

[P&O Ferries: staff redundancies](#)

Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng and Labour Markets Minister Paul Scully wrote to the CEO of P&O Ferries on 18 March 2022 requesting details of the circumstances by which staff were made redundant on 17 March so that government can establish whether any employment or redundancy laws have been broken.

Peter Hebblethwaite, CEO of P&O Ferries, responded by letter on 22 March.

Dean Beale, CEO Insolvency Service, wrote to the Business Secretary on 1 April about their investigation into the redundancies.

[We all stand with Ukraine: article by the British, US, Canadian and EU diplomatic missions in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean](#)

Article by the British, US, Canadian and EU diplomatic missions in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean:

People across the globe have been shocked and moved by the harrowing scenes from Ukraine. Whole cities are being destroyed by Russian missiles, with hospitals, apartment buildings and railway stations reduced to rubble. Thousands have been killed, including many children. Three million people – equivalent to the entire population of Jamaica – have fled their homeland, uncertain if they will ever return. Of these, more than 1.5 million are children.

According to UNICEF, since the start of the war, 75,000 children per day have become refugees – that's one child almost every single second. What was once a peaceful, free and democratic country has been subjected to fear, destruction and death.

Russia's assault on Ukraine is an unprovoked, premeditated and barbaric attack against a sovereign state. And yet Vladimir Putin has shamelessly sought to justify the horror he has unleashed. He claims he is protecting ethnic Russians from an imagined genocide. He claims he is responding to NATO provocation. He claims that Ukraine is not a real country. The truth is that Putin is lying to his people and he is lying to the world.

But the world has seen through Putin's lies. Earlier this month 141 of the 193 United Nations (UN) Member States voted in favour of a UN resolution deploring the Russian invasion (only five countries voted against the resolution – Russia, North Korea, Belarus, Eritrea and Syria) and demanding that Russia “immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces from Ukraine.

Caribbean states have been at the forefront of international action, with all fifteen CARICOM countries backing the UN resolution. CARICOM issued its own, clear statement against the “violation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine”. Caribbean leaders condemned Russia's assault on multilateralism, upon which the independence of small states rests.

The strength of Caribbean leadership on this issue has surprised some people. Many have asked why their governments have taken such a strong stance. Why get involved in someone else's fight? What has a war five thousand miles away got to do with people here?

The fact is that this needless invasion has a direct impact on us all. Putin's actions are sending economic shockwaves around the world, driving up food and fuel prices and increasing the cost of living. We are already feeling those effects here.

More than this, however, Putin's war of choice is a direct attack on the principles of sovereignty and self-determination. These can seem like abstract ideas but they matter to us all. As a sovereign state Ukraine has a right to determine its own future – to choose its own allies, secure its own borders, and to trade and deal with whomever it wants. This is the same sovereignty that the countries of the Caribbean rightly cherish; the same principles of self-determination on which all our countries are built. In trampling Ukraine's sovereignty, Russia's bullying aggression is threatening all of our freedoms. The implications for all of us are profound.

And so it has been vitally important that the countries of the Caribbean speak so clearly on this issue, and from a position of such clear moral authority. Once again – just as we saw in the COP26 climate talks last year – the voice of the Caribbean is being heard loud and clear on the world stage. Our governments – in London, Ottawa, Washington, and the twenty-seven Member States of the European Union – have been proud to stand with you on this, together with such a large coalition of countries across every continent.

Our dispute is not with the Russian people, but with Putin and his government and their proxies, including a well-established and insidious propaganda machinery. His flagrant violation of international law, and the barbaric suffering they are inflicting on the people of Ukraine, must not succeed. 141 countries have made that clear.

The people of Ukraine stand firm for the core values every democracy is built upon and take heart from knowing that the world stands with them. This struggle is not theirs alone. In defending Ukraine and her people, we defend ourselves, our freedoms and the right to self-determination, which we cherish. The aggressors must not win.

We are confident in Ukrainian President Zelenskyy's prediction: "Life will win over death, and the light will win over darkness."

We must all #StandWithUkraine.

[Dialogue is key to improving stability for Israelis and Palestinians: UK at the UN Security Council](#)

Thank you Madam President, and my thanks to the Special Coordinator for his briefing today.

Let me start by once again reinforcing the need to prevent a return to the violence we witnessed in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories last year. We share concerns about the escalating tensions in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. We must all work to take steps to avoid exacerbating tensions. In this regard, we welcome the announcement by the Israeli Police Commissioner that there will be a pause on demolitions in East Jerusalem during Ramadan.

We are concerned about the rise in security incidents and violence in the OPTs, including the death of nine Palestinians this month by Israeli security forces' live fire. Where there are accusations of excessive use of force, we advocate swift, transparent investigations.

Israel has a legitimate right to self-defence. In exercising this right, it is vital that all actions are proportionate.

We welcome the dismantling of West Bank outposts by the Israeli authorities, including Moaz Esther, Givat Habaladim and Battir. The violence from settlers against Israeli security forces during the operations is inexcusable. Outposts are illegal under international law and Israeli law, and are an obstacle to peace.

Madam President, as we celebrated International Women's Day this month, we were reminded of the importance of ensuring equitable access to a quality education for all children and the power of educating girls as a tool for peace. We continue to urge the Palestinian Authority to pass the necessary legislation to protect and progress women's rights. And we reiterate our strong support for UNRWA and their vital work to help Palestinian refugee children, including girls, fulfil their potential.

The UK remains focussed on work to improve the economic situation in the West Bank and Gaza. We welcome the beginning of the electronic-VAT pilot, and ongoing work between the parties towards a more efficient tax system. The UK

encourages both parties to continue to make progress on other priority fiscal issues, and to reconvene the long-stalled Joint Economic Committee, in order to enhance dialogue on economic issues.

Finally, as we look towards the convergence of religious holidays next month, the UK strongly discourages unilateral actions that may increase tensions. We reiterate our support for the historic Status Quo in the Old City of Jerusalem – that is the best means of preserving the right to peaceful worship for the three Abrahamic faiths.

It is only through dialogue that we can improve stability across the region and build the foundations for peace. The UK remains firmly committed to a two-state solution, based on 1967 lines, and with Jerusalem as a shared capital.

Thank you, Madam President.

[Trade Remedy Authority instructed on steel safeguards measures](#)

News story

The Secretary of State for International Trade has ‘called in’ the TRA’s reconsideration of its review into the steel safeguard trade remedy measure.



The Secretary of State for International Trade has today, 22 March 2022, ‘called in’ the TRA’s reconsideration of its review into the steel safeguard trade remedy measure.

This call-in marks the first use by the Secretary of State of new powers established under the Trade Remedies (Review and Reconsideration of Transitioned Trade Remedies) Regulations 2022. ‘Call-in’ means the Secretary of State has assumed responsibility for this reconsideration and its outcome. The Secretary of State’s letter calling in the reconsideration and setting

out instructions to the TRA can be found on the [reconsideration public file](#) .

The TRA has been asked to conduct additional analysis at an aggregated level of steel products. This will supplement the analysis at individual product categories in the original review that regulations dictated. The Government believes that analysis at an aggregated level may better reflect the integrated nature of the steel industry, where developments affecting one product also have an impact on others.

DIT have also announced the [call-in today via a gov.uk notice](#) and published a [Written Ministerial Statement](#).

Call-in powers have been established as part of the ongoing review of the UK trade remedies framework announced on 30 June 2021 which aims to ensure that the TRA and government collectively have the abilities to defend UK industries from unfair trade practices and promote rules-based free trade. You can find out more about these powers and the review [here](#).

The TRA has worked closely with the Department for International Trade in preparing for this call-in and looks forward to supporting the Secretary of State in completing the reconsideration, which is due to be completed by 30 June 2022.

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[PM call with Sultan of Oman, Haitham bin Tarik al Said: 22 March 2022](#)

Press release

Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke to the Sultan of Oman, Haitham bin Tarik al Said this afternoon.



The Prime Minister spoke to the Sultan of Oman, Haitham bin Tarik al Said,

this afternoon.

He thanked the Sultan and the Government of Oman for their invaluable assistance in securing the release of British nationals Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Anoosheh Ashouri from Iran, highlighting it as an example of the UK and Oman's successful and enduring partnership.

The leaders shared their deep concerns about the brutal Russian offensive in Ukraine, agreeing that attacks on civilians must be stopped. They discussed efforts to improve global energy security in the wake of the crisis, including by boosting our existing cooperation in renewable energy and green technology.

The Prime Minister and Sultan Haitham bin Tarik also discussed regional security issues, including the conflict in Yemen, and committed to further develop UK-Omani cooperation in defence, investment and trade.

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