

UN Human Rights Council 44: Interactive Dialogue on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions

Thank you Madame President.

The United Kingdom thanks the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions for her important work.

Special Rapporteur, we note your most recent report addressing the issue of targeted killings through armed drones. You have made a useful contribution to an important debate. We would note that the United Kingdom has extensive processes to ensure that its use of drone technologies will always comply with the applicable law.

The UK Government strongly condemns any instances of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions. They are a clear violation of human rights, the impact of which deeply affects the families and communities of victims, as well as undermining the rule of law. We cannot allow these practices to continue unchecked.

The UK works with leading local and regional civil society to tackle these issues and engages bilaterally to promote awareness through our diplomatic network, raising individual cases where appropriate. We also work through the multilateral system to address these crimes, highlighting concerns and working with others to end these abhorrent practices. To this end, the UK introduced a Global Human Rights Sanctions regime on Monday, focussed on imposing sanctions pertaining to violations or abuses of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Special Rapporteur, what more can states do bring justice to victims' families and to protect their citizens' human rights?

Ministry of Justice Permanent Secretary concludes five-year tenure

Sir Richard Heaton will conclude his service at the Ministry of Justice later this summer when his five-year tenure comes to an end.

He will step down as Permanent Secretary, and will leave the Civil Service after nearly 30 years' dedicated public service.

During his time at the MoJ, Sir Richard has steered the department through a number of changes, including projects to improve prison safety and security, modernise courts and tribunals, and bring all offender management under the National Probation Service. This year he worked with ministers to devise an effective coronavirus strategy, which prevented widespread prison outbreaks.

Arrangements to appoint Sir Richard's successor as Permanent Secretary will be announced in due course.

Lord Chancellor, Robert Buckland, said:

Sir Richard is an exceptional civil servant, with the strongest of reputations across Government and the legal sector.

He has carried out many roles in Government with distinction; I am personally grateful to him for welcoming me into the department as Minister of State and then Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State, for helping me deliver the Government's priorities, and also for steering the department through COVID.

It has been a pleasure to work with him and he leaves with my very best wishes for the future.

Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Civil Service, Sir Mark Sedwill, said:

Richard has earned the country's appreciation for his three decades of dedicated public service and I would also like to thank him for his friendship and support as a colleague. He leaves the department in good shape for the challenges ahead.

Particular tribute should also go to Richard for the crucial work he has done as Race Champion for the Civil Service. I'm confident the whole Civil Service echoes my gratitude to him for his work to advance the wider equality agenda.

Sir Richard Heaton said:

No department in government has a purpose more important than that of securing justice and the rule of law. It has been a privilege to lead the Ministry of Justice.

These have been challenging years, particularly during the present pandemic. But throughout, we have been able to deliver on the priorities of successive Governments. I'm pleased with our recent record of securing investment in the fabric of our justice system. We have steered the probation service towards a stable and positive future. We have helped our prisons emerge from a difficult period, and we have carefully mitigated the potential impact of Covid-19 on

our services and on the men, women and children in our care.

But what I am most proud of is the way in which people from every part of the department and its partner organisations work together to get things done. Our values in the Ministry of Justice shape us, and our brilliant hard-working people do their very best to live by them and to serve Ministers and the public.

Sir Richard's career in government began in 1991, when he joined the Home Office as a legal adviser.

He later spent five years at the Department for Work and Pensions as head of law and governance, and latterly as director general for pensions and ageing society.

In 2012 he was appointed Permanent Secretary of the Cabinet Office and in 2014 became the civil service race champion – leading the drive to improve its ethnic diversity. He joined the MoJ in August 2015.

In recognition of his public service, Sir Richard was appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath in the 2019 New Year Honours list. Sir Richard also chairs the board of a community charity in south London.

[Job Retention Bonus: ministerial direction](#)

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[Eat Out to Help Out Scheme: ministerial direction](#)

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[Stable service delivery for tenants continues in social housing sector](#)

Press release

RSH publishes results from its latest Coronavirus Operational Responses Survey.



The Regulator of Social Housing has today (9 July) published the [results](#) of its third monthly survey of housing associations and local authorities about how they are coping with the coronavirus pandemic.

The responses indicate the sector is continuing to maintain adequate levels of service delivery in the areas surveyed and has begun work towards recovery. Emergency and urgent repairs are being completed, where lower priority health and safety checks had been paused they are being rescheduled,

repair backlogs are stable and plans are being made to address them, and care and support settings continue to maintain safe staffing levels and essential services.

Over 90% of providers are reporting either all or most gas safety checks are being completed although due to continuing challenges accessing some properties, a slightly increased number of providers are completing most, rather than all gas safety checks. Providers report starting to address backlogs, but this is balanced in some cases by the number of properties where the gas safety check has just expired.

Fiona MacGregor, RSH Chief Executive said:

We are pleased that housing associations and local authorities are able to report continuing stable service delivery for tenants and further progress towards recovery.

We recognise that some operational challenges still remain and will continue to monitor the situation through these surveys for the time being.

Notes to editors

1. The short survey asked providers to answer a single multiple-choice question on each of five key areas: emergency repairs; statutory gas safety checks; statutory fire safety checks; asbestos, electrical, legionella and lift checks; and care and support staffing levels. For each area it also asked them to identify any key constraints, risks and mitigating actions and the scale of any backlog and how this has changed since the previous survey.
2. The survey and supporting guidance were made available for providers to complete on RSH's online data collection portal NROSH+ from 19 to 25 June. It was issued to all private registered providers with 1,000 or more properties, local authorities, and to some smaller private registered providers with over 500 properties and/or a high proportion of care and support activity. The next round of the survey will take place between 17 and 24 July.
3. We intend to run the survey monthly for as long as is necessary and will keep the frequency under review. However, where providers believe tenant safety is threatened or viability is under strain, we urge them to inform RSH immediately through their key contact at the regulator, or our Referrals and Regulatory Enquiries team enquiries@rsh.gov.uk or SmallProviders@rsh.gov.uk or by calling 0300 124 5225.
4. Please see our [Coronavirus statements page](#) for the latest updates.

5. The Regulator of Social Housing promotes a viable, efficient and well-governed social housing sector able to deliver homes that meet a range of needs. It does this by undertaking robust economic regulation focusing on governance, financial viability and value for money that maintains lender confidence and protects the taxpayer. It also sets consumer standards and may take action if these standards are breached and there is a significant risk of serious detriment to tenants or potential tenants.

6. For press office contact details, see the [Media enquiries page](#). For general queries, please email enquiries@rsh.gov.uk or call 0300 124 5225.

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