

Charity Commission launches inquiry into Dudley Mosque

Press release

The charity regulator has opened a statutory inquiry into Dudley Central Mosque and Muslim Community Centre (1127373).



The Charity Commission has opened an inquiry into Dudley Central Mosque and Muslim Community Centre after the charity failed in its accounting requirements for four years in a row. These failures are symptomatic of wider administration and governance issues that persist at the charity, despite previous engagement from the regulator.

The charity has been the subject of three regulatory compliance cases in the past four years, all of which examined issues arising from an ongoing dispute between two groups representing the charity.

In November 2018, the Commission issued formal regulatory advice. It advised the charity to seek legal advice to establish the official trustees in line with its constitution. It also asked the two sides to mediate and agree to hold an election overseen by an independent committee. An election took place, but one side disputed the independence of the election and governance issues remained.

The charity was also placed into the Commission's 'double defaulters' class inquiry in March 2022 as it had failed to submit its annual reports, accounts and annual returns for four years in a row. Accounting information since March 2018 is still outstanding.

The Commission is concerned that, despite previous engagement and regulatory advice, the charity has not resolved its administration and governance issues. For this reason, a statutory inquiry was opened on 1 July 2022.

The inquiry will examine the administration, governance and management of the charity and in particular:

- whether it is being managed in accordance with its governing document

- the failure to comply with legal obligations in relation to the filing of the charity's accounts and annual returns

The Commission may extend the scope of the inquiry if additional issues emerge.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. The Charity Commission is the independent, non-ministerial government department that registers and regulates charities in England and Wales. Its purpose is to ensure charity can thrive and inspire trust so that people can improve lives and strengthen society.
2. The Commission has not made any conclusions and the opening of the inquiry is not a finding of wrongdoing.

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Prime Minister tells Ukraine “they will win” as he marks Independence Day: 24 August 2022

- Prime Minister Boris Johnson visits Kyiv to underline the UK's unwavering, long term support to Ukraine as it marks 31 years of independence from the Soviet Union.
- Visit comes as the Prime Minister announces another major package of support, including unmanned surveillance and missile systems for the Armed Forces of Ukraine.
- The £54 million package of 2,000 state-of-the-art drones and loitering munitions will enable Ukraine to better track and target invading Russian forces.

The Prime Minister has travelled to Kyiv today in a show of strength and solidarity with Ukraine as he tells President Zelenskyy his country 'can and will win the war'.

As part of the visit, his third to the city since the invasion, the Prime Minister also called on the international community to stay the course in Ukraine, as it continues to valiantly defend its sovereignty six months on from Putin's brutal and illegal invasion.

While meeting President Zelenskyy in Kyiv today to mark 31 years of Ukraine's independence from the Soviet Union, the Prime Minister also outlined the UK's next major package of new support, including unmanned surveillance and anti-tank loitering munitions requested by the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

This package of unmanned air systems will be a step up in the Ukrainian's current capability, improving their long range surveillance and defensive targeting ability.

It includes 850 hand launched Black Hornet micro-drones, which are specifically designed for use in towns and villages, and are deployed to detect approaching enemy forces.

Military personnel can be trained to fly the helicopter drones, which are smaller than a mobile phone, in under 20 minutes. Each drone feeds back live video and still images to allow forces on the ground to defend urban areas safely.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

For the past six months, the United Kingdom has stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Ukraine, supporting this sovereign country to defend itself from this barbaric and illegal invader.

Today's package of support will give the brave and resilient Ukrainian Armed Forces another boost in capability, allowing them to continue to push back Russian forces and fight for their freedom.

What happens in Ukraine matters to us all, which is why I am here today to deliver the message that the United Kingdom is with you and will be with you for the days and months ahead, and you can and will win.

The leaders also held talks on the challenges of the winter ahead for the country, and the Prime Minister reiterated the UK's all-encompassing and unwavering support for the Ukrainian people, from humanitarian aid to supporting the investigation of war crimes and rebuilding the country's economy.

In his final visit to the country before leaving Downing Street, the Prime Minister also received Ukraine's highest award that can be bestowed on foreign nationals, 'The Order of Liberty', for the UK's staunch support of Ukraine's freedom.

Today's £54 million military package comes as the UK also prepares to give minehunting vehicles to Ukraine to help detect Russian mines in the waters off its coast. Ukrainian personnel will be trained how to use them in UK waters in the coming weeks.

The UK also continues to expand the training of Ukrainian military personnel.

Eight other countries have signed up to the major training programmes, which trains civilians to become soldiers, since the Prime Minister announced the programme on his previous visit to Ukraine in June.

Partners contributing expertise and trainers to the rapidly expanding programme include Canada, Denmark, New Zealand, The Netherlands, Norway, Finland, Sweden and Lithuania.

The UK has also helped to drive continued international momentum on funding for defensive lethal aid to Ukraine. Since the Prime Minister announced an additional £1 billion to provide military aid to Ukraine at NATO in June, a further £1.2 bn worth of financial pledges from allies were secured for Ukraine at the Copenhagen Conference, co-hosted by the UK and Denmark earlier this month.

The UK has committed more than £2.3bn of military and financial aid to Ukraine since the invasion began in February.

[UK agrees two deals with major gulf trading partner Qatar](#)

The UK enhanced its relationship with our third largest Gulf trading partner, announcing two significant agreements to boost trade and investment.

UK trade minister Ranil Jayawardena met Qatar's Minister of Commerce and Industry H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad Al-Thani in London today [24 August] to agree the new partnerships at the third UK-Qatar Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO).

It comes after the launch of negotiations on a free trade agreement with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in June. An agreement with the GCC is an opportunity to grow an overall trade relationship worth £32.4 billion in 2020, breaking down barriers to trade and supporting jobs across the whole of the UK.

Minister for International Trade, Ranil Jayawardena, said:

Qatar is an important trade and investment partner for Britain. I believe we should nurture and maximise the strength of our relationship to make our economies more resilient and prosperous.

We are committed to taking steps to further deepen the trade and investment relationship we share with Qatar, and today's JETCO signals our ambition through two significant agreements.

The two new MOUs include a new agreement between Department for International Trade (DIT) and Qatar's Investment Promotion Agency, to help British businesses such as to enter the Qatari market. The collaboration will provide information to companies on strategic investment opportunities and provide guidance on market entry options.

On top of this, DIT also opened the UK export market to Qatar for the supply of vitamins and supplements, enabling Holland & Barrett to export these products to the country.

Nick Parker, Director of International Development, Holland & Barrett said:

Holland and Barrett's mission is to make health and wellness a way of life for everyone and through our two franchise stores in Qatar we have been able to serve our customers there since 2015, however until now our franchise partner has been unable to offer our own range of vitamins and supplements.

During the JETCO, UK Export Finance (UKEF) signed a memorandum with Qatar Development Bank to boost efforts between the UK and Qatari companies by sharing expertise on export finance, insurance products and cooperation on projects which involve both UK and Qatari goods and services.

The meeting of Ministers concluded with the signing of a Joint Statement outlining commitments to tackling market access issues on both sides and growing trade in a range of priority sectors, including healthcare and life sciences, education, and food and drink.

The next meeting of the JETCO will be organised by the State of Qatar's Ministry of Commerce and Industry and will be held in Doha in 2023.

[Collaboration Event: Novel Amphibious Craft](#)

News story

The Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) are to host a collaboration event in October to aid the acceleration of partnerships across industry



- An event to accelerate partnerships across Industry
- In advance of a new themed competition, Novel Amphibious Craft, launching in October 2022
- Meet subject matter experts in this field

The Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) will host a collaboration event in advance of a new themed competition launch, Novel Amphibious Craft. This competition launches in October 2022, and will fund promising technologies to help develop a Commando Insertion Craft (CIC) fit to combat the threats of the 21st Century.

To create a platform that can transport personnel and light vehicles across great distances, in challenging conditions, whilst evading detection from coastal sensors is a significant challenge. It demands collaboration between experts in many disciplines, including those outside the defence sector.

This event looks to accelerate partnerships, by bringing together prospective innovators across industry. There will also be an opportunity to connect with subject matter experts from the competition team.

Why should you attend?

Attending the collaboration event will allow you to:

- understand the requirements of front line operators
- form new collaborative relationships with innovators that have complimentary knowledge
- meet the experts from DASA and the Royal Marines Commando Force

Who should attend?

There are multiple complex engineering requirements for this competition and we expect that a proportion of the proposals will be collaborative efforts between multiple suppliers. This event targets innovators interested in networking and/or establishing collaborations before submitting a proposal to the competition.

Register

Register your interest in attending via this [Eventbrite page](#). Registration

will close at midday on Friday 23 September 2022.

Background

The CIC will be the medium lift craft to deliver Royal Marine Commando teams and their equipment from specialist ships to foreign and hostile coastal access points without being detected.

Royal Marine Commando teams will be expected to operate independently and as part of a larger group, and will complement the force's network of sensors and command and control capabilities. The craft must be able to travel ranges of 300 nautical miles (threshold) at speeds of no less than 25 knots in sea state 2.

The Novel Amphibious Craft competition is seeking innovative technologies that could help to develop a novel landing craft that can:

- travel at sustained high speed over a long range
- provide the ability to deliver personnel and light vehicles to a coastal access point with limited/ no impact on operational speed/capability
- relaunch from the coastal access point
- consider Signature Management across all spectrums to reduce probability of detection (for example thermal, radar, visual, acoustic)

This competition is expected to launch in late October 2022, with funding being provided to proposals that successfully pass DASA's assessment and moderation panels.

Important information

- please note that the event will be an open public event held at OFFICIAL; the appropriateness of discussions should be considered by attendees
- while we encourage collaboration, we wish to stress that it is the sole responsibility of each attendee to consider and manage appropriately any disclosure of their proprietary information to any other attendee or party, given the public nature of the event
- there will be a limited hybrid component to this event via Microsoft Teams
- photographic identification will be required at entry

Further event details will be sent upon confirmation of your place to attend.

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Harry Rich reappointed as Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists

News story

Minister of State, Lord True, has reappointed Harry Rich as the Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists.



Lord True, Minister of State, has reappointed Harry Rich as the Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists. His new term will commence from 22 September 2022 for a term of no more than three years on a fixed term contract with the possibility of further reappointment.

Harry Rich is Chair of the Intellectual Property Office, Chair of the Valuation Tribunal Service, non-executive director of the Press Recognition Panel, governor of the Glasgow School of Art, an Executive Coach and business advisor. He is Companion of the Chartered Management Institute and Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He is also a qualified but non-practising solicitor.

The Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists is an independent, statutory office established by the Transparency of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act 2014. The Registrar is responsible for keeping and publishing a register of consultant lobbyists. The Registrar has a duty to monitor compliance with the requirement to register and a power to undertake enforcement action in instances of non-compliance.

The Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists is responsible for overseeing the operation of the Office of the Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists. Further information on the lobbying register can be found on the [website of the Office of the Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists](#).

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