

# OSCE Chairperson in Office, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, H.E. Ms. Ann Linde: UK response

I would like to warmly welcome Her Excellency Ms. Ann Linde to the Permanent Council and to her new position as OSCE Chairperson in Office. The UK looks forward to working with you and your excellent team here in Vienna and in Stockholm over the course of 2021. I would also like to welcome the new Secretary General and the new heads of the autonomous institutions.

Sweden is assuming this important leadership position at a critical time for Euro-Atlantic security. An ongoing pandemic, significant challenges to human rights and fundamental freedoms, and protracted conflicts form the backdrop to our security landscape. The UK is a firm supporter of the international system – with mounting challenges, we believe steadfastly in multilateralism and the importance of international organisations such as the OSCE. We agree that it is in our collective interest to work together in tackling common challenges. We need to ensure the multilateral system emerges from 2021 and the COVID-19 pandemic stronger. We thank Sweden for taking on this important role at this crucial time.

Your priorities as set out for the OSCE chime with the UK's – focus on defending the European security order, addressing protracted conflicts and enhancing democracy and gender equality. We agree on the importance of supporting the work of the OSCE's autonomous institutions, with their strong mandates and unique strengths, and that involving civil society organisations in our work helps us live up to our OSCE commitments.

And the beating heart of the OSCE is the collection of commitments and values all 57 participating States have freely signed up to, starting from the Helsinki Final Accord in 1975. Non use of force, sovereignty, territorial integrity and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms – these are at the core of these commitment, and are ultimately what this organisation is all about. We need to work together to uphold them. In this regard, the UK will be a firm supporter throughout your Chairpersonship in defending the values and rules that keep us safe.

On human rights, fundamental freedoms and the priority of enhancing democracy – the UK will continue to work to promote those rights and uphold these principles and commitments in the OSCE area. There are a number of places where they are currently denied and where there is significant backsliding. This year is a vital one to remind ourselves of our OSCE human dimension commitments. These include the holding of democratic elections which are periodic, genuine, free and fair. They include upholding the rule of law with independent judiciaries ruling on transparent laws where everyone is treated equally. And also include the full implementation of human rights and fundamental freedoms such as the freedom from torture, the right to a fair trial, and the freedom of expression, where media freedom and the safety of

journalists are crucial. We need to remind ourselves that the hard-won gains of past decades can never be taken for granted, anywhere. We look forward to working with you, and the new heads of the autonomous institutions, on upholding these vital commitments.

We share your conviction that we must prioritise conflict resolution and agree with your assessment that the OSCE has many tools at its disposal to support these efforts.

The Trilateral Contact Group, skillfully chaired by Ambassador Grau, and the OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission, under the dedicated leadership of Ambassador Cevik, have been vital and we continue to offer them our steadfast support in addressing the impacts of the conflict in and around Ukraine. Let us be clear – this is a conflict that Russia started and continues to fuel as part of their ongoing aggression against Ukraine, which remains one of the most serious security threats to the OSCE region. We will not stop calling on Russia to end its illegal annexation of Crimea and its destabilising activities in eastern Ukraine and return to the respect for OSCE principles and commitments.

Sadly, last year provided many sombre examples of how conflicts in the OSCE region continue to blight the lives of civilians. We were deeply saddened by the tragic loss of life during the escalation of military hostilities between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and gravely concerned at the continuing human rights violations and unacceptable restrictions on freedom of movement in the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova. All these situations make clear the urgent need to ensure respect for OSCE principles and commitments, as well as to further intensify the OSCE's vital conflict resolution work. As Sweden takes on this important task, you can rely on our firm support both for you and for all the OSCE's conflict resolution formats.

As Chair of the Security Committee in 2020, I was pleased that consensus was reached on a declaration underlining the importance of implementing OSCE commitments to tackle transnational organised crime. I and the UK stand ready to continue supporting your efforts to build on this priority topic in 2021, as well as on wider priorities such as cyber security.

We welcome your focus on comprehensive security. As host of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties next November, we recognise the importance of addressing the growing threat of long-term security challenges like climate change.

Your focus on gender equality and its importance is shared by the UK. We should be of no doubt that security – whether we are talking regional security, political security, economic security, environmental security, or human security – is enhanced by gender equality. Last year, 52 out of 57 participating States agreed to fully implement UNSCR 1325 in the OSCE area. This demonstrates the importance attached to the WPS agenda. We must do more to protect women and girls from all forms of violence, including in conflict and crisis situations. Initiatives such as the Protection Framework for women peacebuilders can help support this. And we look forward to working with you

to advance this agenda.

Your Excellency – in concluding, we wish you and your team the very best in the important year ahead in the OSCE. Please be assured of the UK's support.

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## [Mark Rouse appointed as Managing Director of Dounreay](#)

Press release

Dounreay Site Restoration Limited (DSRL) has announced the appointment of Mark Rouse as its Managing Director.



Mark Rouse appointed as Managing Director of Dounreay

Mark took up the position of Managing Director in March 2020 but will now move from the current parent body organisation to Dounreay Site Restoration Limited to continue leading the business when it becomes an NDA subsidiary on 1 April 2021.

He is currently in his second spell in charge, having also been at the Caithness site from 2013-2015, before being appointed as President of Cavendish Nuclear Japan.

NDA Chief Executive, David Peattie, said:

I am delighted that Mark has been appointed to the role of Managing Director and will provide consistency and stability as Dounreay becomes an important and integrated part of the NDA family.

Mark is personally driven to ensure the continued safe decommissioning of the site, while working with the local community to create new and sustainable alternative employment beyond the

current mission. Working very closely with the NDA team, Mark's focus is now on a safe and smooth transition of DSRL's ownership from Cavendish Dounreay Partnership to the NDA in March.

Mark added:

It is a privilege to be asked to stay at the site and continue leading such a highly skilled and committed team. We have a number of short-term challenges ahead as we continue to navigate our response to the current pandemic, but there are many exciting opportunities beyond that to deliver a technically challenging decommissioning programme and play an important role as part of the NDA.

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## [£76m contract boosts F-35 Lightning fleet support](#)

Signed by Lockheed Martin and the F-35 Joint Program Office, the Lightning Air system National Capability Enterprise (LANCE) contract will provide additional expertise on aircraft maintenance, bespoke UK training courses for pilots, groundcrew and engineers, and logistical and technical support for the fleet.

Providing additional experienced technical personnel at existing facilities, the contract will also allow three new capabilities to come into operation. These include an ejection seat maintenance workshop, a 'Pilot fit facility' to fit aircrew equipment, and component spray facility to transfer coatings onto aircraft components.

Giving the UK more freedom to operate its fleet of F-35s, it will also increase the number of flying hours available, alongside delivering important mission planning, training and maintenance capabilities.

### **Defence Minister Jeremy Quin said:**

The Lightning Force forms a key part of the UK's Carrier Strike Group and plays a central role in protecting our interests at home and abroad.

This investment will help ensure that this world-class fleet, and

their crew, are ready to deploy wherever and whenever required.

Based at RAF Marham, home of the UK Lightning Force, the investment reflects the increasing size of the UK's F-35 fleet and will create and secure 172 jobs mainly at the Norfolk base.

The contract will provide support for 25 months, with an option for a further three months. The majority of the work will be carried out by subcontractor BAE Systems.

**Air Commodore David Arthurton, Combat Air Force Commander, said:**

I welcome the opportunity LANCE provides to build upon the Lightning Force Element's already close relationship with our industry partners. The new contract will deliver an enhanced level of performance whilst also providing welcome stability to all involved with the programme.

Furthermore, it will underpin our participation in the United Kingdom's inaugural Carrier Strike deployment later this year, and provide an excellent foundation for future land and maritime operations as Lightning matures towards Full Operating Capability.

The support provided by the contract will be crucial in ensuring the fleet is ready and prepared when they sail with HMS Queen Elizabeth on her maiden Global Carrier Strike Group '21 deployment.

**Vice Admiral Rick Thompson, Director General Air for DE&S, said:**

I am delighted that we have secured LANCE for the UK's Lightning Force. This is a critical support contract that shows a significant maturity in the platform's capability.

The UK currently has 21 fifth-generation F-35s, having received three new jets on 30 November 2020.

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## **Recruitment of Non-Executive Director**

News story

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate is recruiting one Non-Executive Director to the VMD's Management Board and Audit and Risk Assurance Committee.



The Veterinary Medicines Directorate is seeking one Non-Executive Director to bring their experience to add critical challenge to the work of the agency and to assist the Chief Executive as accounting officer to provide the necessary assurance.

## **Person Specification**

We are looking to recruit one individual who will bring the following skills to the VMD's Management Board and Audit and Risk Assurance Committee:

- management experience on a board or running or overseeing a public sector/commercial business. This should include experience of financial controls, the use of management information to drive business improvement and working in partnership with other organisations to deliver outcomes, products or services
- experience of working on an audit committee
- an ability to chair a meeting
- an appreciation of the functions and responsibilities of a public service organisation and how such organisations have been responding to the drive for efficiency across Government
- an ability to communicate and build relationships at all levels and good interpersonal skills, including the ability to negotiate, persuade and build partnerships at all levels
- the ability to provide impartial, objective and pragmatic advice, to contribute to discussions at a strategic level and to think creatively and bring independent judgement to bear on issues of strategy, performance and resources

You will need to demonstrate in your written application examples of where your experience matches these essential skills.

### **Additional desirable skills:**

- experience of working within the Animal Health Sector and an understanding of the science related to livestock husbandry
- animal welfare or veterinary science and/or functional animal nutrition
- experience of the IT industry

## **Additional Information**

All candidates will be required to complete the following forms:

- diversity monitoring questionnaire
- political activity questionnaire

## **How to Apply**

For forms and information on how to apply please contact Chris Abbott [c.abbott@vmd.gov.uk](mailto:c.abbott@vmd.gov.uk).

Applications to be received by midday Friday 26 February 2021.

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## **Parole Board: appointment and reappointment of members**

The Secretary of State has approved the appointments, reappointments and extensions of tenure of Parole Board Members. These comprise independent, psychologist, psychiatrist and retired judicial members as set out below.

### **New member appointments**

Unless otherwise indicated, the members below have been appointed for 5-year terms from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2025.

#### **Independent members**

- Jawaid Akhtar
- Rahila Akram
- Amanda Bond
- Marc Callaghan
- Christopher Evans
- Shazina Haider
- Deborah Hall
- Scott Handley
- Eimear McAllister
- Andrew McMillan
- Julia Mulligan
- Shazia Parveen
- Barbara Petchey
- Hannah Reid

- Julie Robertson
- Denise Rowland
- Wendy Steele
- Fiona-Jill Strachan
- Samantha Thompson
- Ian Tolan
- Asrar Ul-haq
- Alison Whalley
- Mir Zaman

### **Psychologist members**

- Laura Bowden
- Ian Burke
- Jennifer Cottam
- Vicky Hatton
- Rose Hooper
- Catrin Morrissey
- Chanelle Myrie
- Jo Pallas
- Rawlins Rayann
- Tracey Tostevin

### **Retired judicial member**

### **Serving Judges**

The members below have been appointed for 3-year terms running from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2023.

- Ian Bourne
- Simon Carr
- Jeremy Donne
- Noel Lucas
- David Miller
- Huw Rees
- Marcus Tregilgas- Davey

### **Retired Judicial members**

The Secretary of State has extended the tenure of the following member for 2 years from 1 October 2020 until 30 September 2022.

## **Direct appointments**

Ministers consulted the CPA before making the appointments which are required to support the Board's work in reducing the backlog of cases – arising from the Covid-19 pandemic – requiring an initial paper assessment.

The Secretary of State has approved the appointment of the following Independent Members for a period of 12 months from 2 November 2020 until 1 November 2021.



- Rick Evans
- Melanie Millar
- Emma Pusill
- Carol Swaffer
- Denise White

The Secretary of State has extended the tenure of the following independent members for a period of 12 months from 1 October 2020 until 30 September 2021.

The extensions have been notified to the Commissioner for Public Appointments (CPA).

- Michael Crewe
- Margaret Dunne

## **Reappointment of existing members**

Unless otherwise indicated, the members below have been reappointed for a period of 5 years from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2025.

### **Retired judicial members**

- David Calvert-Smith
- Nick Coleman
- Phillip Wassall

### **Independent members**

- Graham Bull
- Sue Dale
- Malcolm Davidson
- Sian Flynn
- Alan Harris
- Bill Mayne
- Clare Mitchell
- Sue Smith
- Ilana Tessler

The members below have been reappointed for a period of 2 years from 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2022.

### **Independent members**

- Pamela Baldwin
- Paul Cavadino
- Jane Christian
- Peter Coltman
- Geoff Crowe
- Victoria Doughty
- Stewart Eldon
- Kevin Green

- John Holt
- Rebecca Hunt
- Chitra Karve
- Mark Lacey
- Joanne Lackenby
- Susan Lewis
- Tom Millest
- Steve Pepper
- Bernard Postles
- Sue Power
- Nigel Stone
- Jennie Sugden
- Kay Terry
- Jo Thompson
- Alan Whiffin

### **Psychologist members**

The members below have been reappointed for a period of 5 years from 1 December 2020 to 30 November 2025.

- Abby Fenton
- Jane Gilbert
- Victoria Magrath
- Mary McMurran
- Rebecca Milner
- Wendy Morgan
- Brendan O'Mahony
- Sue Vivian-Byrne

### **Psychiatrist members**

- Luke Birmingham
- Lynne Daly
- Caryl Morgan
- Sajid Muzaffar
- Huw Stone

The Parole Board's functions and duties are set out in Section 239 of Schedule 19 to the Criminal Justice Act 2003 ('the Act'). Parole Board members make risk assessments about prisoners, to decide who may safely be released into the community or make recommendations for their transfer to open prison conditions. Appointments and reappointments to the Parole Board are regulated – save for judicial members – by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. These appointments – save for judicial members – have been made in line with the Cabinet Office Governance Code on Public Appointments.