

UK's First Sea Lord concludes visit to Alexandria

World news story

UK First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Tony Radakin, concluded a short official visit to Alexandria, Egypt.



The visit to Alexandria, which is the first for the Head of United Kingdom's Royal Navy and Naval Service, aimed to boost UK-Egypt maritime cooperation and discuss aspects of common interest between the two nations' navies.

During his visit, Admiral Tony Radakin met with Commander of the Egyptian Naval Forces, Vice Admiral Ahmed Khaled Hassan Saeed, and was accompanied by British Defence Attaché Captain (Royal Navy) Stephen Deacon. The two countries' naval leaders discussed topics of common interest including the latest developments in the Eastern Mediterranean, maritime security, and future bilateral naval engagements.

Commenting on the visit, British Defence Attaché Captain (Royal Navy) Stephen Deacon said:

This visit from the First Sea Lord, Head of the UK's Royal Navy, is yet another sign of the growing development in UK-Egyptian naval cooperation following the success of last month's joint maritime and amphibious exercises. Recently, we have seen visits from our Minister for the Armed Forces, from the flagship of the Royal Navy, HMS ALBION, and from one of the newest ships in the fleet, HMS TRENT. Now our most senior naval officer has also visited Egypt. Maritime security is at the top of both countries' agendas for cooperation, and by working together, we are better equipped to face shared challenges.

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Chief nurse for adult social care to provide clinical leadership during winter

- Professor Deborah Sturdy OBE has been appointed Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care in England
- Professor Sturdy will act as champion for the interests of social care nurses and work to ensure at risk adults are provided with high quality care
- Industry leaders welcome the appointment designed to promote great work and raise standards

Social care nurses in England will soon benefit from the leadership and advice of the first Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care, who was appointed today.

Professor Deborah Sturdy OBE will take up the new role to represent social care nurses and provide clinical leadership to the workforce.

She will work closely with the Minister for Care and the Chief Nursing Officer in this important role to ensure the provision of high quality, personalised, joined up care.

The Chief Nurse will act as an inspiring leader for social care nursing and help develop social care policy and how it relates to the workforce.

Minister for Care Helen Whately said:

I'm delighted to welcome Deborah Sturdy as our first Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care.

This is a really important new role – supporting, leading and speaking up for social care and our fantastic care workers.

This year has shone a light on the commitment of carers across the country. Care staff and nurses have risen to the challenge of providing skilled, compassionate care in the face of the huge challenges of the pandemic.

The appointment of a Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care is another step towards giving carers the support and recognition they absolutely deserve.

The role is an interim appointment for up to 6 months, to further increase the professional support and expertise in the department over winter ahead of

filling the post on a more permanent basis in 2021.

Professor Sturdy has had a long and successful career in nursing, including working with older people and people living with dementia. Since February 2020, Professor Sturdy has worked on secondment for one day a week to the Chief Nursing Officer as strategic adviser for social care nursing.

She has also provided nursing advice to the Gosport Independent Panel, set up to address concerns about the care of residents in Gosport War Memorial Hospital. Before this, Professor Sturdy was employed as professional nursing adviser at the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) between 2000 and 2011.

Interim Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care Professor Deborah Sturdy said:

I am honoured to have been asked to help define a new narrative for social care nursing and support colleagues to find their voice, and contribute to the development of the workforce in the coming months and work together to deliver the best care possible.

The social care nursing and care workforce together are a powerful force to help shape and deliver the health and social care agenda. I hope that in this role I will be able to give a voice to those working in social care and develop the workforce, through the difficult months ahead and beyond.

Professor Sturdy has held a variety of roles across both health and social care, including clinical practice, management, policy and research and will continue her role as Director of Health and Wellbeing at Royal Hospital Chelsea in a part-time capacity.

One of her main tasks will be to engage with the frontline nursing workforce to listen to their views and act as a champion for their interests in government, and the sector. She will also be promoting and raising standards for the social care nursing and wider workforce and working with our national and regional partners to celebrate success.

Chief Social Workers for Adults Mark Harvey and Fran Leddra said:

We are so pleased to welcome Deborah as the Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care. We are looking forward to working with her to strengthen and support the adult social care nursing workforce and to help us provide a strong professional voice for the sector.

Ruth May, Chief Nursing Officer for England, said:

I am looking forward to working with Deborah as she takes up this vital role providing a bridge across health and social care as well

as supporting the delivery of the winter plan for social care.

Most importantly, this means leadership and representation at the highest level for the many thousands of social care nursing colleagues who make a difference to millions of people every day.

Background information

The role will begin on 21 December and will sit with DHSC, reporting to the Director General of Adult Social Care with a professional line to the Chief Nursing Officer, Ruth May.

Further quotes:

Gary Lashko, CEO the Royal Hospital Chelsea, said:

On behalf of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, I would like to congratulate Professor Deborah Sturdy OBE, our Director of Health and Wellbeing, on this important secondment to the Department of Health and Social Care. We are all immensely proud that she will be representing nurses on a national level and when she takes up her new role, she may take with her some of the learning from the excellent work she has done here at the Royal Hospital whilst caring for the Chelsea Pensioners.

Professor Martin Green OBE, Chief Executive of Care England, said:

Nurses play a vital role in social care and we are delighted that the Department of Health and Social Care has appointed Professor Deborah Sturdy OBE as the new chief nurse for social care. Deborah has extensive experience in social care, and the NHS, and will be a valuable asset to our sector at an incredibly challenging time.

Vic Rayner, Executive Director, National Care Forum, said:

I am delighted to hear about this long awaited appointment. Deborah will be an excellent champion and advocate of social care nursing, at a point when the nurses within social care are under more pressure than ever before.

Her appointment is exceptionally timely as we move forward to ensure that the most vulnerable members of all our communities, and the staff who work with them take part in a mass vaccination programme. Her ability to highlight the role that nurse clinicians can play in supporting the smooth roll out of vaccination will be vital, and in ensuring the voices of social care nurses are heard loud and clear as plans to develop and reward the whole nursing

workforce ensue.

Dr Crystal Oldman CBE, Queens Nursing Institute Chief Executive, said:

I am absolutely delighted with the appointment of Professor Deborah Sturdy to the role of Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care in England.

Deborah is a superb champion for the sector with a unique career combining practice, research and policy in adult social care. Her deep knowledge and thoughtful insights into the needs of the sector and her outstanding ability to co-create solutions are personal qualities which will be drawn upon every day in this new role.

The QNI is immensely proud that Deborah, who was awarded QNI Fellowship for her achievements in adult social care, has been appointed to this role. I wish Deborah every success and very much look forward to the QNI supporting her in this critical new role.

David Foster, chairman of Foundation of Nursing Studies, said:

Professor Sturdy is exactly the right person for this role. She is highly experienced and credible in this sector and as an influential leader will make an impact in this pioneering new role.

Joanne Bosanquet, chief executive, Foundation of Nursing Studies, said:

As a enormously respected nurse, academic, leader and policy expert Professor Sturdy brings exactly the right skills to this job. Her energy and passion for people cared for in this sector will ensure she makes a real difference.

[Christmas period authorisation application deadlines](#)

News story

Validation during the Christmas period 2020 for an application for an MA, ManA, WDA, Batch Release and Export Certificate.



Veterinary Medicines Directorate offices

The last validation meeting to discuss applications for new Marketing Authorisations (MAs) will take place on 17 December 2020. Applications to be considered for validation must be received on or before 14 December 2020.

Weekly validation meetings will resume week commencing 4 January 2020.

For further information contact Howard Stenson h.stenson@vmd.gov.uk

Manufacturing and Wholesale Dealer Authorisation applications (new and variations)

The last day for validation of applications for authorisations for manufacturers, blood banks, equine stem cell centres and wholesale dealers (new and variations) will be on 18 December. To be considered for validation by this date, please ensure that your application reaches us by Friday 11 December. The validation discussions will resume week commencing 4 January 2021.

For further information contact Alison Reynolds inspections@vmd.gov.uk

Export Certificates

Your application for an export certificate must be received by 18 December to ensure it is dealt with during the Christmas period. Any applications received after this date will be dealt with during the week commencing 4 January 2021.

For further information contact exportcert@vmd.gov.uk

Specific Batch Control-PVMP

Your application must be received by 17 December to ensure it is dealt with during the Christmas period. Any applications received after this date will be dealt with during the week commencing 4 January 2021.

For further information contact s.response@vmd.gov.uk

Batch Release Requests-IVMP

Your batch release request must be received by 17 December to ensure it is dealt with during the Christmas period. Any requests received after this date will be dealt with during the week commencing 4 January 2021.

For further information contact batchr@vmd.gov.uk

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[UK Government awards £850,000 to three space projects in Scotland](#)

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[Agencies join forces to investigate environmental damage to the River Lugg](#)

Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission mount joint investigation into damage reported on SSSI area of the River Lugg in Herefordshire. Legal notices were served and officers have attended the site to gather evidence.

Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission have joined forces to investigate a series of unconsented works on the river Lugg at Kingsland in Herefordshire. The area has SSSI status due to its environmental importance.

With the support of West Mercia police, officers from Natural England, the

Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission came together on the scene last week with officers from Herefordshire Council, to investigate and seek formal evidence for the alleged offences.

A legal notice requiring the works to stop immediately was served on the landowner by Natural England last week, while the Forestry Commission issued a stop letter requiring an end to any further felling work. The Environment Agency also requested no further works to be carried out on the river last week.

Emma Johnson, Natural England area manager, said:

I'm shocked by the destruction I've seen to this very special river.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest represent our finest places for wildlife and geology and Natural England is responsible for ensuring their protection, working with landowners and managers to achieve this. We have regulatory powers to prevent damage taking place to SSSIs but when this does occur we can take appropriate enforcement action, including prosecuting offenders.

The river Lugg is a very special place due to the ecology of the river and surrounding area. Natural England and our partners are working together to take strong action to ensure a wide-ranging and thorough investigation is carried out.

The three agencies came together to jointly investigate last week following reports of activities including dredging, illegal felling of trees and profiling of the river banks. The works have the potential to cause significant, long term ecological harm to nearly 1.5km of the river.

Keith Jones, area director for the Forestry Commission said:

I'm appalled at what has happened. Trees are a precious natural resource, which is why anyone wishing to fell them must ensure they comply with the Forestry Commission's felling licence requirements.

Dave Throup, area environment manager for the Environment Agency, added:

This is a beautiful part of the world. To see the changes from last week to this is terrible. We're working closely with our partners to ensure this is thoroughly investigated.

Further information:

- Natural England is responsible for ensuring the protection of SSSI areas, the Forestry Commission is responsible for issuing and regulating tree felling permits and the Environment Agency is responsible for flood risk management, fish and spawning and the way rivers function.
- Natural England has regulatory powers to prevent damage taking place to SSSIs and to take appropriate enforcement action, including prosecuting offenders where damage occurs.
- Felling trees without the authority of a felling licence issued by the Forestry Commission, where one is required, currently carries a penalty upon conviction in a magistrates' court of £2,500 or twice the value of the timber felled.
- In certain circumstances, the Forestry Commission is empowered to serve a Restocking Notice upon anyone committing an illegal felling offence, either with or without having secured a conviction, which compels the individual served to restock the land with trees. Failure to comply with the notice may result in a separate offence being committed, which already carries a penalty of an unlimited fine.