in England on the total number of high-rise buildings across the country which would be subject to additional safety checks.
- DCLG has written to the heads of Local Authorities providing more details to help councils identify a particular type of cladding which is being subject to additional checks – facilities have been set up for testing of samples to begin from tomorrow once the first returns are received from councils.
- There will be a further boost to the number of council workers visible on the ground to provide direct assistance to residents.
- The Lord Chief Justice is expected to appoint a judge to oversee the independent Inquiry in the next couple of days and the Prime Minister has reiterated her commitment that residents would be consulted on the terms of reference for the inquiry before they are finalised.

News story: Sir Michael Fallon reappointed as Secretary of State for Defence

It has always been an honour to serve as Secretary of State for Defence and I am pleased I can continue our vital work. Defeating the evil of Daesh in Syria and Iraq, countering Russian aggression through NATO, working with the United States and other allies and supporting the Police in dealing with terrorist atrocities, our contribution is as important as ever.

Our £178 billion Equipment Plan will deliver the cutting edge equipment our soldiers, sailors and airmen need and I am determined to make the most of our rising Defence budget.

I also want to drive innovation within our supply chains and ensure the UK is a leader in the field of military technology.

With so much to be done, I would like to welcome back to the MOD Mark Lancaster who will take up his new position as Minister Armed Forces, Lord Howe (Minister in the Lords) and Harriett Baldwin (Minister for Defence Procurement). I would also especially like to welcome Tobias Ellwood who joins our highly experienced Ministerial team from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to become Minister (People and Veterans).

News story: Secretary of State David Davis' statement following the opening of EU exit negotiations

Firstly, I think we should start by recognising the very productive discussions that we've had today.

I've been encouraged by the constructive approach that both sides have taken.

We have laid a solid foundation for future discussions, with an ambitious but eminently achievable timetable.

It was clear from the opening that both of us want to achieve the best possible outcome and the strongest possible partnership.

One that works for the UK and for the EU.

And we agreed that we stand a much greater chance of success if our teams work together as that's been demonstrated today.

Nowhere is this more true than on the important issues around the rights of our citizens – where I am happy to report there is much common ground.

Ever since the referendum, I have been clear that my first priority is to provide certainty to European Union citizens living in the United Kingdom, and to UK citizens resident in the European Union – and I know Michel shares that aspiration too.

So now that the negotiations have started, we are determined to get on with the job and deliver that certainty as soon as possible.

The Prime Minister will later this week update European leaders on the UK's approach to this issue at the European Council.

We will then publish a detailed paper, outlining our offer on Monday, which I believe will form the right basis on which to reach agreement.

I will also be briefing members of other parties on privy council terms, as well as briefing Parliament more generally.

In addition to our discussion on citizens' rights, we have reached agreement on how we will structure the talks over the coming months.

Michel and I will meet every four weeks, bringing our teams together for a number of days at a time.

We hope this regular rhythm will help us to progress our discussions across the full range of issues very quickly.

We have also established a number of technical working groups, tasked with driving progress on the all-important detail.

These groups of senior experts from both the UK and the EU met for the first time today.

They will support Michel and me by developing creative solutions to challenges we have identified, testing options under consideration, and building out the underpinning detail.

Today marks the start of a journey, for the United Kingdom and for the European Union.

There is a long way to go, but we are off to a promising start. We have taken the first, critical steps together.

Now, we have a shared responsibility to deliver quick and substantive progress.

As you heard Michel said, we had a brief exchange earlier about the

distinction between being optimistic and being determined. And he gave you Monet's answer to that.

There is no doubt that the road ahead will at times be challenging, but as Winston Churchill once said:

"The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity.

"The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."

And so bridging between Churchill and Monet, I am certainly a determined optimist.