

# Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Brazil

Press release

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Mr Peter Wilson CMG has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Federative Republic of Brazil in succession to Dr Vijay Rangarajan CMG. Mr Wilson will take up his appointment in January 2021.

Full name: Peter Michael Alexander Wilson

Marital Status: Married

Children: Three

2017 – present	The Hague, Her Majesty's Ambassador and UK Permanent Representative to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
2013 – 2017	New York, Deputy Permanent Representative, UK Mission to the UN
2010 – 2013	FCO, Director, Asia Pacific
2007 – 2010	Beijing, Political Counsellor
2005 – 2006	Islamabad, Political Counsellor
2003 – 2004	FCO, Head of Policy, Directorate of Strategy and Innovation
1999 – 2002	Brussels, Head, European Parliament Team, UK Permanent Representation to the EU
1995 – 1998	Beijing, Second Secretary, Trade
1993 – 1995	Full-time Language Training (Mandarin)
1992 – 1993	FCO, Member of the Maastricht Treaty Bill Team
1992	Joined FCO
1990 – 1992	Masters in Public Administration, Harvard Kennedy School

Published 31 July 2020

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## Improvements to care for pregnant women and mothers in prison

- Every female prison to have resident mother and baby specialist
- Extra training for staff on looking after pregnant prisoners
- New advisory group to ensure support for such women

The reforms follow a [review of Mother and Baby Units](#) (MBUs) – specialist centres where female prisoners can live with children up to 18 months old receiving dedicated care.

The support currently available to women on MBUs will now be formally extended to pregnant prisoners and those separated from young children. As a result, more staff in female prisons will receive training on how to help women in these situations and all women's prisons will have a resident pregnancy and mother specialist, ensuring those who need extra care can get it.

More than 60% of women in custody have experienced domestic abuse and around half have a history of substance misuse. Compared to men, women in prison are much more likely to be primary carers with almost 50% of them having children in the community. The Government's flagship [Female Offender Strategy](#) set out a plan two years ago to see fewer women, particularly those with children, sent to prison and instead receiving robust community sentences, where appropriate, and which would allow them to get treatment to overcome the problems driving their criminality.

Nevertheless, when a woman's offence demands a custodial sentence, including those who are pregnant or have young children, MBUs provide a safe and nurturing environment for babies and crucial, dedicated support to their vulnerable mothers. These units are supported by specially trained prison officers and nursery nurses and allow mother and child to stay together and properly bond at what is a crucial stage in the child's development.

Lucy Frazer QC MP, Minister for Prisons and Probation said:

Pregnant women and those in prison with young children often come from complex backgrounds and with specific needs, which is why it is vital we provide them with the best possible support.

Staff on Mother and Baby Units do an incredible job but we also need that tailored care for women in prison who are pregnant or separated from their young children.

The changes will help to ensure children get a good start in life, looked after by a mum better able to turn her own life around thanks to the support of prison and probation staff.

Healthcare in women's prisons is commissioned by NHS England and NHS Improvement and following the development and roll out of their Perinatal and Mental Health Care Pathways, pregnant women and mothers in custody will benefit from a nationally coordinated approach for the first time. This will allow the consistency in care received before, during and after a pregnant women's time in custody. It also ensures support for all health needs, including treatment for substance misuse, mental health support and maternity services. This joined up approach offers a more holistic care plan that has been proven to benefit both mother and child.

This new, additional care will be extended across the estate and not just apply to those on MBUs, meaning greater support for all women experiencing separation from young children or the loss of a baby. The resident pregnancy and mother specialist role has also been updated to reflect this and ensure it acts as a single point of contact for all women, their families and staff working with them.

A former MBU resident said:

I have nothing but positives to say about MBUs at New Hall and Askham Grange. The prison and nursery staff supported me 100% on everything.

They gave me the opportunity to keep and know my children, and I became a better person and parent with their help and guidance. Without these units my children wouldn't have known who I was, the bond we have is unbroken all thanks to these amazing people.

The number of pregnant women in custody and births in prison will also be collected centrally and published for the first time. While this information has been known at a prison-level, collecting the data centrally will help the Prison Service to map out the scale of support needed and how this informs provisions such as MBUs, including their size and where they are located.

A new committee, including current and former prisoners, is also being established to ensure that implementation of these reforms can be monitored and learnt from, with any further areas for improvement identified at the earliest opportunity.

During the course of the review, one baby has died in prison while another was sadly stillborn. Both are tragic events and are being interpedently investigated as appropriate, including by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman. Immediate changes have already been made, including extra welfare checks for prisoners in the late stages of pregnancy. We will respond to any

lessons learnt from the investigations.

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## New rules on gatherings in some parts of Northern England

The Health Secretary Matt Hancock has this evening announced that new rules on social gatherings will be introduced in Northern England to stop the spread of COVID-19. These changes will also apply in Leicester city.

This is in response to an increasing trend in the number of cases per 100,000 people in the area, and data from PHE and the JBC which suggests transmission among households is a key infection pathway in the area.

The areas that these changes apply to are:

- The Greater Manchester area
- Pendle
- Hyndburn
- Burnley
- Rossendale
- Blackburn with Darwen
- Bradford
- Calderdale
- Kirklees
- Leicester City

It means people in these areas will not be permitted to mix with other households (apart from those in their support bubbles) in private homes or gardens.

Some exemptions will be put in place, including for the vulnerable.

The government will sign new regulations to make these changes legally enforceable.

The regulations will give local authorities and police forces the powers to enforce these restrictions and more details on these will be set out when the regulations are published.

Households may go to hospitality, for instance bars and pubs, but new guidance will make clear that two households should not go to hospitality together.

Meanwhile local leaders and government have today agreed a number of changes to local restrictions in other areas.

While social gathering restrictions remain in place in Leicester City, the

area will benefit from the lifting of restrictions that took place on 4 July in England, and all local restrictions currently in place in the neighbouring borough of Oadby and Wigston will end.

It means from Monday 3 August restaurants, cafes, bars and hairdressers in Leicester City can get back to business but leisure centres, gyms and pools will remain closed. In addition, cinemas and museums will open and religious ceremonies will be able to take place.

And on Saturday 1 August, Luton will be brought in line with the rest of the country after significant progress has been made in controlling the virus.

Health Secretary Matt Hancock said:

We're constantly looking at the latest data on the spread of coronavirus, and unfortunately we've seen an increasing rate of transmission in parts of Northern England.

We've been working with local leaders across the region, and today I chaired a meeting of the Local Action Gold Committee. Based on the data, we decided that in Greater Manchester, parts of West Yorkshire and East Lancashire we need to take immediate action to keep people safe.

The spread is largely due to households meeting and not abiding to social distancing. So from midnight tonight, people from different households will not be allowed to meet each other indoors in these areas.

We take this action with a heavy heart, but we can see increasing rates of coronavirus across Europe and are determined to do whatever is necessary to keep people safe.

The restrictions currently in place in Blackburn, announced last Friday, which saw indoor swimming pools, indoor fitness and dance studios, indoor gyms and sports facilities remaining closed, will continue.

From Saturday, these leisure facilities will open in Luton, bringing it in line with the rest of the country.

We have been working closely with local leaders across Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire and East Lancashire and have made the decision to bring in new restrictions on social gatherings for selected areas.

For those preparing to celebrate Eid Al Adha this weekend with friends and family these restrictions will come as a blow but everyone is being urged to follow the new rules and to protect the ones they love from catching coronavirus.

Mosques and other places of worship have reopened for prayer and communal worship, but in a different socially distanced and COVID-19 Secure way. This means that while mosques can remain open, many will not be able to welcome as many worshippers as before.

Anyone with any symptoms must isolate immediately and get a test for free by going online or ringing 119. Everyone must continue to socially distance and regularly wash their hands to help bring this virus down further so all areas of Leicester can return to normal as soon as possible.

Notes to editors:

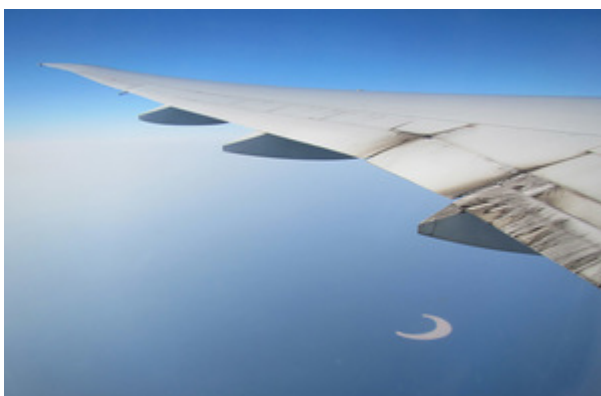
- Full guidance will be published on [gov.uk/DHSC](https://www.gov.uk/dhsc)

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## [Luxembourg removed from list of travel exemptions for the whole of the UK following data showing a significant change in confirmed cases](#)

News story

If you arrive in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland from Luxembourg on or after 31 July 2020 you will need to self-isolate.



- those arriving from Luxembourg from midnight tonight will need to self-isolate for 2 weeks
- public health is the government's priority and the list of travel corridors will be kept under constant review

People arriving in the UK from Luxembourg from midnight tonight (Thursday, July 30) will need to self-isolate for two weeks as the country is removed from the travel exemptions list.

Data from the Joint Biosecurity Centre and Public Health England has indicated a significant change in both the level and pace of confirmed cases of Coronavirus in Luxembourg.

There has been a consistent increase in COVID-19 cases per 100,000 of the population in Luxembourg since the end of June, with over a tenfold increase in total cases over this time period.

As a result, ministers took the decision to remove Luxembourg from the travel corridor list of countries from which people arriving in the UK do not have to self-isolate.

At the same time, The Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) has also updated its travel advice for Luxembourg to advise against all but essential travel to the country.

People currently in Luxembourg are encouraged to follow the local rules and check the [Foreign and Commonwealth Office's \(FCO\) travel advice pages](#) for further information.

The government has made consistently clear it will take decisive action if necessary to contain the virus, including removing countries rapidly if the public health risk of people returning from a particular country and not self-isolating becomes too high.

The devolved administrations have all taken the same decision today, so travellers arriving from Luxembourg into all parts of the UK will need to self-isolate.

The government is urging employers to be understanding of those returning from Luxembourg who now will need to self-isolate.

Travellers should always check the latest advice from the FCO, given the potential for changing coronavirus infection rates to affect both the advice about travelling to other countries and rules about self-isolation on return. All travellers, including those from exempt destinations, will still be required to show a complete [passenger locator form](#) on arrival into the UK.

Published 30 July 2020

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## [UK works with governments to improve COVID-19 communication strategy](#)

World news story

UK government shares strategies and experiences with Latin American countries.



The Government Communications Service International (GCSI) delivered a virtual seminar to public officials of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Bolivia and Ecuador.

The activity consisted of sharing the UK Government communication strategies and experiences around the COVID-19 pandemic. The aim was to help improving government communications capability in prevention of a second wave of the coronavirus for the benefit of local citizens.

Around 80 participants from the Executive's Branch communication offices, ministry of health, secretary of foreign affairs, social security and government's advisors, joined the event. They learnt about coordination tools, coordinated campaigns, media relations and countering misinformation around the pandemic.

The event is part of the UK's cooperation with Latin America related to the COVID-19 emergency, which also includes assistance to reduce poverty caused by the pandemic, provide training on COVID-19 related issues, and work through multilateral organizations to attend immediate health needs.

Published 30 July 2020