

Change of British High Commissioner to Namibia: Mr Charles Moore

Press release

Mr Charles Moore has been appointed British High Commissioner to the Republic of Namibia in succession to Ms Kate Airey OBE.



Mr Charles Moore has been appointed British High Commissioner to the Republic of Namibia in succession to Ms Kate Airey OBE who will be transferring to another Diplomatic Service appointment. Mr Moore will take up his appointment during January 2021.

Full name: Charles Moore

Married to: Deborah Moore

Children: 3

Year	Role
2018 to 2020	Juba, Deputy Head of Mission
2018	FCDO, Private Secretary to the Chief Information Officer
2017 to 2018	Turks and Caicos Islands and Anguilla, Post-Hurricane Recovery Liaison
2015 to 2017	FCDO, Head of Strategy, Policy and Corporate Issues, Knowledge and Technology Directorate
2014 to 2015	Port of Spain, Acting British High Commissioner
2013 to 2014	FCDO, Head of Commonwealth Games and Sport
2012 to 2013	FCDO, Head of Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Maldives Team, South Asia Directorate
2010 to 2012	London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Head of Dignitary Operations
2008 to 2010	FCDO, Parliamentary Clerk
2006 to 2008	Accra, Head of Corporate Services
2002 to 2005	FCDO, Head of North/South Korea and Mongolia Team

[Two new Non-Executive Directors appointed to the Student Loans Company Board](#)

The Department for Education (DfE) has confirmed the appointment of Rona Ruthen and Gary Page as Non-Executive Directors of the Student Loans Company.

The three-year appointments commenced on 19 October 2020.

Rona has 15 years' experience in fintech, financial services and payment solutions, in companies in Israel and the UK. She has led operations at UK fintech Curve and has previously led business units and processes at online freelance marketplace Fiverr and global payment company Payoneer.

Rona is the current VP of Customer Operations at Monzo Bank. She is responsible for the design and delivery of the award-winning customer service and customer operations, supporting the fast growth of the bank.

On her appointment, Rona commented: "I am honoured to be appointed to the board of the Student Loans Company. The role will enable me to contribute my experience in customer-focused financial services to support higher education and further education."

Gary has worked in the banking industry for over 20 years, predominantly with ABN AMRO where he held several positions including Global Head of Markets and Global Head of Commercial Banking.

More recently, Gary has focussed on Non-Executive roles in the public, private and non-profit sectors with a particular focus on positions which facilitate greater social inclusion.

In addition to his role with the Student Loans Company, Gary is currently the Chair of Triodos Bank UK Limited, the UK subsidiary of Triodos Bank N.V., one of Europe's leading sustainable banks and a lay member of the South East Employment Tribunal. He is also a trustee of a Suffolk based charity working with families bereaved by suicide.

On his appointment, Gary said: "I am delighted to be joining the Board of the Student Loans Company as a Non-Executive Director. I know from personal experience the transformative impact that higher education can have on a person's life. I look forward to playing my part in helping the Student Loans Company continue to develop as a trusted partner in enabling students to access financial services and striving to provide excellent customer

service.”

Peter Lauener, Chair of the Student Loans Company, said: “The Student Loans Company enables almost two million students each year to invest in their futures through higher and further education by providing trusted, transparent, and accessible student finance services.

“I am delighted to welcome Rona and Gary to the SLC Board. As education remains a key priority for government and the devolved administrations, the experience of both Rona and Gary will help to strengthen SLC’s Board, as we work to deliver an outstanding customer experience for students, graduates and our partners across the further and higher education sectors.”

[Guidance to support commercial fishermen, merchants and exporters following the UK/EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement.](#)



Following the Trade and Cooperation Agreement with the EU, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has updated the [‘one stop shop’ guide for commercial fishers, merchants and exporters](#). This covers the administrative side of the fishing industry – signposting to business requirements needed such as for fishing, landing, exporting, importing, transportation, food hygiene and regulatory controls.

There is also a handy step by step guide to [exporting fish](#) and seafood products to the EU, and a [checklist](#) for fishers intending to landing their catch directly into the EU.

Provisional arrangements have also been announced [today](#) which includes temporary catch limits for UK fishermen to ensure fishing continues uninterrupted until annual fisheries negotiations with the EU, Norway and Faroe Islands conclude. Fishing vessel licenses have been amended and provisional catch limits have been published for the [10 metres and under](#) and

[over 10-metre non-sector pools](#) on the which reflect these arrangements.

As the UK/EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement states, UK vessels will be permitted to fish in EU waters and EU vessels in UK waters during the adjustment period. However, from 1 January 2021, UK and EU vessels must not fish in each other's waters without a licence. Licensing of UK and EU vessels will begin shortly, initially for the 12 – 200 nautical mile limit of the UK and EU Exclusive Economic Zones. UK licenced vessels will be notified by the [UK Single Issuing Authority](#) and EU vessels will be notified of the licensing arrangements directly by the fisheries administration in each relevant Member State. The list of vessels licensed to fish in UK and EU waters will also be published by the [UK SIA](#) when available.

Published 21 October 2020

Last updated 31 December 2020 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 31 December 2020

Guidance updated to reflect the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the UK and EU, including provisional catch limits and licensing arrangements.

2. 13 December 2020

One stop shop document updated with latest guidance and link

3. 1 December 2020

OSS Update

4. 30 November 2020

OSS Update

5. 25 November 2020

v20 updated

6. 24 November 2020

v19 update

7. 17 November 2020

Updated OSS

8. 21 October 2020

First published.

Lake study aims to improve water quality

The Environment Agency is working with Groundwork North East & Cumbria, Hull University, the SILT group, Northumberland County Council and the local community on the project at Wansbeck Lake at Riverside Park in Ashington.

The lake is an important and well used water sports location and the build-up of silt on the lake bed is adversely affecting the future of these activities as well as impacting on habitat and water quality.

The long-term aim of the project is to improve the ecology of the lake, as well as enhance the facility for those who use it. It's hoped this upstream recovery will also lead to habitat improvements further downstream in the estuary.

The study includes surveys by marine experts who earlier this month took samples of sediments upstream of the barrage and carried out an ecological survey.

A drone survey also collected data which will now be used to inform options for removing sediment build-up from the lake. There will also be a future community workshop and online survey to review the options available as part of the project.

The main benefits will be to gain a better understanding of the options available to improve the local ecology, water quality, recreational use and visitor potential of Riverside Park and the lake.

Work is necessary

Heather Harrison, from the Environment Agency's Environment Programme Team, said:

The work is necessary to get a better understanding of the options available to improve the water quality and biodiversity of the lake and its sustainable use for recreational watersports.

We are working closely with the local community, river users and our partners to investigate and develop options to safeguard the long-term future of the lake and its surroundings.

We'll be looking at options to flush away sediment build up on the bottom of the lake, and the best ways to create habitat. This is a popular area for the community and visitors alike and we'll be working closely with them throughout to ensure they understand the project and have a say in its future.

The £35,500 study, which is funded by the Environment Agency with contributions from Groundwork NE and Cumbria and Northumberland County Council, will be complete in Spring next year.

Wansbeck barrage, which was constructed in 1975, was part of a major regeneration scheme following dismantling of heavy industry in the area. The barrage created a locked navigable inland waterway and artificial lake, 4km long and at its widest is in the region of 200m across, and 3 miles of riverside country park in Ashington.

[UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security: UK statement](#)

Thank you Madame Chair for dedicating today's Security Dialogue to the important topic of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. Doing so reinforces the importance of gender equality in the achievement of sustainable peace and security. Thanks also to the speakers for their thought-provoking presentations.

Our discussion today follows hot on the heels of last Monday's excellent event, co-organised by Slovakia, Albania, and Sweden, with the OSCE and UN Women on Reviewing Commitments to the Women, Peace & Security Agenda in the OSCE Region. This highlighted the first-hand experience of panellists, as well as making tangible suggestions for advancing the WPS agenda.

Today's discussion precedes this afternoon's event entitled "OSCE enhancing UNSC Resolution 1325: gender equality for a more peaceful world", co-organised by Finland, Albania and Sweden, and the important UN Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security on 29 October.

We last had the opportunity to discuss the WPS agenda at the Joint FSC/PC in May. Then, as now, we continue to grapple with the unprecedented crisis brought about by COVID-19. The multiple impacts of the pandemic and the inequalities it lays bare are a stark reminder of the important leading role women play, as actors and decision-makers at all levels in health care, education, political processes and peace processes throughout the OSCE. In addition we have expressed, and express again, concerns around higher rates of domestic violence during COVID-19.

The UK supports a 'Protection Framework for Women Peacebuilders', which aims to address a number of the threats women peacebuilders face. We encourage states to endorse this Framework. And we will provide further details of this at tomorrow's Permanent Council.

Over the past two decades – since the adoption of UNSCR 1325 in October 2000 – a lot has been done to promote the importance of the Resolution and to

implement its agenda. We continue to highlight the fact that, 20 years on – less than two-thirds of OSCE participating States have a National Action Plan. We again encourage all participating States yet to adopt a Plan to do so as soon as possible.

Madame Chair, every week in this forum we hear about the outstanding work being done by the SMM in eastern Ukraine, including by women monitors. We are grateful to the SMM for releasing the “Women on the Contact Line” book, which demonstrates how women community leaders, and women SMM monitors, are working towards an inclusive resolution of the conflict.

Unfortunately, as in so many areas, women are under-represented in the SMM. Women still only account for 20% of monitors, and the number of women is also low in senior and field management positions. As we have said previously – we all need to do better.

Women’s participation is key to the success and longevity of peace processes. This is important not only in Ukraine, but all parts of the OSCE region affected by conflict. As an organisation, women should be meaningfully represented among OSCE mediators at all levels in the relevant formats related to the protracted conflicts.

Every one of us can make a difference. This includes through gender-balanced speaker panels and gender-sensitive recruitment processes. We must urge our capitals to put forward women candidates, especially for field missions and the autonomous institutions. We must scrutinise the language that we use. And we must ensure that the decisions we take reflect the needs and experiences of all of society.

As Chair of the Security Committee, I set out to achieve a gender balance on all panels and I’m pleased to say that to date 48% of all panel speakers this year have been women. Examining gender dynamics is an integral part of understanding the impact of transnational threats and how we should respond.

As we have previously said, it is well documented, for example, that terrorist and violent extremist groups understand these dynamics and target their propaganda messages specifically to men and women, manipulating gender norms and stereotypes for recruitment and radicalisation.

And as Chair of the OSCE MenEngage Network, I am determined to continue to progress work to raise awareness of the influence all of us can have in speaking out against inequality and ending gender based violence. The network will continue to work with others in ensuring: gender parity at all job levels in the OSCE; robust action against gender discrimination; a zero tolerance policy on sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse; and women’s full, equal and meaningful participation in all areas of conflict prevention, resolution, and mediation.

Madame Chair, we are delighted that you and your able team will be working with the Albanian Chair-in-Office to bring forward a text for the Ministerial Council in December on UNSCR 1325. We note that MC Decision No. 3/11 reaffirms the ‘significant role of women in the prevention and resolution of

conflicts and in peace – building.’

We look forward to working with all participating States to ensure we can use the Ministerial Council both to commemorate the Resolution’s 20th Anniversary, and to add real impetus to its further and better implementation. This includes through ensuring the equal and meaningful participation of women in peace and security, and by supporting women peacebuilding at the grass roots level.

UNSCR 1325 affects every one of us. We should recognise the benefits that greater gender equality will bring to us all. However, we are not going to achieve this overnight. We will need courage, political will, and above all sustained commitment.