

Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, December 2021

Press release

Dr David Ellis OBE has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in succession to Mr Colin Crooks LVO.



Dr David Ellis OBE has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Dr David Ellis OBE has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in succession to Mr Colin Crooks LVO who will be transferring to another Diplomatic Service appointment. Dr Ellis will take up his appointment with immediate effect.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Full name: David Ellis

2020 to 2021 Full time language training (Korean)

2016 to 2020 Tokyo, Minister and Deputy Head of Mission

2016 Full time language training (Japanese)

2011 to 2015 Beijing, Minister Counsellor (Political)

2007 to 2011 Tokyo, Director of Corporate Services and Consul General

2004 to 2006 FC0, Deputy Head, Afghanistan Group

2002 to 2004 FC0 Deputy Head, Far Eastern Group

1999 to 2002 Beijing, First Secretary (Internal) and Deputy Political Counsellor

1996 to 1999 FC0, Senior Research Officer, Research Analysts

Published 16 December 2021

[Webinars about moving goods from Portugal to Great Britain](#)



These videos will help you understand how to move types of goods between Portugal and Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales). They cover changes that came into place in January 2022.

Moving auto parts between Portugal and GB

[Moving auto parts between Portugal and GB](#)

This webinar will help you understand how you can move auto parts, in this example seat belts, from the EU (Portugal) to Great Britain (GB) taking into account the further changes that have come into place since January 2022 onwards.

Moving textiles between Portugal and GB

[Moving textiles between Portugal and GB](#)

This webinar will help you understand how you can move textiles, in this example fabric, from the EU (Portugal) to Great Britain (GB) taking into account the further changes that have come into place since January 2022 onwards.

Published 16 December 2021

Last updated 9 May 2022 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 9 May 2022

Updates to page made to reflect the changes to import controls announced on 28 April 2022

2. 16 December 2021

First published.

Special feature: GAD's climate work and COP26

The 26th United Nations Climate Change conference, commonly referred to as COP26, was held at the SEC Centre in Glasgow in November. Delegates from around the world, including heads of states, climate experts and campaigners, convened to agree co-ordinated action to tackle climate change.

COP26 was held at Glasgow Science Centre

GAD's support for COP26

As host of the COP26 summit, the UK government was central to facilitating this global event. Many government departments were involved in the UK's preparation and GAD is proud to have lent our support to this work.

One of our actuaries, Sara Ronayne, was seconded to HM Treasury's Private Finance Hub in the lead up to COP26. The Hub was led by the UK Prime Minister's Finance Adviser for COP26 – former Governor of the Bank of England Mark Carney.

A key part of his role was to help create a global financial system where “every professional financial decision takes climate change into account.”

During her secondment Sara used her analytical skills and experience of GAD's climate work to support a range of new climate finance analysis challenges. [Read this blog](#) to find out more about her experience.

GAD's support for net zero

Of course, while the COP26 summit has been high profile, many other government projects are also playing a key part in ensuring the UK can realise its climate goals. Prior to COP the UK had already set out its [landmark strategy to reach net zero emissions by 2050](#). During the summit, the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, reaffirmed this commitment and announced the UK's intention to become [the world's first Net Zero-aligned financial centre](#).

GAD's analytical expertise is supporting several projects to help departments realise their own net zero ambitions, such as:

- financial modelling for the Department for Education to help them decarbonise. This includes converting school minibus fleets to electric vehicles and identifying schools most in need of replacing gas boilers with heat pumps
- working closely with the Department for Education's Risk Protection

Arrangement team to build up flood resilience in schools across the country

- chairing cross-department discussions on Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) and considering the types of financial risk that these contracts may involve. A PPA is a contract that allows an electricity user to buy directly from a renewable energy provider at an agreed cost for an agreed length of time

Changes to the way we consume energy can play a big part in tackling climate change

Understanding climate risk

Alongside our analytical skills, actuaries are well versed in making sense of long-term financial risk and uncertainty. As climate change is a significant source of long-term uncertainty and risk, this is an area in which our skillset can add value.

In GAD we are committed to building our capabilities to support government and the wider public sector in making sense of long-term climate related risks. This includes embedding climate considerations into our 'traditional' areas of actuarial work, such as pensions and insurance. We also support other government workstreams where consideration of climate risk is relevant.

GAD is supporting the public sector to understand the risks posed by climate change

Examples of this include:

- **embedding climate scenario analysis** across a range of workstreams, such as the actuarial valuations GAD undertakes for around 20 public service pension schemes. [Read this blog](#) for an example of GAD's scenario analysis work.
- **supporting climate related financial disclosures** – we are supporting clients who are required to report their climate related risks and opportunities. Risk management, including the use of climate scenario analysis, is a central aspect of these disclosure requirements.

[Pilot project aims to help safeguard native white-clawed crayfish](#)

The £20,000 National Crayfish Monitoring Programme includes environmental DNA (eDNA) surveying that will focus on identifying the presence of native white-

clawed crayfish, invasive signal crayfish and crayfish plague.

Surveys took place in November across Northumberland, North and West Yorkshire, including the River Ure near Bainbridge and a Stillwater near Holmfirth.

The signal crayfish, which originates from America, is bigger, more aggressive and out-competes the native white clawed crayfish. They also carry a fungal disease known as crayfish plague, which is fatal to the native species. Some areas of the North East and Yorkshire have some native crayfish populations in their rivers, some of the last strongholds in the country.

Endangered native crayfish

Ian Marshall, Biodiversity Technical Specialist in the North East and white-clawed crayfish National Species Lead for the Environment Agency, is leading on the work. He said:

It's well known that our native white clawed crayfish is in perilous danger and it's imperative we take steps to safeguard its future.

The more we know about the presence and movement of both native and non-native crayfish the more we can do to help. This pilot project will result in a new sampling protocol being developed for use right across the country, which will support conservation efforts.

By using the latest techniques, we will be able to better focus our efforts, enabling us to make a greater impact on conserving this valuable species.

New method of surveying

The new method was successfully implemented by the Marine Institute Ireland (MII) and involves pumping a large amount of river water through a glass fibre filter using a specialist pump. This is then sent to MII and the Environment Agency's National Laboratory Service for analysis.

It's hoped the new survey methods will better support white-clawed crayfish conservation efforts. The £20,000 project is funded jointly by the Environment Agency and Defra.

Ian is also exploring how to apply the new method to other protected species, such as freshwater pearl mussels, as well as to invasive species. He added:

The opportunity to also work with freshwater pearl mussels to identify potential relic populations or introduction sites is currently being investigated.

River users can play a vital role in conserving the future of white clawed crayfish. The Environment Agency urges people to 'Check – Clean – Dry' their footwear and equipment after spending time in and around watercourses.

Anything that has contact with the water and riverbank needs to be cleaned thoroughly and dried until it has been dry for 48 hours. If this is not possible, cleaning and the use of an environmentally friendly aquatic disinfectant is recommended. This will make sure all aquatic diseases and invasive species are killed. More information can be found on the [Invasive non-native species website](#).

[WTO TRIPS Council December 2021: UK statement](#)

World news story

UK statement during the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Council on 16 December 2021



Thank you, Chair, good day to all.

In the interest of time, Chair, I will deliver our key points and will submit our full statement in writing.

1. Throughout the pandemic our top priority has been to save lives. We firmly believe that the best way to do this is to support the world's leading scientists to continue developing innovative products, especially vaccines, at an unprecedented pace, to help contain, treat, and prevent COVID-19, and to ensure the dissemination of that innovation. It is evident from the over 300 vaccines in clinical and pre-clinical development and the 300 plus successful licensing partnerships that the continued innovation of health products and technologies and their dissemination across the world is enabled by the

international IP framework. This framework provides innovators the confidence to invest in developing health products and to form these collaborative partnerships, which benefit all. Ongoing uncertainties regarding emerging new variants only underline the vital ongoing importance of innovation in the fight against this and future crises.

2. Since the waiver proposal was originally submitted in October 2020, when a COVID-19 vaccine did not exist and supply was the immediate issue, there has been a persisting divergence of views, which has continued including after the proposal's update in May 2021. In recent weeks, the UK has held a series of bilateral engagements with a broad range of Members on this file to try to understand current views. However, it remains evident that consensus does not yet exist on a way forward and certainly not on a broad scope IP rights waiver as presented in 669/Rev.1. It was also evident in our consultations that there are a wide range of views as to the implementation and effect of a TRIPS waiver, with many Members being convinced or acknowledging that a TRIPS waiver proposal would not increase the number of vaccines reaching people's arms. Further, many delegations point to the risks a TRIPS waiver would carry for this and future pandemics. I would like to reiterate that the UK is one of those Members.
3. On this basis, the UK does not see how text-based negotiations based on 669/Rev.1 could lead to consensus, solutions, or pragmatic outcomes. Until we achieve meeting of minds on fundamental parameters, we are bound to continue our work to convince and persuade. As made clear in the G7 Trade Ministers' Communique, we are (and I quote) "determined to achieve a multifaceted outcome on trade and health as the response by the WTO to the COVID-19 pandemic, including how the international IP framework can best support the pandemic response." (end of quote). We must continue to engage on viable options, which have a hope of reaching consensus and that realistically reflect the current situation, as soon as possible. For the UK, these include voluntary licensing and transfer of technology.
4. We understand that a DG-lead process external to the TRIPS Council is currently ongoing with the involvement of a select group of Members. As we have listened to wide range of positions and views expressed over the past months, we would caution against any process which omits taking such views into account or which discusses elements previously not debated.
5. We would like to thank Members for their sustained engagement. Whilst views may differ, there is a shared aim of preventing, treating, and containing COVID-19. The UK will continue to engage constructively to achieve this end.

Published 16 December 2021