

# Kabul attack: Foreign Secretary's statement following his call with US Secretary of State

Press release

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab gave a statement following his call with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken after the attack in Kabul on 26 August 2021.



Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said:

This evening I called US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, to express our sorrow that US troops lost their lives in Kabul today and that more have been injured. They paid the ultimate sacrifice while helping others reach safety.

I also want to extend my condolences to the families of all those Afghans killed or injured. It is tragic that as they sought safety they have suffered at the hands of terrorists.

Today's attack is a stark reminder of the dangerous situation in which UK military and civilian personnel have been working so hard to evacuate people and we should be proud of their bravery and what they have achieved.

The UK and US remain resolute in our mission to get as many people out as possible. It is testament to the remarkable courage of our personnel that they continue to do so while under fire. We will not let the cowardly acts of terrorists stop us.

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# PM appoints members to the Senior Salaries Review Body

Press release

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The Prime Minister has approved the reappointment of Ms Pippa Lambert as a member of the Senior Salaries Review Body, as of the 12th October 2021. The appointment is for a term of three years.

The Prime Minister has approved the extension of the appointment of Sir Adrian Johns KCB CBE DL as a member of the Senior Salaries Review Body, as of the 1st September 2021. The appointment is for an eleven-month period.

The Senior Salaries Review Body provides independent advice to the Prime Minister and senior ministers on the pay of many of the nation's top public servants.

Pippa Lambert was Global Head of HR for the Deutsche Bank, with responsibility for the Bank's worldwide Human Resources organisation from 2013-2020. Previous roles include Director of Global Reward at the Royal Bank of Scotland from 2011-2013 and Global Head of Reward at Deutsche Bank from 2005-2011. She is currently a trustee for Breast Cancer Haven and a member of the Aviva Board.

Appointed: October 2018 Second Term ends: October 2024

Adrian Johns served for 35 years in the Royal Navy specialising as a

helicopter pilot and flying instructor but also commanding 5 times at sea in ships ranging from a minesweeper to HMS OCEAN, Britain's largest warship at the time. He was Head of the Fleet Air Arm for 5 years and retired from the Navy in the rank of Vice-Admiral as Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command in 2008. In his final appointment, he was responsible for all aspects of HR, remuneration, recruiting, training, and career management for the naval service. Following retirement from active service, he was Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Gibraltar from 2009 to 2013. He has a variety of charitable interests, is patron of a number of Veterans' Associations, and is a Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London.

Appointed: September 2015 Term ends: July 2022

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## [International travel update: new destinations added to government travel lists](#)

- UK updates international travel lists with 7 new destinations added to the green list
- Thailand and Montenegro to be added to the red list to protect public health
- passengers should continue to check the latest travel requirements and FCDO advice when considering foreign travel

New destinations will be moved to the UK government's green and red lists, as part of a safe and cautious reopening to international travel.

From 4am on Monday 30 August 2021, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Switzerland, and the Azores will be added to the green list, as the risk that travel from these countries poses to public health in the UK is low.

Travellers from these destinations will not have to quarantine regardless of whether they are fully vaccinated, but will still need to take pre-departure and day 2 tests and complete a passenger locator form.

Thailand and Montenegro will be added to the red list from 4am on Monday 30 August 2021, reflecting the increased case rates in these countries and the higher risk that travel from these countries poses to UK public health. The high rates combined with lower levels of published genomic surveillance in Thailand and Montenegro than other countries mean that an outbreak of a new variant or existing variants of concern (VOC) or variants under investigation

(VUI) cannot be easily identified before it is imported and seeded across the UK.

Passengers arriving in the UK from these red list destinations will need to isolate for 10 days in a managed quarantine facility and follow the necessary testing requirements.

The data for all countries will be kept under review and the government will not hesitate to take action should the data show that countries' risk ratings have changed.

All classification changes have been decided by ministers, informed by the latest data and analysis by the [Joint Biosecurity Centre](#) (JBC) and wider public health considerations, to help the public understand the risks to UK public health from incoming travel from different destinations.

Continuing with our phased approach to restarting international travel while protecting public health, we are engaging with governments around the world, offering technical expertise and support to help them make any improvements needed for a change in traffic light rating.

If travelling abroad, passengers need to take steps to keep safe and prepare in case things change before they travel or while they are there. This includes checking and keeping up to date on all entry requirements and [FCDO travel advice](#) before booking foreign travel, ahead of travelling and whilst they are abroad, because the situation remains fluid. They should also check the booking terms and conditions on flexibility and refunds.

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## [Civil news: HPCDS and Housing and Debt opportunity](#)

News story

Expressions of interest welcome to deliver Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme (HPCDS) services in five areas and Housing and Debt Contract Work in Cheshire.



We are inviting expressions of interest from 2018 Standard Civil Contract holders currently delivering housing and debt services to deliver services in the following HPCDS, starting as soon as possible:

- Cambridge
- Crewe and Chester
- Sunderland
- Stockport
- Hull (delivery of services at Hull to start from 1 November 2021)

This is for the delivery of the HPCDS services until 30 September 2022.

This opportunity is open to all 2018 Standard Civil Contract holders currently delivering housing and debt services and is not limited to current HPCDS providers.

We are also inviting expressions of interest to deliver Housing and Debt contract work in the Cheshire procurement area until 31 August 2022. This opportunity to deliver Housing and Debt services is open to all holders of the 2018 Standard Civil Contract and is not limited to current housing and debt providers.

There is no limit to the number of contracts that can be awarded to deliver Housing and Debt services in Cheshire.

There is no limit to the number of providers that may be successful in applying to deliver Housing and Debt services in Cheshire. However, for the Chester and Crew HPCDS we will give preference to an organisation who expresses an interest in delivering both Chester and Crewe HPCDS and Housing and Debt Services in the Cheshire Procurement Area. Organisations can choose to apply to deliver either one or both of the two services.

## **How to apply**

You can apply to deliver this service by downloading and completing the relevant expression of interest document from our civil tenders' page on GOV.UK – see below.

Organisations interested in delivering this service must complete and return the relevant expression of interest document by the deadline of 5pm on Wednesday 9 September 2021.

## Further information

[civil.contracts@justice.gov.uk](mailto:civil.contracts@justice.gov.uk) – to return the expression of interest document

[Civil tender activity 2021 – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/civil-tender-activity-2021) – to find out more and download documents

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## [UKHSA launches study to better understand COVID-19 vaccine response](#)

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) will lead a consortium of academic partners receiving £1.5 million in funding from the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) to understand why some people become infected after vaccination or prior infection while others do not.

The Public Health England (PHE) landmark SARS-CoV-2 immunity and reinfection evaluation (SIREN) study, together with a number of other research cohorts and partners including the Protective Immunity from T-Cells in Healthcare workers (PITCH) study, the Humoral Immune Correlates of COVID-19 (HICC), the Genotype to Phenotype (G2P) Consortium, GenOMICC and the Francis Crick Institute will assess participants' detailed immune system response to COVID-19 infections and vaccinations.

The research will seek to answer a number of key questions, including why some people get reinfections or infections after vaccination while others do not. It will also assess how long immunity from vaccinations lasts, how the timeline differs between the different vaccines and how changes in the SARS-CoV-2 virus' genetic make-up might evade the immune response.

Nearly 50,000 healthcare professionals enrolled in the existing SIREN and PITCH studies are given PCR tests every 2 weeks as well as regular antibody blood tests. The antibody results of those individuals who test positive for COVID-19, despite having had 2 doses of the vaccine or a previous confirmed infection, will be analysed by further specialised clinical interviews and tests to determine whether there are aspects of their immune response that differ from individuals who do not contract COVID-19. This could help to identify factors that increase the risk of 'breakthrough' infections – where someone catches COVID-19 despite being vaccinated.

Participants may also be asked if they would like to participate in analysis of their genetic code, to see if there are particular mutations in their DNA that might predict a poor response to vaccination.

Dr Susan Hopkins, COVID-19 Strategic Response Director at PHE said:

Understanding the immune response is essential, not only to determine who is most at risk of infections after vaccination, but also for vaccine developers who can target key components of the immune response effectively for future booster vaccines.

We are pleased that this funding will allow us to better understand immunity and are very grateful to the nearly 50,000 participants who have given up their time to take part in the study.

Health and Social Care Secretary Sajid Javid said:

Alongside the recent launch of a new UK-wide antibody testing programme, this new study will help us gain valuable insights into the immune response following vaccination or natural infection.

Our historic vaccination programme continues to prevent millions of infections and save over 95,000 lives in England alone. I encourage everyone to get both jabs so they can protect themselves and those around them.

Dr Rupert Beale, head of the Crick's Cell Biology of Infection Laboratory, said:

Understanding immunity is crucial to the pandemic response. We are teaming up with PHE and partners across the UK to get the best measurements of the body's immune response after vaccination.

We would like to understand which aspects of the immune response are the best predictors of vaccine efficacy. This will let us target additional doses of vaccine to people who might need them, and will inform the design of next generation vaccines to get better protection against emerging viral variants.