

PM call with PM Morrison: 18 June 2020

Press release

Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke with PM Morrison of Australia today.



The Prime Minister spoke to Prime Minister Morrison of Australia today, and welcomed the launch of free trade negotiations between our countries.

The leaders discussed the coronavirus pandemic and agreed on the need for an independent investigation through the World Health Organization into the origins of the outbreak. They committed to coordinate closely on this issue in the weeks and months ahead.

On Hong Kong, the Prime Minister said that the proposed national security legislation China is seeking to impose goes against the letter and the spirit of the Joint Declaration. He underlined the UK's visa offer to British National (Overseas) citizens in Hong Kong.

Prime Minister thanked Prime Minister Morrison for Australia's support for the UK's Global Vaccine Summit earlier this month, and the leaders agreed to continue working together on issues of national and global importance.

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Home Secretary chairs virtual 'Five Eyes' security summit

Ministers from the 'Five Eyes' partnership all agreed to work together to tackle the increasing global threats caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, in a virtual meeting co-chaired by Home Secretary Priti Patel today (Wednesday 17

June).

At the meeting of Home Affairs, Interior and Security Ministers from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the UK and the US, they discussed a range of threats including the increased risk of online child sexual abuse, disinformation and hostile state activity.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

These are unprecedented times and now more than ever it is important we continue to work with our closest allies to protect our citizens.

I was pleased to speak with my 'Five Eyes' colleagues yesterday to discuss the shared threats we are facing and how we will work together to tackle them.

Ministers raised the persistent threat of hostile state activity as well as the spread of disinformation during the pandemic which is putting lives at risk. The nations agreed to share best practice and work together to counter these threats and ensure that the public can access reliable information to protect themselves.

The Home Secretary raised concerns about the increased risk to children online during the pandemic and welcomed the recent announcement by the Tech Coalition on tackling online child abuse. This builds on the Voluntary Principles to Counter Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, the landmark blueprint to keeping children safe online.

But the Five Country partners were clear that technology companies need to work quickly and go further to address the issues that continue to leave children vulnerable to predators online.

The Home Secretary said the threat of online child abuse and terrorism would increase if companies like Facebook continued with plans for end-to-end encryption across their platforms. Ministers agreed that tech companies should work closely with governments to ensure their plans do not damage efforts to keep the public safe.

Ministers also raised the issue of cyber criminals exploiting the pandemic through ransomware, malware and phishing attacks. Ministers agreed on the need to share intelligence around these kinds of scams and work closely to stop them.

Ministers of the 'Five Eyes' nations agreed to continue to keep in regular contact during the pandemic and to meet in person for the next Five Country Ministerial event in New Zealand when possible.

Ministers in attendance were:

- Home Secretary Priti Patel (co-chair)

- New Zealand's Minister for Justice Andrew Little (co-chair)
 - Australian Minister for Home Affairs Peter Dutton
 - Canadian Minister for Public Safety Bill Blair
 - US Attorney General William Barr
 - US Acting Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Ken Cuccinelli
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[UK-Pakistan close working helps convict man for murder of Dr Imran Farooq in UK](#)

The conviction came about after a ground-breaking piece of collaboration between the UK and Pakistan, which allowed evidence gathered by the Metropolitan Police to be shared with Pakistani prosecutors and be presented as part of their case.

It ends an investigation into the death of Dr Farooq, a senior figure within the Pakistani political party Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM). He was murdered on 16th September 2010 when, after returning home from work, he was approached and brutally and fatally attacked by two men armed with a brick and knives.

After a trial in Islamabad, Pakistani national Mohsin Ali Syed, 35 (15.05.1985), was found guilty of murder and conspiracy to murder Dr Imran.

Muhammad Kashif Khan Kamran, 40 (6.7.1979), a Pakistani national and the other individual who was identified by Met detectives as being involved in the murder, was convicted in absentia of murdering Dr Farooq.

Enquiries into the pair's background later revealed that both Syed and Kamran were connected to the MQM party, and confirmed the investigation team's suspicion that the murder had likely been related to politics.

Dr Christian Turner CMG, British High Commissioner to Pakistan, said:

Today's conviction marks a team effort between law agencies in the UK and Pakistan working together to get justice for the murder of Dr Imran Farooq.

This ground-breaking legal collaboration, assisted by the British High Commission, meant that evidence gathered by the British police could be shared with Pakistani prosecutors and used in the successful prosecution of Mohsin Ali Syed.

- A formal mutual legal assistance (MLA) request by Pakistan to the UK was made in February 2019. This was followed by a temporary change to Pakistani law which provided that the death penalty would not be used in cases where evidence had been transferred under MLA from a state where the death penalty is prohibited. This was further supported by assurances from the Pakistani authorities that the death penalty would not be imposed in this case.
- In August 2019, the MLA request was accepted by UK authorities and officers began the process of providing relevant evidence from their investigation to the Pakistani authorities to assist in their prosecution of Syed and Kamran. The temporary change to Pakistani law and the consequent provision of UK evidence in a Pakistani trial were ground-breaking steps forward in legal cooperation between the UK and Pakistan.
- The investigation into the murder of Dr Farooq, who was killed in Edgware, North London, is the culmination of painstaking work by detectives from the Met Police's Counter Terrorism Command, who sifted through thousands of hours of CCTV, spoke with over 4,000 witnesses and collected more than 4,500 exhibits as part of the investigation.
- Initially, there was very little evidence for detectives to use that would help identify the attackers. A small number of witnesses had seen the attack, and provided descriptions of the two men, but there was no CCTV near the house or close by that showed the suspects and no immediate forensic evidence available to help identify the attackers.
- Later investigations managed to trace the attackers via CCTV at an ATM, and then to an address in North London which linked both attackers. Further CCTV footage was then uncovered.
- Detectives discovered days after the murder Syed and Kamran had travelled on a flight from London to Colombo, Sri Lanka, and then onto Karachi on 19th September.

For updates on the British High Commission, please follow our social media channels:

Contact: British High Commission, Islamabad; tel. 0300 500 5306

Manchester man who distributed child pornography jailed for longer

News story

Haitch Macklin has had his sentence increased at the Court of Appeal following intervention by the Solicitor General, the Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP.



A man from Manchester who owned and distributed a large number of horrific sexual images of children has had his sentence increased, following intervention by the Solicitor General, the Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP.

Haitch Macklin, 38, was found to be in possession of over 2,000 indecent images of children, after police searched his home in April 2018. After being released under investigation, the offender continued to engage in illegal activity.

He offered to others a streaming service to access child pornographic images, telling undercover police officers that the indecent content was of babies, girls, and boys, all under the age of 10. He was promptly re-arrested.

On 15 April 2020 Macklin was originally sentenced to 20 months' imprisonment for possessing and distributing child pornography at Manchester Crown Court. Following the Solicitor General's intervention under the Unduly Lenient Sentence Scheme, the Court of Appeal today increased his sentence to 4 years' imprisonment.

Speaking after the hearing, the Solicitor General, the Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP said:

"The extent of Haitch Macklin's involvement in this grossly abhorrent distribution of child pornography is sickening. I am pleased that the Court has found his sentence to be unduly lenient and decided to increase it."

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[Fund to support dairy farmers opens for applications](#)



The [dairy response fund](#) has opened today (18 June) for applications from eligible dairy farmers in England in need of support following the coronavirus outbreak.

To be eligible for support from the fund, farmers in England need to demonstrate that they have suffered a reduction in the average price paid for their milk of 25% or more in April 2020 when compared with February 2020.

Qualifying farmers are entitled to up to £10,000 each to cover 70% of their losses across April and May incurred as a result of a drop in price, following a reduced demand for milk with the closure of restaurants, bars, and cafes in recent months.

This financial support will help farmers maintain production capacity and sustain their business without impacts on animal welfare.

Farmers will be able to [apply for a single payment from the fund](#), which will be paid out from 6 July. Applications can be submitted directly to the [Rural Payments Agency \(RPA\)](#).

The deadline for applications is 11 September.

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Last updated 13 August 2020 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 13 August 2020

The deadline for the fund has been extended and is now 11 September 2020.

2. 18 June 2020

First published.