

Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Oman: Bill Murray

Press release

Mr Bill Murray has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman in succession to Mr Hamish Cowell CMG who will be transferring to another Diplomatic Service appointment. Mr Murray will take up his appointment during September 2021.



Curriculum vitae

Full name: William Murray

Married to: Joanna Murray

| Dates | Role |
|------------------------|---|
| 2019 to present | Abu Dhabi, Counsellor |
| 2016 to 2019 | Tunis, Counsellor |
| 2015 to 2016 | FCO, Head of Libya Team |
| 2013 to 2015 | FCO, Head of Syria Team |
| 2011 to 2013 | Jerusalem, Counsellor |
| 2010 to 2011 | Sana'a, Counsellor |
| 2009 to 2010 | Amman, First Secretary |
| 2008 | Pre-posting Arabic language training |
| 2006 to 2008 | Nairobi, First Secretary covering Somalia |
| 2005 to 2006 | FCO, Head of Team, Irbil |
| 2004 to 2005 | FCO, Counter Terrorism Department |
| 2003 to 2004 | Baghdad, Second Secretary |
| 1993 to 2002 | Royal Marines Officer |

Newsdesk

All the latest FCO news is available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

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[Suspended sentence for director who claimed he was used as 'front' for company](#)

David Smalley, 29, from Wakefield, was director of Kenza Village Limited which was said to trade metals and electrical goods.

In July 2014, Smalley submitted a reclaim for VAT he said he had paid, totalling more than £3.3m. However, the tax authorities found that no such amount had been paid, Leeds Crown Court heard.

The tax authorities subsequently wound up Kenza Village Limited in the High Court in December 2015 and the Official Receiver was appointed liquidator, sparking an investigation by the Insolvency Service.

It was found that Smalley had failed to ensure Kenza had maintained or preserved adequate accounting records during the entirety of his period as director of the company from February 2014 to December 2015.

When questioned, Smalley claimed that his role as director was so others could use him as a 'front' for the business, and that he was paid small amounts by others who were the controlling influence in the company without officially being linked to it. It is not thought Kenza Village Limited ever actually traded.

He was charged and pleaded guilty to one count of failing to keep adequate company records, contrary to Section 387 of the Companies Act 2006.

On 22 June 2021, David Smalley was sentenced to 8 months imprisonment suspended for 12 months, and also made subject of a 3 month curfew. He is also disqualified as a director for a further 4 years meaning he cannot, directly or indirectly, become involved, without the permission of the court, in the promotion, formation or management of a company.

Julie Barnes, chief investigator at the Insolvency Service, said:

David Smalley claimed that he was not the real director of Kenza and was instead being used to hide others who were the real controlling influences.

The responsibility still lies with the company director and we will take action if the legal requirements placed on directors are not adhered to.

David Smalley is of Wakefield and his date of birth is September 1991.

Company Kenza Village Limited (Company Reg no. 08436394)

The sentence result was announced at Leeds Crown Court by Judge Dixon.

Disqualification undertakings are the administrative equivalent of a disqualification order but do not involve court proceedings.

Persons subject to a disqualification order are bound by a [range of other restrictions](#).

[Further information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct.](#)

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

Vehicles seized in multi-agency operation to curtail waste crime

- Environment Agency helps seize vehicles worth about £41,000
- Operation limits convicted criminal in ability to trade
- Intelligence-led approach targets serious crime

Enforcement officers from the Environment Agency have led a multi-agency operation to curtail the activities of a convicted criminal in Worcestershire.

Vehicles worth about £41,000, including a tractor and trailer units, have been confiscated from Ridgeway Farm, Throckmorton. They have been identified as stolen.

The farm is the business address of John Bruce who was sentenced to a 26-month custodial sentence in May 2018 for operating an illegal waste site at the farm between 2011 and 2014.

Bruce was prosecuted for six offences in which waste totaling about 25,000 cubic metres was either dumped, buried or burned.

The Environment Agency was joined in an operation on Ridgeway Farm last month by officers from West Mercia Police and the National Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service.

A spokesperson for the Environment Agency said:

The vehicles seized were identified as stolen and the West Mercia Police have started a criminal investigation.

By seizing these vehicles, the multi-agency operation has curtailed the ability of Bruce to commit further environmental offences.

This work shows the Environment Agency is determined to crackdown on waste crime.

Waste crime can have a serious environmental impact which puts communities at risk and undermines legitimate business and the investment and economic growth that go with it.

We support legitimate businesses and we are proactively supporting them by disrupting and stopping the criminal element backed up by the threat of tough enforcement as in this case.

We continue to use intelligence-led approaches to target the most serious crimes and evaluate which interventions are most effective.

If you see or suspect waste crime is being committed we urge you to report it immediately to CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111.

Waste Crime

January 2020 saw the launch of the Joint Unit for Waste Crime a multi-agency taskforce formally bringing together environmental regulators and law enforcement agencies to tackle serious and organised waste crime which is estimated to cost the UK economy at least £600 million a year and cause great harm to the environment, local communities and businesses.

Read more about the [waste crime taskforce](#).

Waste Crime is becoming more organised, involving networks of career criminals, and tackling this type of illegal activity is more complex.

Companies, local authorities and businesses all have a responsibility to check what happens to their waste.

For all media enquiries please call 0800 917 9264, including out of hours.

[CMA appoints new members to Standing](#)

Counsel panel

Press release

The CMA has today announced 8 appointments to its Standing Counsel panel.



Members of the Standing Counsel panel assist the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) with its cases, both in an advisory capacity and by representing the CMA in court. The CMA first established its Standing Counsel arrangements in 2015 and expanded its Standing Counsel panel in 2018.

The CMA has now appointed 3 additional Queen's Counsel (QCs) and 5 additional junior counsel to the panel. This is in addition to the 3 existing panel members (Rob Williams QC, Ben Lask, and David Bailey).

The new members are:

The CMA has expanded its Standing Counsel to make sure it has the right number of members to assist in its work going forward. This reflects the growth in litigation undertaken by the CMA across all areas of activity as well as in anticipation of an increase in workload, following the UK's departure from the EU and the establishment of the Office for Internal Markets and the Digital Markets Unit.

CMA General Counsel Sarah Cardell said:

We are pleased to welcome these accomplished new members to our expanded Standing Counsel panel.

This will ensure we meet the growth in litigation across all areas of the CMA's activities and the enhanced responsibilities of the CMA following the UK's exit from the EU.

Notes to editors

1. Media queries should be directed to: press@cma.gov.uk or 020 3738 6460.
2. Marie Demetriou QC has reached the end of her 6 year term with the CMA

after renewing her appointment previously and will no longer appear on the panel, although she will continue working with the CMA on a number of cases.

3. Toby Riley-Smith QC took silk in 2016 and is a leading specialist in consumer law, with expertise in the regimes regulating both consumer finance and consumer products. He will focus on the CMA's consumer law litigation.
4. Catherine Addy QC took silk in 2017. She has an extensive commercial and chancery litigation practice and is a leading specialist in insolvency-related work. Her focus on the panel will be on director disqualification work .
5. Josh Holmes QC took silk in 2017 and specialises in competition law and regulation. He regularly appears before UK and EU Courts and regulators and has also advised on competition and regulatory matters arising in other jurisdictions.
6. Tristan Jones is a leading junior barrister across his core practice areas of competition, public, regulatory, telecoms and EU law .
7. Alexander Cook is an experienced litigator, with a practice including commercial litigation, insolvency and company law .
8. Julianne Kerr Morrison has a broad practice in public law, competition and regulatory work, data protection and freedom of information, and human rights . She will start her appointment in March 2022 .
9. Michael Armitage has a varied practice with a particular focus on competition law, public law and judicial review, including cases with a commercial/EU law focus .
10. Daisy Mackersie practices in the fields of competition, procurement and regulatory law and has experience in wider public law matters.

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[Call for bids for International Programme Fund \(IPF\) in Senegal](#)

World news story

The British Embassy in Dakar, Senegal is issuing a call for proposal for projects and activities for the 2021 to 2022 financial year.



UK Government

The International Programme Fund (IPF) is seeking to support short-term, one-off intervention projects in Senegal, Cabo Verde and Guinea Bissau.

Objectives

We are particularly interested in projects on the following thematic priorities:

Climate change, green recovery and biodiversity

Green growth: focus on renewable energy, tackling emissions, green growth in sectors such as power, transport and industry

Nature-based solutions: mitigate climate change and biodiversity loss, restoration of natural habitats and ecosystems

Adaptation and resilience: help communities to prepare for natural disasters

Open societies (media freedom)

- create inclusive media spaces i.e. reduce discrimination against women and vulnerable groups in media. Build capacity for media professionals and regulatory bodies' representatives on media freedom and gender sensitive reporting
- promote and protect media pluralism and media freedom for an increase in

equitable access to information. Enhance safety and security of journalists. Prevent or reduce harassment and physical assaults on journalists, media houses and media technicians

- promote the strengthening and understanding of the laws and regulatory frameworks necessary for a free, diverse and independent media, including an increase in their alignment with international standards

Human Development (gender, public health)

- build capacity for improving public health systems. Preference for initiatives focused on pandemic preparedness and cross-sector approaches to delivering public health (eg. outcomes recognising the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment)
- build capacity for promoting and improving legal and regulatory reforms on issues related to women, girls and those with disabilities
- promote and strengthen inclusion of women and girls in education and the economy. This can include initiatives relating to policy and data inclusion

Bid guidance

1. Proposals must include a [project proposal form \(PPF\)](#) (ODT, 39.8KB) and an [activity based budget template](#) (ODS, 10.3KB) in Great British Pounds (GBP)
2. Maximum budget limit: £10,000
3. First phase of Activity should ideally be completed by 15 December 2021 (Preliminary report) and Second phase and Final phase by 15 March 2022
4. The preliminary and final reports could be delivered in English or French
5. Project proposals must have a clear purpose supported by achievable and measurable outputs (e.g. events and reports) and outcomes (i.e. what the project aims to help address through its activity)
6. The project is expected to be carried out within the months of August 2021 and March 2022 (08 months)
7. Projects are funded under a quarterly reimbursement scheme (against completed activities) with no expectations of continued funding beyond the agreed period

Project assessment

The proposal submissions will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- alignment with the above-mentioned priorities and outcomes
- organisation's specialised knowledge, expertise and experience in the field
- they should cover the issues and proposed methodology
- activities should be value for money (VfM) and cost-efficient
- clear and achievable deliverables within the funding period

- long-term impact: project benefits continue after the funding ends
- good project design including established monitoring and evaluation procedures
- project feasibility, including capacity of implementing organisation and ability to deliver under current circumstances
- identifying risks and establishing mitigation strategies
- all programmes (and the projects, interventions or events within them) must align with the [Paris Agreement](#) – an international treaty on climate change – and assess climate and environmental impact and risks, taking steps to ensure that no environmental harm is done. Any International Climate Finance (ICF) programmes must identify and record ICF spend and results
- all projects (and policies) must consider and provide evidence on how their interventions will have an impact on gender equality, disability inclusion and other marginalised groups

Timeframe and deadlines

| Date (2021) | Activity |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 06 July | Call for proposals opens |
| 19 July (23:55 PM Dakar Time) | Call for proposals closes |
| 26 July | Confirmation of shortlisted proposals |
| August | Projects initiate |

Process to apply

Proposals should be submitted by 23:55 PM (Dakar time) on 19 July 2021. Late proposals will not be considered. All documents submitted with the proposal must be in English. Ensure that the [project proposal form \(PPF\)](#) (ODT, 39.8KB) and the [activity based budget template](#) (ODS, 10.3KB) have the organisation's name at the beginning of the file name. Example: Organisation Name_Project Proposal or Organisation Name_Activity Based Budget.

Proposals must be submitted to projects.dakar@fcdo.gov.uk with the subject line "FCDO Programme Funds 2021-2022 – [Name of Organisation] – [Country]". Due to the high number of bids we receive, we are unable to provide detailed feedback to unsuccessful bids.

Please direct any queries to projects.dakar@fcdo.gov.uk. Only successful bids will receive a notice in due course. Selected proposals will go through a Due Diligence Assessment (DDA). The Embassy will save the right to decide whether it should maintain or reject a proposal depending on DDA outcomes.

Implementing partners will be expected to sign a standard FCDO grant agreement with the Embassy. The terms of agreement are not negotiable.

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1. 8 July 2021

Added translation

2. 7 July 2021

First published.