

# Joint leaders statement by the PM and President Duda: 7 April 2022

The UK and Poland today announce the beginning of a new era in their relationship, with a commitment to creating ever deeper ties between our peoples and to revolutionise our cooperation on defence and security. The two countries will begin a programme of joint work to ensure our current cooperation on European security is broadened and strengthened for the years and decades to come. The UK and Poland have a common understanding of the threats and challenges to Euro-Atlantic security and are committed to collective defence through NATO.

As Europe faces its biggest security crisis in decades, with a fellow European democracy under attack, Poland and the UK stand side by side. We consider each other among the closest of our European partners, and are resolved to face the future together. Our cooperation has increased dramatically – demonstrating our commitment to helping the people of Ukraine as well as to each other. As both countries increase our respective defence budgets to record levels, we are today announcing a joint commitment to deepen our cooperation between our armed forces and intelligence organisations – and to pursue projects of mutual benefit through a new programme of defence industrial cooperation.

Our nations have long been clear-eyed about the threat from Putin's Russia. The Russian brutal invasion of Ukraine is an assault on democracy and freedom, and has brought terrible suffering to the Ukrainian people. The UK and Poland are working closely together to support Ukraine through these awful times. We will not cease until Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity is restored. We call on Putin to end all hostilities and withdraw Russian forces, with an immediate ceasefire that allows civilians safe passage, food and medical supplies.

Russia's disregard of International law, humanitarian law and human decency is despicable. We are appalled at the reports of war crimes that have been committed by Russian forces against the Ukrainian people. We vow to hold to account those responsible, and will work together, including through Poland's role as OSCE Chair in Office, to collect evidence and support the International Criminal Court war crimes investigation.

Putin's strategy in Ukraine is failing. But his recent decision to move forces away from Kyiv is a regrouping, not a retreat. His ambition is unchanged. We must ensure that his new initiative in the South and East of Ukraine does not succeed. Today, we have agreed to step up urgent military aid to Ukraine. We will work together to facilitate the delivery of lethal and non-lethal aid to Ukraine. And we will work to ensure that the Russian war machine cannot benefit from trade in sectors like energy.

We have agreed to propose a Poland-UK Joint Commission to support Ukraine with the long-term co-ordination of arms supplies and training, help Ukraine

to identify its needs and modernise its military. We have heard clearly the ambition of Ukraine's leaders to move the country on from its reliance on Soviet-era equipment and embrace Western technology. Ukraine's security is ours too.

We welcome our existing defence collaboration, including the Royal Dragoon Guards forming part of the NATO Enhanced Forward Presence, UK military engineers in assisting with managing the migration crisis orchestrated by Lukashenko's Belarus, the Royal Marines in working with Poland on joint exercises, contingency planning, and capacity-building, and the Royal Air Force in flying combat air patrols and providing air-to-air refuelling over Poland.

We are also deeply concerned by the changes to Russia's military presence in Belarus. We will work together to tackle any threat to NATO. We have agreed to increase exercising between our militaries and work together to support a strengthened long-term defence posture for NATO that underwrites all Allies' security, ahead of the NATO Summit in June. We will also step up our joint work to counter cyber threats and disinformation, including through a new joint cyber hub and greater effort to counter Russian propaganda throughout the world.

We consider our bilateral defence co-operation to be strategic in nature and are resolved to take it to a new level. We reiterate our strong commitment to work on Poland's acquisition of new frigates and the Narew air defence programme as flagship industrial and technical initiatives in vital areas for our mutual security. We will also deepen our co-operation on future defence strategy and analysis of security threats. We will work up a new strategic partnership to capture this ambition and build on the Defence & Security Co-operation Treaty that we signed in Warsaw in 2017.

Poland and the UK will continue to support Ukrainians fleeing the conflict. The Polish people have opened their homes and their hearts to welcome the greatest share of Ukrainian refugees, hosting over 1.8 million Ukrainians. They deserve the support of all Europeans. The UK will therefore triple its support to Poland to £30m to provide humanitarian assistance to Ukrainian refugees temporarily located in Poland, including temporary shelter, education and other basic services. The UK visa scheme is open and is uncapped.

Finally, we will pursue new measures to boost bilateral trade. A flourishing trade relationship not only creates jobs and prosperity, but underpins our national security. We will therefore launch a high-level inter-governmental trade dialogue, as well as a new bilateral Business, Trade & Investment Taskforce, bringing together senior leaders from government and business to identify opportunities and strip away trade barriers.

We will take these initiatives forward through a reinvigorated series of Prime Minister-led Inter-Governmental Consultations, supported by the joint Foreign and Defence Minister 'Quadruga' series of meetings, and encapsulate them in a new UK-Poland 2030 agreement. The Consultations will discuss ways to enhance collaboration across the entire range of our relationship,

building upon our strong defence, people-to-people, economic, and cultural ties.

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## [New product recalls and alerts site](#)

News story

New product safety alerts, reports and recalls site launched by OPSS.



The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) has launched a new [product safety alerts, reports and recalls](#) site to help the British public, businesses and consumer groups identify unsafe products.

The new area, which launched today (April 7), follows extensive research with consumer bodies, regulators and businesses. The new layout is designed to be more user-friendly and encourage the public to check the latest updates for unsafe products available on the UK market, as identified by OPSS or another market surveillance authority.

OPSS has developed the product safety alerts, reports and recalls site to help users with the ability to:

- search for previously recalled or reported products
- filter pages by product category, risk level, measure type, date and type of alert
- subscribe to instant, daily, or weekly updates

Which?, RoSPA and other consumer bodies have welcomed the new, interactive pages.

Nathan Davies, Executive Head of Policy and Portfolio at RoSPA said:

I encourage you to subscribe to the services and sign up to the alerts. Please encourage your family and friends to do the same. Knowing that a product has a safety recall and then getting it

properly fixed will give you the peace of mind and confidence that the products in your house are safe for you and your family. Professionals can learn a significant amount about the causes and risks of the failures in products and this finder tool will help prevent the accidents and fires that can occur in our homes.

OPSS already notifies more than 1,500 subscribers to its safety updates and will boost that number in the UK by encouraging members of the public and other stakeholders to sign up to the alerts.

OPSS Chief Executive Graham Russell said:

We have launched this new website to help everyone search for the latest product safety information. The improvements we have made make it easier to search for unsafe products and to keep up to speed with breaking news.

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## [Charity Commission takes action against married trustees that profited from sports charity](#)

Press release

Regulator secures settlement for misapplied charitable funds



The Commission has found two former trustees of Dream It, Believe It, Achieve It responsible for serious misconduct and/or mismanagement after they paid charitable funds to their own companies.

Matthew Dimbylow has been permanently removed as a trustee and Emma Dimbylow has signed an undertaking not to act as a trustee again. The regulator took legal action to secure the return of misapplied charitable funds. The charity has objects to promote and support the physical education of children and young people including those with disabilities. It is in the process of being wound up.

The trustees employed a commercial lottery company to run a scratch card lottery for the charity between 2011 and 2014, raising a considerable amount of money. The Commission opened an investigation in 2017, following concerns about the proportion of funds that it had spent on fundraising.

This inquiry has found that the lottery raised over £6 million yet the costs of generating this return, including via payments to the lottery organiser, amounted to £4.2 million. Of the remainder, £1 million was passed to three different companies run by the couple and from which they profited personally. Only £300k went to charitable purposes that were unconnected with the Dimbylows.

The inquiry has concluded that the two former trustees mismanaged and misapplied the charity's funds and are responsible for serious mismanagement and/or misconduct.

The Commission issued a claim in the High Court to recover the funds misapplied by the Dimbylows to their own companies, which they settled on 12 September 2019.

The charity's remaining trustee, who was appointed after the serious misconduct and mismanagement took place, is in the process of winding up the charity.

**Amy Spiller, Head of Investigations at the Charity Commission, said:**

The public expects trustees to ensure charitable funds are always carefully managed in the best interests of their charity and the cause they serve, in this case supporting children and disabled people with sport. Instead, the Dimbylows abused the trust that was placed in them as trustees.

It is right that we took action to recover misapplied charitable funds that went to the former trustees' own companies and acted to ensure those responsible cannot become trustees again. We hope this sends a powerful message to others who may be tempted to use charity in this way.

**ENDS**

## Notes to Editors:

1. The Charity Commission is the independent, non-ministerial government department that registers and regulates charities in England and Wales. Its purpose is to ensure charity can thrive and inspire trust so that people can improve lives and strengthen society.
2. The inquiry report can be seen [here](#)
3. Matthew Dimbylow was removed as a trustee of this charity on 7 March 2019. As a result, he is disqualified from acting as a charity trustee or trustee for a charity, holding an office or employment with senior management functions in any charity in England or Wales. His name has been entered upon the Commission's register of removed trustees. Emma Dimbylow signed a voluntary undertaking to not act as a charity trustee or senior manager of any charity in England or Wales.
4. There were three other trustees at the charity. The inquiry found trustee A and B failed in their oversight of the charity. Trustee A resigned in 2013 and Trustee B in 2016. Trustee C was appointed after the serious mismanagement and/or misconduct took place and is winding up the charity.
5. The Charity Commission's fundraising guidance for trustees can be seen here: [Charity fundraising: a guide to trustee duties](#)

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## [UK Defence Ministers host Ukrainian government to plan future military aid](#)

UK Defence Ministers hosted a Ukrainian government delegation to Salisbury Plain Training Area this week to consider their equipment requirements and options for further military support, as they continue their defence against Russia's unprovoked and illegal invasion.

Minister for Defence Procurement Jeremy Quin MP and Armed Forces Minister James Heappey MP were joined by Deputy Defence Minister Volodymyr Havrylov and senior Ukrainian military officers, who visited the UK on behalf of President Zelenskyy.

The UK Ministers held talks with their Ukrainian counterparts to understand the challenges they are facing on the ground to ensure military aid is targeted to their requirements and is able to integrate into existing systems.

During the visit the British Army's 3rd Division and Royal Marines demonstrated a range of equipment and options for further military support, including defensive missile systems and protected mobility vehicles.

The Ukrainian delegation observed the Starstreak air defence system, which the UK has already provided and trained Ukrainian Armed Forces to use, so they can better defend their airspace from Russian aggression.

**Armed Forces Minister James Heappey said:**

Ukraine's Armed Forces continue to put up a tenacious fight against the illegal and unprovoked invasion by Putin's forces. We're proud that they're doing so with weapons provided by and through the United Kingdom.

But the Ukrainian job is far from done and the Prime Minister has directed that the UK provides even more in support of this next phase of the conflict. It was an honour to show Minister Havrylov and his generals the kit the UK hopes to provide next and to discuss some new weapons that have been trialled recently with UK forces.

**Defence Procurement Minister Jeremy Quin said:**

The UK has been clear of our support for Ukraine's defence against Russia's invasion.

We are exploring options for future military support, including working with the UK Defence industry and our Ukrainian counterparts into the longer term to ensure the equipment supplied continues to be both effective and sustainable for their heroic armed forces.

The UK has a deep and longstanding bilateral defence relationship with Ukraine and since 2015 has trained over 22,000 personnel as part of Operation Orbital and the UK-led Maritime Training Initiative. This training has included medical skills, logistics, countering improvised explosive devices (C-IED), leadership, planning, and infantry tactics.

The support was stepped-up in 2021 with the UK and Ukraine signing a bilateral treaty, which released £1.7bn of financing in support of the Ukrainian Naval Capabilities Enhancement Programme.

Since the Russian invasion the UK has been leading efforts to coordinate international donations, hosting two donor conferences to encourage further donations and support their delivery, as well as running the International Donor Coordination Centre in Stuttgart to ensure the international community's military aid to Ukraine is as coordinated and effective as possible.

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# Alisdair Gilchrist MBE: saving lives at sea

It is almost 40 years since the ship Alasdair Gilchrist was aboard sank after being hit by an anti-ship missile during the Falklands conflict.

Four decades on he brings his experience and expertise to bear at the Defence, Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) by making the lives of those serving at sea safer.

As Above Water Systems Programme Manager he has pioneered work in artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning, autonomy in uncrewed vessels, and threat detection.

Alasdair, who has been made an MBE, said:

I survived HMS Sheffield sinking on the 4th of May 1982. It was quite personal. I lost 20 good friends and had some mental issues after that – post traumatic stress.

To come through that you need to be able to use it as a positive emotion to affect change for good. Saving sailors' lives is what we do and I'm very proud of that.

I want to make a difference and Dstl has given me that platform to make a difference.

## The People Inside: Alisdair Gilchrist

Alasdair joined the Royal Navy 45 years ago and was tasked with the most menial jobs on the ship but now he is helping shape the future of naval warfare.

He added:

I joined the Navy in 1977 as a young junior seaman operator – mainly scrubbing decks and cleaning toilets at the age of 16, but learning from the bottom up which was just a wonderful experience. They sent me around the world.

He served with the Royal Navy for 28 years. He has worked at Dstl more than 16 years and recently been involved in projects such as the uncrewed vessel MAST-13 and exercise Formidable Shield.

Alasdair – who is known as Gilly – said:



My role is predominantly looking after the science and technology advancement of the Royal Navy's technical goals on its major warships.

The exciting thing is to see the technology go on to the ships. We just can't sit on our laurels.

Technology is going at a pace and we just have to keep up with it – and shape it for good.