

Civil news: updated contract schedules from 1 September 2021

News story

New civil contract schedules beginning 1 September 2021 to be made available by the end of August.



We will soon be issuing new civil contract schedules beginning on 1 September 2021.

These will replace the current third year schedules for the 2018 Standard Civil Contract which are ending on 31 August 2021. All schedules will run for 12 months.

Where to find new schedules

You will be able to view schedules, including Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) schedules, in Contracted Work and Administration (CWA) from no later than 31 August 2021.

Reporting work

Work completed in September can be reported from 1 October 2021.

Matter start allocations

In most cases, matter starts will be allocated on the basis of the allocation bid for in the original tender.

Where you have self-granted an additional 50% of matter starts, you will receive this increased allocation.

This includes an allocation of an additional 20 miscellaneous matter starts to advise victims of human trafficking/modern slavery on compensation claims where a provider bid for these in the original tender.

Providers will be able self-grant a further 50% of matter starts in the

fourth year of the contract.

Further information

[LAA Online Portal](#) – to log into Contracted Work and Administration

[Standard Civil Contract 2018](#)

Published 1 July 2021

UN Human Rights Council 47: UK statement at the side event on Assessing the National Security Law in Hong Kong

I would like to start by thanking all the speakers here today for coming together to discuss the situation in Hong Kong. A year on from the imposition of the National Security Law, it is clear that this is, and continues to be, the most concerning period in Hong Kong's post-handover history.

As the UK has consistently said, the National Security Law constitutes a clear and serious breach of the Sino-British Joint Declaration. By imposing the law on Hong Kong on 30 June 2020, China broke its legal obligations. The Legislative Council was bypassed, undermining Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy. The content of the law also seriously undermined Hong Kong's rights and freedoms.

Senior Chinese Government figures claimed at the time that the law would target "a tiny number of criminals who seriously endanger national security". The reality is that the law has been used systematically to restrict freedom of expression and to reduce legitimate political debate. This directly undermines the rights and freedoms China promised to the people of Hong Kong in the Joint Declaration.

We are now seeing the effects of a law with loosely defined provisions, backed up with the threat of potentially long jail sentences and transfer of cases to mainland China. High profile figures have been arrested to scare and intimidate others.

We see this in the courts with the ongoing trials of 47 pro-democracy politicians and activists for their alleged roles in unofficial political primaries last year. These cases, and others, demonstrate in the starkest way that the National Security Law is being used to stifle political dissent.

Confidence in the rule of law will be undermined if there are further politicised prosecution decisions.

Furthermore, the recent action against Apple Daily and the ongoing targeting of Jimmy Lai demonstrates how the National Security Law is now being used further to suppress media freedom. This is against a wider backdrop of increased media censorship, and is another chilling blow to freedom of expression in Hong Kong. Since the imposition of the National Security Law, the UK has since declared two further breaches of the Joint Declaration. Firstly, in November last year, following the imposition of new rules by Beijing to disqualify elected Hong Kong legislators. Then in March this year, following Beijing's decision to impose radical changes to restrict participation in Hong Kong's electoral system.

As a result, the UK now considers China to be in a state of ongoing non-compliance with the Joint Declaration. By signing this legally-binding agreement, China undertook to uphold, until at least 2047, freedoms of speech, of the press, and of assembly. They also agreed to keep in force the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and to maintain the independent judiciary and rule of law.

There is a stark and growing gulf between Beijing's promises and its actions.

The UK will continue to defend the rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong. In response to the National Security Law, the UK extended its existing arms embargo on mainland China to include Hong Kong, suspended its extradition treaty with Hong Kong, and created a new visa route for British Nationals Overseas. Alongside our international partners, we have continued to call out China's egregious actions – most recently in the communique of the UK's G7 Summit, and through recent joint statements at the UN Human Rights Council.

The UK will continue to work with like-minded partners to stand up for the people of Hong Kong, call out the violation of their rights and freedoms, and hold China to their international obligations.

[UN Human Rights Council 47: Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association](#)

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[Change of the United Kingdom's Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe: Sandy Moss](#)

News story

Mr Sandy Moss has been appointed the United Kingdom's Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.



Mr Sandy Moss has been appointed the United Kingdom's Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg in succession to Mr Neil Holland who will be transferring to another Diplomatic Service appointment. Mr Moss will take up his appointment during August 2021.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Full name: Alexander Robert Fraser Moss

Married to: Valerie Moss

Children: 3

2019 to present FCD0, Head of Foreign Security Policy Unit
2018 to 2019 FC0, Acting Chief of Staff to the Political Director
2015 to 2018 FC0, Head of Pay and Workforce Planning, Human Resources Directorate
2013 to 2015 FC0, Deputy Head of Africa Department (Central and Southern)

2009 to 2013	Addis Ababa, Deputy Permanent Representative to the African Union
2005 to 2009	Brussels, Second Secretary, Operations and Capabilities, UK Delegation to NATO
2002 to 2005	FCO, Head of Taiwan Section
2001 to 2002	FCO, Desk Officer, Biodiversity Team
1998 to 2001	McGrigor Donald, Trainee and Assistant Solicitor (Glasgow and London)

Further information

All the latest news is available on the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office page of the gov.uk website at: www.gov.uk/fcdo

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[UK helps to clear Sudan's debt and support its economic recovery](#)

This week (Tuesday 29), with UK support, Sudan's \$1.4 billion in arrears owed to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has been cleared, allowing it to access new financing to boost its economic recovery.

Sudan's clearing of its arrears was supported with £36 million from UK reserves at the IMF.

An additional £148 million one-day loan from the UK, announced by the UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab in [May](#), has previously helped Sudan clear its arrears at the African Development Bank.

This major milestone in Sudan's economic development means the new government can now access billions of dollars of fresh funding from multilateral organisations, to spend on healthcare and education, improving the lives of its people and helping the transition towards democracy.

UK Minister for Africa, James Duddridge said:

This is a huge step forward for Sudan. I congratulate Sudanese Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok and his government for this major achievement.

The UK is committed to supporting Sudan as it continues to pay off its crippling debts, making the country more attractive to

investors, and its people healthier and more prosperous.

The UK used its G7 Presidency to agree an ambitious financing package to enable the clearance of Sudan's IMF arrears with G7 Finance Ministers and other international partners at the IMF Board in June.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak said:

I congratulate the Sudanese government on reaching this important milestone.

The UK's G7 Presidency has galvanised the international community to back this ambitious package, which will unlock vital finance to address Sudan's urgent development, stabilisation and humanitarian needs.

The Foreign Secretary visited Sudan in January this year to reinforce the UK's support for the Government of Sudan as it moves towards democracy.

As of today, \$2.9bn of Sudan's arrears to the World Bank, African Development Bank and IMF have been cleared in total, removing the main barrier to accessing new funds from these multilateral institutions.

This puts the country in a strong position to work towards clearing its bilateral debt with other nations, ultimately making its repayment of debt more sustainable.