

# Troika Statement on Sudan on the occasion of Eid al-Adha

News story

The Troika (UK, US and Norway) and EU have issued a statement on the political situation in Sudan at the conclusion of Eid al-Adha.



The members of the Troika (Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States) and the European Union extend our warm wishes to the Sudanese people at the conclusion of Eid al-Adha.

Eight months after the military takeover we note the announcement by Sovereign Council Chair General Burhan that the military forces will cease participation in political talks. We acknowledge the stated intention of the military forces, upon agreement among civilian parties to form a transitional government, to withdraw from the political scene. The military and security forces should be held to this commitment. They must also end violence against civilians and hold to account those responsible for unlawful killings and other human rights violations and abuses.

We encourage all political actors committed to the democratic transition to engage swiftly in an inclusive dialogue to form a civilian-led transitional government. This process must deliver an agreement that defines: a clear timeline for free and fair elections; procedures for selecting a transitional prime minister and other key officials; and a dispute resolution mechanism to help avoid future political crises.

A transitional government must be civilian-led, and have broad-based, nation-wide support. There must also be full clarity on, and oversight of, the military's role and responsibilities. Such matters cannot be defined unilaterally by the military; they require dialogue and transparency to help avoid future disputes.

We commend the tripartite initiative of the United Nations, African Union, and Intergovernmental Authority on Development to facilitate such an inclusive dialogue and support their continued efforts.

Nearly three years since Sudan began its transition to democracy, we deeply regret the continued loss of life, and reversal of important economic and political progress. We commend the devotion of the Sudanese people to a more peaceful and just future and honor the sacrifices of those who have lost their lives in support of democracy. The Troika and the European Union look forward to supporting a transitional civilian government that enjoys popular support, reflecting the hope and aspirations we share with the Sudanese people.

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## [Secretary of State welcomes EU's adoption of new peace and reconciliation programme for Northern Ireland and Ireland](#)

Press release

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Shailesh Vara MP, has today welcomed the EU Commission's decision to adopt the PEACE PLUS programme which will support peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the border region of Ireland.



The new programme, which is the biggest PEACE programme to date, is funded by the UK Government and the EU with match funding from the Northern Ireland

Executive and Irish Government.

The UK is proud to be investing more than £730 million\* into the programme – almost 75% of the total budget. As the majority investor, the UK Government is committed to ensuring that PEACE PLUS projects and activities support the levelling up of Northern Ireland's economy with the rest of the UK, as well as fostering cross-border collaboration.

The programme will create opportunities for participation and dialogue between local partners and communities, bringing decision-making and responsibility for community development closer to the people who will directly benefit. Previous funding targeted initiatives such as the Peace Bridge over the River Foyle, as well as the regeneration of the Girdwood Barracks site in north Belfast into a shared community space where people from all communities can meet, relax and learn from each other.

**Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Shailesh Vara MP said:**

“I am delighted that progress has been made between the UK Government and the EU to fund important projects that will deliver directly for the people of Northern Ireland.

“This collaboration will support peace, reconciliation and cross-border co-operation, build thriving communities and empower future generations.

“The £1 billion of programme funding will drive ambitious local regeneration projects. I look forward to seeing the ways in which it will help individuals, communities and businesses to reach their potential.”

**Notes to editors:**

- The PEACE PLUS Programme is the successor to previous PEACE programmes. PEACE PLUS is implemented by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) – a North-South body – and replaces a series of long-running peace funding packages that have operated in the region since 1995.

\*This figure has been calculated from the total figure in Euros, using an exchange rate of £1:€1.16448, noting this will change over the Programme period.

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**[Environment Agency and partners warn](#)**

# Berkshire river users to stay safe in heatwave

With a heatwave across England the Environment Agency, Berkshire Fire and Rescue and Maidenhead Council are reminding people not to take unnecessary risks while trying to cool off, and to always make sure family and friends stay safe.

Water can contain hazards, particularly in and around structures such as bridges, locks and flood channels, as well as dangerous flows after rain and thunderstorms. Unexpectedly cold waters or strong currents can also catch bathers off guard.

Rivers are great places to have fun, get close to nature and spend time with friends and family, but vigilance can save lives and water-related accidents can be avoided by knowing how to stay safe.

Russell Robson, Waterways team leader for the Environment Agency, said:

The summer is always a busy time on our rivers, and we expect the River Thames to be a focal point for a lot of people's leisure time. We are urging parents to supervise their children closely in and around water and make sure they do not go into the water alone. Take any warning or safety signs seriously, stick to proper pathways, look out for trip or slip hazards around water, and stay a safe distance from the edge of river banks and cliff edges.

Neil Whiteman, Safety Education Co-ordinator at Berkshire Fire and Rescue, said:

Over the last year, we have massively stepped up our work with local authorities and the Environment Agency to improve safety along Berkshire's waterways. The main thing to be aware of when entering the water is cold water shock which can catch even the best swimmers off guard. It's also important to note that, when jumping into water, you may not see what's hidden below. Shopping trolleys, scrap metal and wooden splinters are just a few items that could cause serious injury or trap you under the water.

Councillor David Cannon, Cabinet member for Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime, and Public Protection, said:

We want people to stay safe around water and understand the risks. Over the last year, our Community Wardens have worked with landowners and our partners to install additional safety and

warning signs at key locations along the river. In readiness for summer, the wardens have checked buoyancy aids and are stepping up their patrols along stretches of the river in order to continue those checks and speak with people about water safety.

The key safety points are:

- If you get into trouble in the water, Float to Live – more at [www.rnli.org](http://www.rnli.org)
- Lean back and use your arms and legs to help you float, then get control of your breathing before calling for help or swimming to safety.
- If you see someone else in trouble in the water, call 999 or 112. If you are at the coast ask for the coastguard, if you are inland, ask for the fire service.

### **Top water safety tips**

Don't jump or dive in as the depth may vary and there can be unseen hazards.

Don't go in near weirs, locks, pipes and sluices. These and some other water features are often linked with strong currents.

Inland waters can be very cold no matter how warm the weather. Those going into cold water can get cramp and experience breathing difficulties very quickly.

Most importantly, parents and guardians can help keep children in their care safe by:

1. Teaching them to swim
2. Warning them not to go into water alone, or unsupervised
3. Ensuring they know where the children are and what they are doing
4. Supervising them closely when near any open water

Remember, drowning can occur very quickly even in shallow water and the key to keeping safe is to take all necessary precautions to avoid getting into difficulty in the first place.

Find out more about [water safety](#).

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# Recruitment Vacancy – Executive Officer in Application Management

News story

Details of a recruitment vacancy in our Application Management team.



This exciting and interesting role puts you at the heart of the VMD's work in the authorisation of applications for veterinary medicinal products. You will be part of a team that links with scientific disciplines and has frontline interactions with the pharmaceutical industry and with regulators from other global jurisdictions.

## **Job Title**

Executive Officer in Application Management

## **Grade**

E0

## **Salary & Pension**

£27,963 – £29,806 per annum with Pension Scheme

## **Annual Leave entitlement**

Commencing at 25 days

## **Role**

You will be responsible for overseeing the progression of application procedures subject to published standards targets for licensing work as set out in the VMD Business Plan, and meeting and contributing to objectives set out in the Authorisations Work Plan.

The job holder is a primary contact for members of the pharmaceutical industry and involves communicating with internal assessors, other global country national regulatory body representatives and the pharmaceutical industry.

## How to apply

You must make your application via [Civil Service Jobs – GOV.UK](#) where you will find a full job description including salary details.

## Closing Date

9 August 2022

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# [Forestry Commission introduces further controls to tackle bark beetle tree pest](#)

Woodland managers, landowners and the forestry industry are today being urged to increase their vigilance to the risk of the tree pest *Ips typographus* – also known as the larger eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle – following new findings of the insect by the Forestry Commission on spruce trees in Kent, Surrey, East Sussex and West Sussex. The new findings were made following routine plant health surveillance activities carried out by the Forestry Commission.

A robust management programme is in place to manage the outbreak sites and prevent potential spread of the pest, in line with the eradication action taken to manage outbreaks of *Ips typographus* found in 2021. To combat further potential spread, an extension to the existing demarcated area is being introduced to cover parts of Hampshire. Within the demarcated area, the movement of susceptible tree material such as spruce wood, bark and branches is restricted.

The south-east of England in particular is vulnerable to the arrival of the eight-toothed spruce bark beetle because it can naturally be blown over from Europe. An extensive network of pheromone traps has been positioned across the south-east to monitor for potential incursions of the pest from the continent and to identify suspect sites. In the long-term, the Forestry Commission are encouraging landowners in the affected regions to remove stressed or weakened spruce and replant with other species to limit potential

spread of *Ips typographus*.

Jane Hull, Forestry Commission Area Director for the South East and London, said:

The enhanced plant health enforcement actions announced today will prevent this potentially damaging pest from becoming established, protect the forestry sector, and ensure our vital spruce are retained within the landscape.

Nicola Spence, the UK's Chief Plant Health Officer, said:

The eight-toothed spruce bark beetle poses no threat to human health, but can have a serious impact on spruce tree species and the forestry industry.

We are taking swift and robust action to limit the spread of the outbreaks as part of our well-established biosecurity protocol used for tree pests and diseases. Any sightings should be reported to the Forestry Commission via its [TreeAlert online portal](#).

Grants are available through the [Tree Health Pilot](#) to support woodland managers with spruce trees affected by, or at risk of, the eight-toothed spruce bark beetle. The grants can pay back the costs of felling trees; protective measures like fencing and netting; installing infrastructure and access aids, such as temporary road surfaces, to improve access to trees; and restocking and capital items to replace the trees with different species that are more likely to withstand pests, diseases and climate change.

Today's announcement follows the introduction of controls in December last year requiring woodland managers to provide written notification to the Forestry Commission if they intended to fell susceptible spruce material, or kill any trees of the genus *Picea* A. Dietr over three metres in height, within the demarcated area. Prohibitions on susceptible material being left in situ in the demarcated area following felling, without written authorisation from an inspector, were also implemented. These built on existing restrictions on the movement of susceptible materials out of or within the demarcated area.

A [notice extending the existing demarcated area](#) will come into force on Wednesday 20 July 2022.