

PM call with Aung San Suu Kyi: 20 November 2020

News story

Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke to Myanmar's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi.



This morning the Prime Minister spoke to Myanmar's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi.

He began by congratulating her on her party's recent electoral victory. The elections mark another important step in Myanmar's transition to democracy.

The Prime Minister and Daw Suu discussed the challenges facing Myanmar and the Prime Minister raised the UK's ongoing concerns with the Rohingya crisis and conflict in Rakhine.

The leaders discussed how countries can work together to tackle the coronavirus pandemic. Ahead of the UK hosting COP26 next year they also agreed on the importance of combatting climate change.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed the UK's commitment to the wider Indo-Pacific region and to a closer partnership with ASEAN.

Published 20 November 2020

UK Government launches £1 Million

Shared History Fund to mark Northern Ireland Centenary

The Shared History Fund is part of the Government's New Decade, New Approach commitments around marking the centenary of Northern Ireland in a spirit of mutual respect, inclusiveness and reconciliation. The Fund criteria have been developed to encourage applications from a diverse range of organisations who wish to facilitate wider public engagement with this significant national anniversary in innovative and creative ways. The funding will be distributed by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and is available to organisations across the UK. It will support the work of arts, heritage, voluntary, community and other non-profit organisations, many of whom have faced significant funding challenges as a result of the COVID pandemic.

The creation of Northern Ireland paved the way for the formation of the United Kingdom as we know it today – it is a moment of profound national significance. This anniversary represents a key milestone in the Decade of Centenaries and provides an opportunity to reflect on our shared history in a respectful and inclusive way.

Speaking ahead of today's announcement, Robin Walker MP, Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office, said:

I am delighted that we are able to fulfil our New Decade, New Approach commitment by launching this Shared History Fund.

I want to encourage as many groups as possible, from many different perspectives, to get involved in this important project marking the centenary of Northern Ireland. Whether you are a small local community group or a larger heritage institution, this is an exciting opportunity to explore our history, learn from each other and discover untold stories.

It is also an opportunity to support non-profit organisations in their valuable work.

Paul Mullan, Director, Northern Ireland, The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said:

We are pleased to be distributing this Fund on behalf of the Northern Ireland Office to mark the centenary of the establishment of Northern Ireland.

We recognise that dealing with contested heritage can be challenging but it's also important that this significant period is marked, and is inclusive of the many communities and individuals it has impacted. As we approach this important date in our history, we have an opportunity to reflect honestly about our past, and explore how the events of 1921, and afterwards, impacted on people in many different ways.

We hope that all initiatives will embrace that opportunity, and we're looking forward to supporting a diverse range of projects and organisations through this Fund.

Organisations can apply for funding from today. Detailed criteria and guidance can be found [here](#)

Notes for Editors:

- New Decade New Approach is the agreement underpinning the restoration of devolved government in Northern Ireland which was announced in January 2020.
- The Decade of Centenaries is a term widely used to refer to the period 2012-2022, which includes many significant national anniversaries for both the UK and Ireland.

[Statement from Sir Alex Allan](#)

News story

Statement from Sir Alex Allan



This page contains a statement from Sir Alex Allan.

“I recognise that it is for the Prime Minister to make a judgement on whether actions by a Minister amount to a breach of the Ministerial Code. But I feel that it is right that I should now resign from my position as the Prime Minister’s independent adviser on the Code.”

Published 20 November 2020

[Ministerial Code investigation](#)

News story

This page contains Sir Alex Allan’s findings on the Home Secretary’s conduct and an accompanying government statement.



This page contains Sir Alex Allan’s findings on the Home Secretary’s conduct and an accompanying government statement.

The Prime Minister has taken advice from his Independent Adviser, Sir Alex Allan, in relation to the allegations made earlier this year around the Home Secretary’s conduct. The Prime Minister takes this issue very seriously and recognises that it is always difficult for individuals to come forward and raise concerns and is grateful to those who have done so. The Prime Minister is grateful to Sir Alex for his advice and has considered his conclusions carefully.

It was clear from Sir Alex’s advice that at times there have been difficult working relationships all round. Sir Alex’s advice found that the Home Secretary had become – justifiably in many instances – frustrated by the Home Office leadership’s lack of responsiveness and the lack of support she felt in DfID three years ago. He also found, however, that the Home Secretary had not always treated her civil servants with the consideration and respect that would be expected, and her approach on occasion has amounted to behaviour

that can be described as bullying in terms of the impact felt by individuals.

He went on to advise, therefore, that the Home Secretary had not consistently met the high standards expected of her under the Ministerial Code.

The Prime Minister notes Sir Alex's advice that many of the concerns now raised were not raised at the time and that the Home Secretary was unaware of the impact that she had. He is reassured that the Home Secretary is sorry for inadvertently upsetting those with whom she was working. He is also reassured that relationships, practices and culture in the Home Office are much improved. As the arbiter of the code, having considered Sir Alex's advice and weighing up all the factors, the Prime Minister's judgement is that the Ministerial Code was not breached.

The Prime Minister has full confidence in the Home Secretary and considers this matter now closed. He is grateful to the thousands of civil servants working extremely hard to support delivery of the Government's priorities.

[Findings of the independent adviser](#)

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Published 20 November 2020

[Sellafield's COVID-19 test centre to expand](#)

News story

More people will soon be able to use Sellafield's COVID-19 test and trace service.



The COVID-19 Test Centre at Yottenfews.

The facility, located in the car park of the former Sellafield Visitors' Centre, in West Cumbria, opened earlier this year.

It currently provides COVID-19 tests for people working on the Sellafield mission.

From Monday 23 November 2020, the service is being expanded so that households of Sellafield Ltd employees can also use it.

People can access the centre if they have COVID-19 symptoms or have come into close contact with someone who has tested positive.

Symptoms include:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste

Martin Chown, Sellafield Ltd chief executive, said:

We took the decision to establish our own test and trace facility back in March 2020.

Thanks to the support of our owner, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), and our public health partners we were able to get the centre up and running quickly.

It has allowed us to track the spread of the virus on the Sellafield site in real time, helping us to maintain safety and security throughout the pandemic.

We're pleased to be able to extend the service to households of Sellafield Ltd employees.

Tests will be offered subject to availability.

Priority will be given to people working on the Sellafield mission who are

mainly based on the site.

People should not contact the test centre themselves. Tests can only be booked by Sellafield Ltd employees via their line manager.

Published 20 November 2020