

# Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Tunisia: Edward Oakden

Press release

Mr Edward Oakden CMG has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to Tunisia



Mr Edward Oakden CMG has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Tunisian Republic in succession to Mrs Louise de Sousa who will be transferring to another Diplomatic Service appointment. Mr Oakden will take up his appointment in October 2020.

Full name: Edward Oakden

Married to: Dr Florence Eid PhD

<b>Year</b>	<b>Role</b>
<b>2015 to 2020</b>	Amman, Her Majesty's Ambassador
<b>2013 to 2015</b>	FCO, Director, Middle East
<b>2012 to 2013</b>	Strategic Trade UKTI, Managing Director
<b>2010 to 2012</b>	Sectors Group, UKTI Managing Director
<b>2006 to 2010</b>	Abu Dhabi, Her Majesty's Ambassador
<b>2004 to 2006</b>	FCO, Director for Defence and Strategic Threats, and Ambassador for Counter-Terrorism
<b>2002 to 2004</b>	FCO, Director for International Security
<b>2002</b>	FCO, Head of Security Policy Department
<b>1998 to 2002</b>	Madrid, Deputy Head of Mission
<b>1997 to 1998</b>	FCO, Deputy Head, EU Department (Internal)
<b>1995 to 1997</b>	Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
<b>1992 to 1995</b>	FCO, Deputy Head, EU Department (External) & Eastern Adriatic Department
<b>1988 to 1992</b>	Washington, Private Secretary to Her Majesty's Ambassador
<b>1985 to 1988</b>	Khartoum, Second Secretary
<b>1984 to 1985</b>	Baghdad, Third Secretary (later Second Secretary)

## Prime Minister's statement on coronavirus (COVID-19): 20 October 2020

Good afternoon,

Across the world, the countries most successful in their fight against coronavirus are adopting regional and local measures to protect their populations.

That is why last week we launched the three Local COVID Alert Levels for England, with interventions based on the prevalence of the virus in local areas.

Since then we have been undertaking discussions with local leaders in those parts of the country which are currently bearing the brunt of the second wave of this epidemic.

Before I update you on those discussions, I will ask Jonathan Van-Tam to brief us on the latest data nationally and in Greater Manchester.

Thank you very much JVT.

That presentation you've just seen shows you clearly why we must act.

Now I don't want anyone to think their actions or efforts have been in vain.

Our collective action, across the country, has brought the R number well below its natural rate of about 3.

As a result, the virus is not spreading as quickly as it did in February and March.

However, while the R is below its natural level, it does remain above 1, meaning the virus continues to spread.

So, we need to take action to reduce the R and control the virus, especially in those parts of the country, as you've just seen, where the virus is most prevalent.

This evening, informed by the data we have just seen, I can announce that Greater Manchester will move to the Very High alert level.

This means that:

- Pubs and bars must close, unless they are serving substantial meals.
- Households can't mix indoors or in most outdoor settings.
- In some public outdoor spaces, groups must be limited to the rule of six.
- And we strongly advise against travel into and out of the area.

In line with the additional measures taken in Lancashire, casinos, bingo halls, betting shops, adult gaming centres and soft play areas must also close.

Regulations will be laid in Parliament on Thursday and come into force just after midnight.

I know that these restrictions are tough, both on businesses and individuals. And believe me no one wants to be putting these things into effect. But that is why we are putting in place a comprehensive package of support:

- The Job Support Scheme ensures those affected by business closures are still paid. And once you top that up with Universal Credit, those on low incomes will receive at least 80% of their normal income.
- We have made available up to £465 million to help local authorities implement and enforce restrictions. Greater Manchester will receive £22 million of this.
- And that's on top of the extra £1 billion of extra funding we are providing for all local authorities across the country.
- We will work with local authorities to allocate testing and introduce local contact tracing.

Over the last 10 days, we have sought to agree an approach with local leaders in Greater Manchester. Unfortunately, agreement wasn't been reached.

And I do regret this. As I said last week, we would have a better chance of defeating the virus if we work together.

In addition I must say, to the support outlined above, we made a generous and extensive offer to support Manchester's businesses. This offer was proportionate to the support we have given Merseyside and Lancashire, but the Mayor didn't accept this unfortunately.

And given the public health situation, I must now proceed with moving Greater Manchester, as I say, to the Very High alert level.

Because not to act would put Manchester's NHS, and the lives of many of Manchester's residents, at risk.

Despite the failure to reach an agreement, I hope the Mayor and council leaders in Greater Manchester will now work with us to implement these measures.

Elsewhere, discussions on moving to the Very High alert level continue with local leaders in South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and the North East.

I hope and expect central and local government will continue to work closely together, as we are seeing in Merseyside, Lancashire, London and many other parts of the country.

Because – ultimately – all of us want to protect the NHS, and in doing so to save lives.

---

## [UK and US reaffirm relationship at Atlantic Future Forum](#)

Delegates will discuss a range of areas where the UK and US can increase cooperation, while exploring new ways of combatting global instability.

From defeating Covid-19 through vaccine and testing developments, to investing in our ability to tackle cyber threats, the senior figures from the two nations' defence, security and trade establishments will discuss how to face down an uncertain future with confidence.

### **Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said:**

At this time of global uncertainty and evolving adversaries, it is vital we continue to work together with the United States to strengthen our special alliance.

The Atlantic Future Forum offers a space to discuss how our nations' defence industries can provide a battle-winning edge, while developing our economies through trade and exports. As we come together on our outstanding HMS Queen Elizabeth, we are confident that Global Britain will continue to be the United States' partner of choice.

Opened by the Prime Minister via video link and chaired by former Cabinet Secretary, Lord Mark Sedwill, the Forum will include contributions from NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, US National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien and Jeremy Fleming of GCHQ. First Sea Lord, Admiral Tony Radakin and Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshall Sir Mike Wigston, will also be present.

### **Lord Sedwill, Chairman of the Atlantic Future Forum:**

2020 has thrown up new obstacles for the world to tackle. This year's Atlantic Future Forum looks at the UK's role in securing our future in a disrupted world.

By working with our global allies, we will meet the challenges of

the future, from advancement in tech and cyber to the impacts of climate change. We will be bringing together some of our top political, business and military leaders, together with innovators, tech entrepreneurs and influential thinkers.

The Forum comes as the UK Government continues to advance its 'Ready to Trade' agenda and grow the long-standing and cherished UK-US relationship, which offers fresh opportunity as the UK exits EU. Rt Hon Liz Truss MP, Secretary of State for International Trade will convene a special session with her US counterpart, Robert Lighthizer, the US Trade Representative.

Business leaders will also join with CEOs Jes Staley of Barclays, Bernard Looney of BP and the President of Microsoft, Brad Smith, addressing the Forum.

The US Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Woody Johnson, will also join British Ambassador to the US Dame Karen Pierce as part of the closing ceremony on Wednesday.

The detailed agenda will include expert panels and keynote speeches covering a broad range of shared UK and US issues; including our response to digital threats and cyber, hypersonics, space, global competition and climate change.

The Forum will examine how the UK and US can make innovation a key part of their relationship in order to increase resilience and productivity. Due to Covid-19, a set number of delegates attended the event on board HMS Queen Elizabeth. Media were invited to attend the programme events by video link.

---

## [Accrington security boss barred from the industry](#)



Security Industry Authority

A security boss has found himself fined and barred from the industry after failing to do basic checks on his staff.

On 22 September 2020 Muhammad Islam, from Accrington, pleaded guilty to

failing to check the SIA licence of his employee Sam Gould.

Islam is the security director of Spartan K9 Ltd.

It is illegal for a door supervisor to work without an SIA licence, as they work in roles that protect the public. However, Islam hired Gould without checking that he was properly licensed.

Towards the end of last year, we were investigating [several cases relating to unlicensed security operatives in Accrington](#) over the Christmas and New Year period. After receiving a tip-off, our investigators carried out a licensing check and found Sam Gould working without a licence at the Nag's Head, Accrington.

We discovered that Gould was working for Spartan K9, who held the security contract at the venue. Investigators made a formal request for information from Islam, but he did not respond. Islam was then invited to an interview in January 2020, at which he admitted that he failed to do due diligence and check whether Gould was licensed. He also admitted that he had no excuse for not providing the information we had asked for.

Islam pleaded guilty and the court fined him £120 for supplying an unlicensed door supervisor. He was also ordered to pay costs of £200 and a Victim Surcharge of £32.

One of our Criminal Investigations Managers, Pete Easterbrook said:

There is no excuse for not doing your due diligence. The risk taken by Islam cannot be ignored as Sam Gould was interacting with the public. Security operatives protect the public and the SIA licence gives assurance that someone is "fit and proper" and capable of protecting the public. By failing to check Gould's licence Islam undermined this public confidence. Although Muhammad Islam did not receive a large fine, he can no longer work in the private security industry.

Further information:

- The Security Industry Authority is the organisation responsible for regulating the private security industry in the United Kingdom, reporting to the Home Secretary under the terms of the Private Security Industry Act 2001. Our main duties are: the compulsory licensing of individuals undertaking designated activities; and managing the voluntary Approved Contractor Scheme.
- For further information about the Security Industry Authority or to sign up for email updates visit [www.sia.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.sia.homeoffice.gov.uk). The SIA is also on [Facebook](#) (Security Industry Authority) and [Twitter](#) (SIAuk).

Published 8 October 2020

Last updated 22 October 2020 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 22 October 2020

Corrected the date of original publication.

2. 8 October 2020

First published.

---

## [Capacity boost for Yorkshire courts](#)

Press release

Temporary jury rooms have been installed at courts across Yorkshire as part of the Government's plan to tackle the impact of COVID-19 on the justice system.



- New temporary jury rooms will help more cases to be heard safely
- Eight courtrooms free to reopen for trials as a result
- Part of government plan to ensure justice continues to be served throughout the pandemic

Crown Courts in Leeds, Bradford, and Hull are the first to benefit from new Portakabin® buildings set up for jury deliberations. The step will free up eight courtrooms to hear more cases and deliver speedier justice for victims.

Crucially, the portable facilities provide sufficient space for two-metre social distancing between jurors and come equipped with hand-sanitation stations, to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

The buildings are being rapidly installed across the country as part of wider efforts to alleviate pressure on courts and tribunals resulting from the pandemic. This included the opening of a Nightingale Court at Cloth Hall in

Leeds over the summer.

Courts Minister, Chris Philp said:

These additional facilities will help to boost the capacity of these courts – reducing delays and ensuring speedier justice for the people of Yorkshire.

This is the latest step in our plan to work with the judiciary and legal sector in pursuing every available option to ensure our courts recover as quickly as possible.

The move follows a recent £80m investment in the courts system to meet the unprecedented challenge presented by the pandemic. This will fund the employment of 1,600 new staff to support the recovery, with more temporary Nightingale Courts and technology to boost capacity. These measures are beginning to show positive results:

- Magistrate courts are seeing the number of outstanding cases drop – dealing with over 21,000 cases a week
- Crown Courts are currently holding over 100 jury trials, and clear over 1,700 cases a week
- 250 Crown Court rooms will be available for jury trials by the end of October following the roll out of Plexiglass screens to more than 200 court rooms and 100 jury deliberation rooms

Meanwhile, a major £153 million investment across the courts system announced in July 2020 will speed up technological improvements and modernise courtrooms.

## Notes to editors

1. Two modular buildings have been installed at Bradford Combined Court, 4 at Leeds Combined Court and 2 at Hull Combined Court.
2. Further sites that modular buildings have been ordered for:
  - Great Grimsby Combined Court
  - Teesside Combined Court
  - Preston Combined Court
  - Newcastle Upon Tyne Combined Court
  - Guildford County and Family court
  - Birmingham Crown Court
  - Northampton Crown, County and Family
  - Leicester County and Family Court
  - Caernarfon Crown Court
  - Swansea Crown Court
  - Woolwich Crown Court
3. Portakabin® is the market leader in the design and manufacture of modular buildings and advanced off-site construction.



Published 20 October 2020