

# PM extends the appointment of the Chair for the Senior Salaries Review Body

Press release

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has extended the appointment of Dr Martin Read as the Chair of the Senior Salaries Review Body.



The Prime Minister has extended the appointment of Dr Martin Read CBE, as the Chair of the Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB), with immediate effect.

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. The appointment is for a period of eleven months.

Martin Read is Chairman of Wincanton plc and the UK Government's Senior Salaries Review Body.

Martin is a former chairman of Laird plc, the Remuneration Consultants Group and of the two government owned companies which manage contracts and payments under the electricity market reform programme (the Low Carbon Contracts Company and the Electricity Settlements Company). He was chief executive of international IT services company Logica from 1993 to 2007 and has served as a non-executive director on the boards of Lloyd's, Invensys, Aegis Group, British Airways, Siemens Holdings, Boots, ASDA and the UK Government Efficiency and Reform Board. Martin was chairman of the Remuneration Committees at Invensys, British Airways and Boots and has been a senior adviser to private equity firms Candover and Actis and to Indian technology companies HCL and Zensar. He led UK government reviews on back office operations and IT across the public sector (2008 to 2009) and management information (2012).

Appointed: January 2015 (reappointed in May 2018) Term ends: May 2022

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## OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine: UK response

Thank you Madam Chair. I would like to thank Ambassador Villadsen for his detailed briefing and excellent power point on the work of the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine.

The UK very much appreciates the many and varied projects implemented by your office, and your office's integration into the international community's combined effort to support Ukraine. The UK will continue to cooperate with the OSCE and the broader international community in supporting Ukraine, including Ukraine's reform efforts, and in this context we look forward to the Ukraine Reform Conference which will take place in Vilnius on 7-8 July.

We welcome the strategic objectives you have outlined again today: to assist the Government's reform effort, promote a culture of dialogue and help mitigate the effects of conflict. On this occasion, I'd like to focus my statement on three areas, rule of law and human rights, mitigating the impacts of the conflict and some of your Mission's operational achievements.

We appreciate the PCU's contribution to the wider international effort to promote reforms that support the development of the rule of law in Ukraine, which is a central pillar of Ukraine's future prosperity and resilience. In particular, your support to the Law Reform Commission and its three working groups on criminal justice, constitutional law and judicial reform and the dialogue facilitated by the PCU between reform stakeholders, such as the discussion on lessons learned from anti-corruption reforms in Ukraine and the implications for the judiciary.

We value your various projects to support the provision of human rights education in schools and a human rights-based approach in higher education. The role of youth in democracy and upholding human rights must begin with a good education. This is the first step in creating inclusive and tolerant societies where the young have the opportunity to understand the value of democracy and human rights, and are able to recognise and challenge those who threaten it. We were grateful for the information you included in today's report about the ways in which PCU is promoting youth engagement and participation more broadly.

Sadly, the lives of many Ukrainian young people continue to be negatively affected by the ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine. The UK commends the PCU for its continued work supporting the Ukrainian government in mitigating the impacts of this Russian instigated and Russian fuelled conflict.

We are grateful for your support to the Ministry of Veteran Affairs in providing psycho-social assistance to veterans. Your work on humanitarian demining, has been critical – both the provision of training and facilitation

of mine risk education and sharing international best practices. We also highly value your work on the Donbas Environmental Assessment, including the analysis of various dam break scenarios in the most vulnerable conflict affected areas.

It is important to consider environmental issues both through support to the Government of Ukraine, such as the assessment I have just mentioned, but also through ensuring that the Mission's own activities promote sustainability. On that front, we congratulate your "Green Team" colleagues on their award and encourage you to continue adopting and sharing best practice in this area.

We also continue to commend how you have successfully adapted your activities and planning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was particularly impressive that the Mission was able to achieve a budget implementation rate of over 95 per cent despite the pandemic. This underlines the continued importance of ensuring that your Mission is provided with sufficient resources to administer your many projects and to maintain flexibility to respond to possible improvements in the COVID situation.

We welcome your adoption in March of an 'Action Plan for Implementing the Strategy for the Promotion of Gender Equality at the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine. We also see the establishment of a Gender Focal Points Group under this action plan as a positive development. We firmly believe that integrating gender perspectives into the PCU's programmes and projects will increase the beneficial impact and effectiveness of the mission's work.

The UK remains committed to the long-term security, stability and prosperity of Ukraine. We thank the PCU for promoting reform across a broad range of issues, some of which have been highlighted today. Ambassador Villadsen, please accept our thanks for all the work conducted by you and your excellent team, and our very best wishes for your future endeavours.

Thank you Madam Chair.

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## **Introducing Defence Innovation Loans!** **Helping you make your Defence** **Innovation market ready**

News story

Calling all defence SMEs – loans of up to £1.6m available to help convert your mature defence innovation into a strong business proposition for defence procurement



The [Defence and Security Accelerator](#) (DASA) are pleased to launch a new competition: the [Defence Innovation Loan](#), which has £10 million to lend for innovative defence solutions.

Accessible to SMEs, and with a below market interest rate of 7.4% per annum, the Defence Innovation Loan provides an excellent opportunity to apply for affordable funds to help you bring your solutions into the hands of defence frontline services.

This new opportunity is delivered by a unique partnership between DASA and Innovate UK. It builds upon our goal of helping to convert your mature defence innovation into a viable business proposition that can compete for Defence procurement.

**Apply for a loan now! [Check out the full document and submit your idea.](#)**

## **How much is available for a Defence Innovation Loan?**

The total of £10 million is available for the Defence Innovation Loan competition this year.

You can apply for a loan between £250,000 and £1.6 million with a below market interest rate of 7.4% per annum. This loan can cover up to 100% of eligible project costs to aid the commercialisation of the solution and overall term of the loan must not exceed 7 years.

Please note, [Innovate UK](#) will be carrying out the Defence Innovation Loan credit evaluation of this competition and you will enter into a loan agreement and security agreement with Innovate UK Loans Ltd

[Read the full DASA competition document](#) for more information on Defence Innovation Loans.

## **Who can apply for a Defence Innovation Loan?**

To apply for a Defence Innovation Loan you must:

- be a UK registered SME

- intend to exploit the results in the UK or overseas to make a significant and positive impact on the UK economy and/or productivity
- give evidence that your business is suitable to take on a loan

Please note, individuals, academic institutions, research organisations and large companies are not eligible for innovation loans.

## **What kind of innovation will be considered for a loan?**

The Defence Innovation Loan is open to innovative ideas to improve the defence of the UK. Your innovation must be mature at TRL 6 or above, to ensure the solution can be commercialised within the time scale of the Innovation Loan. There also must clearly be evidence of a defence need for the innovative solution.

## **How do I apply for a Defence Innovation Loan? Submit a proposal now!**

[Click here for the full DASA Competition document](#) and submit your idea.

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## **UN Human Rights Council 47: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Education**

Covid-19 has been the largest disrupter to education in history, and girls will suffer the most. 129 million girls were out of school before the pandemic, and millions of girls are now at risk of not returning to school.

The United Kingdom is standing up for 12 years of quality education for all girls –a personal priority for our Prime Minister. Together with our G7 partners, we have just endorsed two new milestones to get the Sustainable Development Goals on track: 40 million more girls in school, and 20 million more reading by age 10, by 2026, in low- and lower-middle income countries.

To achieve this, we must tackle the barriers that are preventing girls accessing education, including discrimination at home, violence on the way to school and lack of access to sexual and reproductive health services. The UK is proud to be leading a resolution with the UAE during this Council session, which calls for urgent action to eliminate such barriers and ensure that all

girls get back in school and learning. We ask for support from all member states. To accelerate progress, girls' education is at the heart of the UK's G7 presidency this year, and we are co-hosting the Global Education Summit with Kenya in July.

Special Rapporteur Boly Barry,

How can we overcome the discrimination, exacerbated by Covid-19, which prevents many girls from realising their right to education?

Thank you.

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## **Landmark organisations pledge to uphold Armed Forces Covenant**

Landmark groups signing the Covenant this week include the House of Commons, while Amazon and Amazon Web Services (AWS) have reaffirmed their commitment as signatories.

A promise and commitment to ensure personnel, veterans and their families are treated fairly, the Covenant is entering its 10th year and has now been signed by 7,000 businesses, both large and small.

### **Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said:**

I'm delighted that the House of Commons and Amazon are showing their support for our service personnel by raising the flag and signing the Covenant. It is also welcome that Amazon and Amazon Web Services have reaffirmed their commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant as well.

This week is an annual opportunity for all of us to recognise the work our Armed Forces do, at home and abroad, to keep us safe.

### **Minister for Defence People and Veterans Leo Docherty said:**

The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise by the nation to ensure the fair treatment of those who are serving, veterans and their families. I'm delighted to see even more organisations – including Parliament – sign up to this pledge.

As the Covenant enters its 10th year, I am delighted to see some of our signatories – like Amazon and Amazon Web Services – reaffirming

their commitment. With this continued support we will ensure it continues to attract as many signatories as possible.

The Speaker of the House signed the Covenant on behalf of the Commons in a flag-raising event marking the start of Armed Forces Week, attended by Defence Secretary Ben Wallace, service personnel and cross-party MPs.

Defence Minister for the Armed Forces, James Heapey, will host a group of Amazon and AWS employees, including veterans, military spouses, reservists and apprentices in Whitehall today for the official signing of the Covenant by the companies. Amazon and AWS have pledged to support fair employment for the Armed Forces community and ensure their employment practices align with the unique needs of service families. Amazon and AWS have pledged to support meaningful employment for the Armed Forces community to meet the unique needs of service families.

Minister for the Armed Forces, James Heapey, with John Bumphrey, VP Country Manager UK for Amazon and Chris Hayman, UK Public Sector General Manager at Amazon Web Services, as both organisations sign the Armed Forces Covenant. MOD Crown Copyright.

The Covenant has had a positive influence on many areas in society, including education. For example, school admissions policies have been shaped to take into account the unique needs of service families who are relocating and £23-million a year is given to schools where service children attend.

Healthcare is another area that has seen positive changes. Support to service families from the NHS has been greatly improved and 800 GP practices in England are now accredited as 'veteran friendly', meaning the best possible care and treatment is available at these practices to patients who have served in the Armed Forces.

The Armed Forces Covenant led to the introduction of the Forces Help to Buy Scheme, which has helped over 21,000 service personnel get on to the housing ladder. The scheme enables servicemen and servicewomen to borrow up to 50% of their salary, interest free, to buy their first home or move to another property on assignment, or as their family's needs change.

The Government is committed to enshrining the Armed Forces Covenant into law through the Armed Forces Bill, which is currently being debated in Parliament.