

Brave, inspirational and selfless acts recognised with new Home Secretary commendation

Individuals who have protected communities, carried out immense acts of bravery and championed the UK to be a better place have been recognised by the Home Secretary.

Priti Patel has awarded 110 people a new commendation, which honours individuals in policing, fire, community organisations, the civil service and campaigners.

Actions to help cut crime and the harm it causes, protect vulnerable people and communities, and respond to the threat of terrorism were all individually recognised by the Home Secretary at a ceremony at Lancaster House yesterday.

Bishop Webley receives his award from the Home Secretary

Individuals recognised include:

- Figen Murray, who campaigned for Martyn's Law following the death of her son Martyn Hett in the Manchester Arena attack
- Bishop Derek Webley for leading the Windrush Working Group
- members of Merseyside Police, who responded to the bombing at Liverpool Women's Hospital as well as recent tragic murders
- Detective Chief Inspector Stuart Blaik, whose work ensured justice was served for the family and friends of PC Andrew Harper
- Sheila Coates for her leadership providing frontline services to victims and survivors of sexual abuse
- the National Crime Agency team who worked with law enforcement partners in Europe to target a major criminal network suspected of involvement in the smuggling of up to 10,000 people across the Channel in the last 12-18 months, leading to the arrests of more than 40 people across Europe and upwards of 100 boats being seized

Policing leaders recognised include those who led on security for COP 26, the G7 Leaders' Summit in Cornwall and the Commonwealth Games, as well as those responding to illegal protests, the tragic deaths of Vietnamese migrants in Essex and tackling county lines.

Chiefs who helped tackle this year's wildfires and blazes last year in Greece, and helped a convoy of equipment reach Ukraine, were also given a commendation.

Medals were awarded to Border Force officers deployed into Kabul as part of Operation Pitting, one of the largest humanitarian evacuations in history, which brought over 15,000 people to safety in the UK.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

It is impossible for me adequately to express my gratitude to all those who have made truly outstanding contributions in keeping our communities safe or making our country a better place.

It is only right to recognise the exceptional efforts and courage of these people. This commendation says to the world that what they do is important, vital and absolutely valued.

The Home Secretary expressed her personal thanks to individuals who have selflessly given their time to advocate change for the better, such as members of the Windrush Working Group, whose insight and expertise contributes to the government's commitment to right the wrongs of Windrush, including advising on the Windrush Compensation Scheme, which has now paid out £40.5 million across 1,037 claims.

Civil servants recognised with a commendation include those responsible for:

- establishing the Ukraine Family Scheme and Homes for Ukraine Scheme, which have so far brought 118,000 Ukrainian people to safety in the UK
- leading the Home Office response to the threat from Russian oligarchs and dirty money
- tackling organised immigration crime and removing people with no right to be in the UK

Awards covered a range of crime and policing, fire, counter-terrorism, drugs, security and immigration issues that the Home Office works tirelessly to deliver for the public on.

[Government launches climate change consultation for pension scheme](#)

News story

The consultation proposes more effective governance, strategy, risk management and targets for the assessment and management of climate related risks and opportunities for the Local Government Pension Scheme.



The government has launched a [consultation](#) today (Thursday 1 September) on new requirements for the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) to manage and report on their climate-related risks, including the carbon emissions attributable to their investments.

The proposals include a requirement for LGPS authorities to calculate their carbon footprint, and to assess how different temperature rises could affect their assets and liabilities.

Authorities would also need to report annually on how well their assets are aligned with the Paris agreement.

The move seeks to improve the management of climate-related financial risk and brings the LGPS in line with requirements which are already in place for private pension schemes.

Minister for Levelling Up, Paul Scully MP said:

Managing risks and opportunities related to climate change is essential for the future of the financial sector. It will empower better decision making and ultimately help us on the road to net zero.

The UK is a world leader in implementing the recommendations of the Taskforce for Climate-related Financial Disclosures, which are a key factor in greening the financial sector.

I am pleased that we are proposing to extend these requirements to the Local Government Pension Scheme, which has assets in excess of £300 billion and enormous potential to have a positive climate impact.

The consultation puts forward proposals which will require LGPS administering authorities to have more effective governance, strategy, risk management and targets for the assessment and management of climate related risks and opportunities.

The requirements do not encourage funds to divest from energy companies, which will be key to the transition to clean energy in the UK.

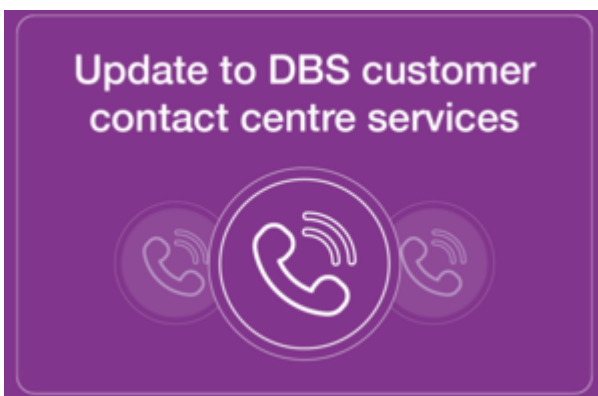
Government will invite people to respond to the consultation on the proposals raised.

Published 1 September 2022

[Update to DBS customer contact centre services – 5 to 10 September 2022](#)

News story

Planned industrial action from contractors is set to affect DBS contact centre services.



Customers contacting the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) between 5 to 10 September 2022 by telephone, email, or webchat may face some disruption and delays. This is due to industrial action by staff working for one of our contractors, Hinduja Global Solutions (HGS). HGS is contracted to provide DBS customer contact centre services, as well as a number of other administrative functions.

During the industrial action, HGS is putting additional resources in place to try and minimise the inconvenience to customers as much as possible.

The industrial action is not expected to have any significant impact on turnaround times for DBS checks or barring decisions. Our core services will not be affected, and employers and customers should continue to access these as normal.

During the industrial action, the times of the customer contact centre will be reduced to:

- Monday 5 September to Friday 9 September: 9am to 5pm
- Saturday 10 September: Closed

Webchat services will still be available to customers in normal operating hours (Monday to Friday, from 9am to 5pm). Webchat becomes available to customers when they access online services such as applying for a DBS check, making a barring referral, or logging onto the Update Service.

Published 1 September 2022

[UN Human Rights Chief's report on Xinjiang, China: Foreign Secretary's statement](#)

Press release

Liz Truss gave a statement after the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights report provided new evidence of China's human rights violations in Xinjiang.



UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said:

The [report by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) provides new evidence of the appalling extent of China's efforts to silence and repress Uyghurs and other minorities in Xinjiang.

It includes harrowing evidence, including first-hand accounts from victims, that shames China in the eyes of the international community, including actions that may amount to crimes against humanity.

This includes credible evidence of arbitrary and discriminatory detention, torture, sexual and gender-based violence, violations of reproductive rights, and the destruction of religious sites. UN member states must now be given the opportunity to consider the

report fully.

The UK has already led international efforts to hold China to account at the UN, imposed sanctions on senior Chinese government officials, and announced measures to help ensure no UK organisations are complicit in these violations through their supply chains.

We will continue to act with international partners to bring about a change in China's actions, and immediately end its appalling human rights violations in Xinjiang.

Published 1 September 2022

[RAIB Inspector vacancies](#)



Do you feel you could make a significant contribution to railway safety in the United Kingdom?

Are you looking for a job that enables you to travel and get out and about in the railway industry, as well as working in a highly collaborative and supportive office environment?

If the answer is yes, we're currently recruiting Inspectors with experience in the disciplines of:

- Geotechnics
- Crashworthiness
- Rail Vehicle Dynamics
- Railway Safety/Risk Management and Assurance
- Causal Analysis and Consequence Modelling
- Railway or Tramway Operations

If you have the experience and knowledge we are looking for visit [Civil Service Jobs](#) to find out more about the role.

Published 1 September 2022

Last updated 6 September 2022 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 6 September 2022

Link to Civil Service Jobs updated providing latest information about the application

2. 1 September 2022

First published.