

[Kavita Puri has been reappointed to the board of the Victoria & Albert Museum](#)

News story

The Prime Minister has reappointed Kavita Puri as a Trustee of the Victoria & Albert Museum for a four year term from 2 July 2022 to 1 July 2026.



Kavita Puri is an award-winning journalist, executive producer and broadcaster. She presents documentaries on BBC Radio 4 and the BBC World Service including The Inquiry. She devised, wrote and presented the landmark series, Partition Voices, on Radio 4 marking the 70th anniversary of the Partition of India. It was awarded The Royal Historical Society's Best Radio and Podcast prize and its overall Public History Prize. A legacy project, the testimonies are archived with the British Library. Partition Voices: Untold British Stories, was published in 2019 and is currently being adapted for the stage.

Kavita is also the creator, writer and presenter of Radio 4's Three Pounds in My Pocket, the first social history of South Asians in post-war Britain. It is currently on its fifth series. As the editor of Our World she commissioned and executive produced foreign documentaries which won awards from the Royal Television Society, the Foreign Press Association and the Association of International Broadcasters. She was named Journalist of the Year at the Asian Media Awards. She is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and was on the advisory committee of the Edinburgh International Television Festival. Kavita spent her early career at Newsnight where she also oversaw General Election coverage and led on large special events. She studied Law at Cambridge University.

Trustees of the Victoria & Albert Museum are not remunerated. This reappointment has been made in accordance with the [Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments](#). The process is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The Government's Governance Code requires that any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee

in the last five years is declared. This is defined as including holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation or candidature for election. Kavita Puri has declared no activity.

Published 24 March 2022

[One month of President Putin's war of choice against Ukraine: UK statement to the OSCE, 24 March 2022](#)

Thank you Mr Chair.

I am grateful to Ambassador Çevik for briefing the Permanent Council this morning. I would ask him to pass on the United Kingdom's heartfelt thanks to all his staff – both international and Ukrainian Mission Members – for everything they have done and continue to do for us. The experience, the expertise and the contacts built up by the Special Monitoring Mission over the last eight years remain invaluable. I would also like to take this opportunity to offer my personal condolences and those of my delegation for the death of Maryna Fenina – she, together with all Ukrainian victims of Russian aggression, remains in our thoughts.

Mr Chair, today we mark one month of President Putin's war of choice against Ukraine.

One month ago in the early hours of Thursday the 24th February, the world woke up to bombs falling on Ukrainian cities and the news that Russia had launched a premeditated, unprovoked and entirely unjustified invasion of its sovereign, democratic neighbour. That same day [my Foreign Minister joined dozens of others in this very council](#), condemning Russia's violation of the most basic principles of the UN Charter and international law, as well as their flagrant disregard for OSCE principles and commitments.

The Russian government claimed to be acting in pursuit of peace. In reality, they started a war of aggression.

Sadly, in the days that followed, Russia's disregard for international humanitarian law and their willingness to indiscriminately attack civilian areas became crystal clear. Civilian casualties grew rapidly as reports came in of the Russian military bombing apartment blocks, schools and hospitals in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Sumy, Chernihiv, Mariupol and many other places.

The Russian government claimed falsely to be acting to protect people in Donetsk and Luhansk regions – instead they unleashed hell on the people of

Mariupol and on towns and cities throughout Ukraine.

In an effort to stop the bloodshed, on the 27th February 45 OSCE participating States, including the UK and OSCE chair Poland, called on the Russian government to implement a humanitarian ceasefire. Shamefully, not only was that call ignored, but evidence emerged of Russia targeting agreed evacuation corridors – attacking civilians at their most vulnerable as they attempted to flee for safety.

The Russian government claimed to be respecting international humanitarian law – instead they committed atrocities against civilians.

As Russia's war of aggression dragged on, we saw yet further evidence of Russia's irresponsibility and their willingness to endanger not only Ukrainians but people all across Europe. Russia occupied the Chernobyl nuclear power plant – interfering with the vital work of Ukrainian staff keeping the site safe and preventing them from being relieved by their co-workers for days. The Russian government became the first State to attack a functioning nuclear power plant when they shelled Europe's largest nuclear power station in Zaporizhia.

Mr Chair, sadly these are just some of the many heinous acts perpetrated by the Russian government that we have been forced to confront in the last month. There were many others I could have named.

The Russian delegation can continue to attempt to distract and deflect us from their government's actions. But this is futile. No one believes them.

Instead, our colleagues should consider what it is they are defending and advise their government in Moscow that it will never succeed – neither in President Putin's senseless war, nor in its attempts to spread disinformation about that war.

So, Mr Chair, what should the Russian government do? No, what must the Russian government do?

They must respect international humanitarian law:

- Civilians must be allowed to evacuate in the direction of their choosing – not be forcibly deported to Russia as shockingly is now being reported.
- International organisations, including the OSCE, must be granted safe passage throughout Ukraine. Russia must allow the delivery of humanitarian aid.
- Russia must stop targeting civilians and civilian areas – international humanitarian law is unbending and indisputable in this area.

Mr Chair, the above steps from Russia are urgently needed for humanitarian reasons, but they would no longer be necessary if Russia simply immediately ended this senseless war. This is a war that the Russian government chose to start, in violation of international law, they can and must respect international law and end it.

Finally, Mr Chair, Russia must return to respect for the OSCE principles and commitments that keep us all safe. They must respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of their neighbour Ukraine. They must withdraw all their troops and return all Ukrainian territory to the rightful control of the Ukrainian government, including Crimea and the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine.

The Russian government has made itself an international pariah through its own actions – the longer they persist in this war of choice, the longer they will remain a pariah.

Thank you Mr Chair and I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

One month of President Putin's war of choice against Ukraine: UK statement to the OSCE, 24 March 2022

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[Charity Commission opens statutory inquiry into Lancashire charity for people with learning disabilities](#)

Press release

The Charity Commission has opened a statutory inquiry into Rossendale Valley Mencap, to investigate potential misconduct and/or mismanagement in the administration of the charity.



Rossendale Valley Mencap's charitable objects are to support people with learning disabilities through help and support to them and their families, as well as the provision of meeting and leisure activities and facilities.

The Commission began engaging with the charity in December 2017 and has since issued two action plans to trustees, to address overdue and outstanding accounting records and issues around the charity's governance. The charity did not comply with either of these action plans and the regulator is concerned that the charity's assets may now be at risk.

The inquiry will examine whether the charity's trustees are complying with their legal duties, including:

- whether the charity has a sufficient number of trustees who are willing and capable of managing it in accordance with its governing document
- the extent to which the trustee(s) have responsibly managed the charity's resources and whether assets are secure or have been lost and/or misapplied
- their compliance with legal obligations for the preparation and filing of the charity's accounts and other information or returns
- the extent to which the trustee(s) of the charity have complied with previously issued regulatory guidance
- whether there are appropriate policies and procedures in place to safeguard vulnerable beneficiaries

The Commission may extend the scope of the inquiry if further issues emerge.

Mencap advised the Commission in 2019 that the Rossendale charity is no longer affiliated with it and the group had informed Royal Mencap Society they intended to operate under the name of Rossendale Open House. The charity is also known locally as the 'Rossendale Valley Gateway Club'. It was previously known as 'Rossendale Society for mentally handicapped children and adults' until it changed its name on 12 March 2011. Its registered charity number is 513296.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

1. It is the Commission's policy, after it has concluded an inquiry, to publish a report detailing what issues the inquiry looked at, what

actions were undertaken as part of the inquiry and what the outcomes were. [Reports of previous inquiries are available on GOV.UK.](#)

2. 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.

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[Planning Inspectorate casework during the election period](#)

News story

Information regarding issuing appeal decisions and recommendations during the election period in England.



Image by RachelH_ <https://www.flickr.com/photos/bagelmouse/17246052428>

On Thursday 5 May 2022, elections will be taking place:

- to the Northern Ireland Assembly;
- to a number of local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales, including a number of directly elected Mayors.

The Planning Inspectorate always aims to issue decisions and recommendations promptly after the event. However, in the run-up to the May 2022 elections we are concerned to ensure that appeal decisions or recommendations relating to proposals which have raised particular sensitivities or interest in an area cannot be seen to have influenced the election or have been used to electoral advantage by any interested body.

Accordingly, we will not be issuing decisions, reports or advisory letters in

cases or examinations where known candidates have made representations until the election results have been announced.

Appeals casework

In appeals we will also hold back cases that may give rise to electoral sensitivities because of their nature and / or the issues involved. This might include:

- where there has been an extensive local campaign or where the decision raises very controversial local issues like inappropriate and / or unauthorised development in the Green Belt
- major green field housing
- renewables
- where there is an emerging Neighbourhood Plan

Whether a decision should be held back until the election results have been announced is a judgement taken by the Inspector in conjunction with senior managers at the Planning Inspectorate based on the circumstances of the case. We shall, of course, ensure that any such delayed decisions are issued promptly after the election.

National Infrastructure Casework

As National Infrastructure Examinations are required to comply with a statutory time limit, once the Preliminary Meeting has been notified and the Examination Timetable has been set the examination is expected to run to the published timetable.

Local Plans

All scheduled local plan examinations and hearing sessions will continue during the pre-election period and new examinations will also begin. However, to avoid making announcements that could be politically sensitive, the Planning Inspectorate will not be issuing any letters regarding the soundness or legal compliance of local plans, or final reports (including for fact check), until after the elections.

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