

Her Majesty The Queen receives Platinum Jubilee gift from Cabinet Ministers

Press release

Her Majesty The Queen has received a bespoke gift from Cabinet ministers to mark her remarkable 70 years of service.



To mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, a hand-painted enamel-on-copper musical box, commissioned from Halcyon Days has been gifted.

As has been a tradition for previous Jubilees, Her Majesty The Queen has received a bespoke gift from Cabinet ministers to mark her remarkable 70 years of service.

Over the last seven decades, the Queen has been served by fourteen individuals from Winston Churchill to current Prime Minister Boris Johnson. James Callaghan's Cabinet marked the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 by presenting her with a silver coffee pot. Then in 2002, for the Queen's Golden Jubilee, Her Majesty received a silver gilt plate from her Cabinet ministers, which was engraved with their signatures.

To mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, a hand-painted enamel-on-copper musical box, commissioned from Halcyon Days has been gifted.

100% hand made in England, finished with a platinum mount, when opened the musical movement plays Handel's 'Hallelujah'. A symbol of praise, this gift honours her exemplary service and phenomenal achievements.

The box uniquely pictures No 10 Downing Street on the top and a miniature portrait of all fourteen of Her Majesty's Prime Ministers since 1952 around the sides. These portraits are surrounded by the same yellow shade found on the staircase walls at No10, which famously feature pictures of all the British Prime Ministers.

On the inside lid, an inscription including the names of the Cabinet can be

found as a token gesture to illustrate their unwavering admiration and respect for her dedication and service to her people and her beloved Commonwealth.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee marks a symbolic moment in our nation's history, and this bespoke musical box gifted by members of the Cabinet serves to commemorate the celebrations that will remain etched in our memories.

Published 9 June 2022

[Lord Ahmad visits Tunisia: June 2022](#)

Press release

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister for South and Central Asia, North Africa, UN and the Commonwealth, made his second visit to Tunisia.



Lord Ahmad paid a 2-day visit to Tunisia from 7 to 8 June. He met the President of Tunisia His Excellency Kais Saied, the Head of Government Her Excellency Najla Bouden, Minister of Foreign Affairs His Excellency Othman Jerandi, Minister for Economy and Planning His Excellency Samir Saied, Minister for Industry, Energy and Mines Her Excellency Neila Nouira Gonji, and Minister of Religious Affairs His Excellency Ibrahim Chaybi.

Lord Ahmad signed an agreement between the UK and Tunisian Governments to increase cooperation on sustainable energy and unlock opportunities for private sector trade and investment. He also met senior members of International Financial Institutions, plus representatives of Tunisia's civil society, students and faith leaders.

Speaking following his visit, Lord Ahmad said:

Tunisia's diverse religious sites are testament to this country's rich history of inclusion, and I was delighted to visit Zaytuna

Mosque, St Vincent de Paul Cathedral, and the Grand Synagogue of Tunis.

In my meetings with ministers we discussed a broad range of issues including: economic cooperation and reform, the importance of inclusive political participation in the democratic process and the role of civil society and strengthening human rights.

During my visit to Tunis I also met civil society representatives. The UK believes in the importance of including all voices in building resilient and successful democracies.

I look forward to strengthening the UK's friendship and partnership with Tunisia.

Published 9 June 2022

Human suffering in temporarily Russian-controlled areas of Ukraine: UK statement to the OSCE

Thank you, Mr Chair and thank you to Mr. Samoilenko for briefing the Permanent Council today on the devastating consequences of Russia's illegal invasion on Kherson and its people. It is with heavy hearts that we continue to hear of civilians being killed and injured; of children being left without parents, and parents losing their children. We share the sorrow of the Ukrainian people as they watch their once vibrant cities ruthlessly destroyed.

The international community has witnessed Russia's brazen but futile attempts to assert its control of Ukrainian sovereign territory temporarily under the control of the Russian military.

In places such as Kherson, Russia has installed illegitimate pro-Kremlin administrations. These self-appointed proxies of the Kremlin neither represent the brave Ukrainian citizens under their assumed control nor do they act in meeting their basic needs. Instead many civilians are unable to access essential healthcare services, or fundamental necessities including electricity and water. In Mariupol, the WHO have raised the flag on infectious diseases, particularly cholera, being at risk of spreading. In Kherson, residents were left to collect the remnants of those killed from the streets, and in Skadvosk, people had to organise themselves to prevent looting, with many elderly not receiving their pensions.

We have also heard today the horrifying stories of civilians who have suffered directly at the hands of the Russian invaders. The [Moscow Mechanism report of 12 April](#), stated that credible evidence had been discovered to suggest that violations concerning even the most fundamental human rights, namely, the right to life; prohibition of torture; and other inhuman and degrading treatment, had occurred. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine are but two bodies who have documented cases of rape, torture, false imprisonment, forced deportations, forced disappearances, and summary execution in Russian controlled areas.

Russia has embarked on a systematic policy in temporarily controlled areas to erase Ukrainian culture, history and identity. Russia has simplified the process for issuing passports for residents of the southern Ukrainian regions of Zaporizhzhia and Kherson. Ukrainians are being denied the right to use their own currency, with the forcible attempted replacement of the hryvnia with the Russian rouble. Teachers have been brought in from Russia to impose the Russian curriculum on schoolchildren in Kherson. This systematic attempt is not new, and follows a pattern. We know in illegally annexed Crimea, Russia forced Ukrainians to assume Russian citizenship or lose their properties, their access to health care, and their jobs.

Furthermore, Russia has implemented a severe crackdown on free speech and media freedom in these areas. Their aim is clear – to completely control the media space. In Kherson, access to Ukrainian television channels is being blocked; internet service providers are being replaced with Russian ones; and Kherson's residents are being urged to listen to pro-Russian radio stations for their news. Disinformation is being spread through these channels. And this policy by the Russian government is being accompanied by one which sees the disappearance, detention and abduction of Ukrainian journalists or their relatives for daring to tell and expose the truth of Russia's shameful invasion of its sovereign, democratic neighbour.

Mr Chair – we stand with all the Ukrainian people who have bravely demonstrated their sovereign will to resist and remain part of Ukraine. It is the Ukrainian people's right – and the Ukrainian people's right alone – to determine their own future. It is not President Putin's right. And it is increasingly clear that the Russian government and the Russian military cannot break or subjugate Ukraine. Ukraine has shown the most immense resolve, bravery and valiance over the past 106 days. Ukraine has shown the world that it will prevail in its battle for freedom. And we must be steadfast in providing international support that Ukraine both needs and deserves. The UK will be resolute and unwavering in our support – to ensure Ukraine wins its battle for self-determination and Russian forces withdraw. We will do all we can to ensure Ukraine succeeds.

Marjorie Ngwenya appointed to the Prudential Regulation Committee

News story

The Chancellor has today (9 June) appointed Marjorie Ngwenya as an external member of the Prudential Regulation Committee (PRC).



- Marjorie Ngwenya has been appointed as an external member of the Prudential Regulation Committee.
- Ms Ngwenya previously served as President of the UK Institute and Faculty Actuaries, having served on its Council for eight years.
- She will succeed Norval Bryson, serving a three-year term starting on 5 September 2022.

Ms Ngwenya will join the PRC on 5 September 2022, commencing a three-year term, replacing Norval Bryson as an external member.

Marjorie previously served as President of the UK Institute and Faculty Actuaries, having served on its council for eight years.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, said:

Marjorie's experience in international financial services will add valuable insight and expertise to the Prudential Regulation Committee.

I would also like to thank Norval Bryson for his contributions to the Committee.

Governor of the Bank of England, Andrew Bailey, said:

I am delighted to welcome Marjorie to the Prudential Regulation Committee. She brings a wealth of experience on the insurance side and will make a valuable contribution to the work of the Committee.

Her senior leadership experience, including from her role as President of the IFoA, will be invaluable for our work on the Solvency II reforms and the future regulatory framework. I look forward to working with her in the coming years.

External member of the PRC, Marjorie Ngwenya, said:

I am delighted to be appointed as an external member of the Prudential Regulation Committee as it considers a number of important issues, including the Future Regulatory Framework Review and Solvency II reforms. I look forward to contributing my international financial services experience in support of the work of the Committee.

About Marjorie Ngwenya

Marjorie serves as an independent non-executive director at Tangerine Life (Nigeria) and its holding company Tangerine Financial. She is the chairperson of the Canon Collins Trust (UK) and a trustee of the Legal Resources Centre (South Africa).

Marjorie is a past President of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFoA) and served on the IFoA's governing council for eight years.

In her executive career, she was a member of the Group Executive Committee of Liberty Group in South Africa, serving as Chief Strategist. Prior to that, she was Chief Risk Officer for Old Mutual's African Operations.

Marjorie is also an actuary and holds a Sloan MSc in Leadership and Strategy from the London Business School. She is also an executive coach and an advocate for diversity, equality and inclusion.

Further information

- The Prudential Regulation Authority supervises banks, insurers and major investment firms.
- The PRA's most important decisions are taken by the Prudential Regulation Committee (PRC), chaired by the Governor of the Bank of England. Five members of the PRC are Bank staff, including the Governor and four Deputy Governors. The PRC has a majority of external members, including the Chief Executive of the Financial Conduct Authority.

Published 9 June 2022

Change of British High Commissioner to Malawi: Fiona Ritchie

Press release

Ms Fiona Ritchie has been appointed British High Commissioner to the Republic of Malawi in succession to Mr David Beer.



Ms Fiona Ritchie has been appointed British High Commissioner to the Republic of Malawi in succession to Mr David Beer. Ms Ritchie will take up her appointment during July 2022.

Curriculum vitae

Full name: Fiona Eileen Ritchie

Year	Role
2021 to present	Malawi, British High Commission, Development Director
2020	FCD0, Deputy Director, Review of Independent Commission for Aid Impact
2020	Department for International Development (DFID), Principal Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for International Development
2019 to 2020	FCO/DFID, Private Secretary to the Minister of State for Africa
2018	DFID, Chief of Staff, Office of the Director for West and Southern Africa
2017 to 2018	DFID South Sudan, Deputy Head and Team Leader Humanitarian and Resilience
2015 to 2017	DFID South Sudan, Team Leader, Governance, Peacebuilding and Economic Development
2012 to 2015	New York, First Secretary Development and Human Rights, UK Permanent Representation to the United Nations
2009 to 2012	DFID, Whitehall Policy Manager & Deputy Group Head, Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department

Year	Role
2002 to 2009	DFID, various roles including supporting development programmes in Afghanistan and Iraq, and Assistant Private Secretary to the Permanent Secretary

Further information

All the latest news is available on the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office page of the gov.uk website at: www.gov.uk/fcdo

Published 9 June 2022