

Jeremy Corbyn statement

**Jeremy Corbyn MP,
Leader of the Labour Party,** said:

“What happened yesterday was an appalling atrocity.

“Today, we are united by our humanity, by our democratic values and by that human impulse for solidarity to stand together in times of darkness and adversity.

“I express my condolences to the family and friends of PC Keith Palmer, who gave his life yesterday in defence of the public and our democracy – and to the loved ones of those still in a critical condition including the French schoolchildren visiting our capital from Concarneau in Brittany. The injured include people of ten nationalities. Innocent people were killed yesterday walking across Westminster Bridge as many millions of Londoners and tourists have done before them.

“I thank all the dedicated NHS staff working to save lives, including those from St Thomas’ Hospital who rushed out to help those in need. We are grateful for the public service workers who yesterday, today and every day they pull on their uniforms.

“It behoves us all not to rush to judgement, but to wait for the police to establish the facts. We must stay united in our communities and not to allow fear or the voices of hatred to divide or cower us.

“It is by demonstrating our values of solidarity, community, humanity and love that we will defeat the poison and division of hatred.”

The events at Westminster yesterday

I send my condolences to the family members of those killed by the assailant yesterday and my best wishes for a speedy recovery to all those injured. The death of a policeman is especially sad. It reminds us of the risks some state employees run in the course of duty, and strengthens public gratitude for their service.

It is right that Parliament resumes its work today. The Prime Minister spoke well on how we should respond.

[Press release: John Cridland CBE and the Government Actuary's Department release reports into the future State Pension age](#)

Two reports have been published today that will help inform the government's review of the State Pension age which is due in May 2017.

The John Cridland report looked at the key issues that drive State Pension age changes including, but not limited to:

- life expectancy
- the challenges faced by those who rely most on the State Pension
- the long-term financial sustainability of the system

The Government Actuary's Department (GAD) was asked to consider 2 alternative scenarios for the State Pension age, reflecting an adult in receipt of the State Pension for either 32% or 33.3% of their projected adult life in retirement. To do this it used figures drawn from life expectancy projections from the Office for National Statistics.

In his report, which will be considered before any decision is made on changes to the State Pension age timetable after 2028, Mr Cridland makes a number of recommendations including:

- State Pension age should rise to 68 between 2037 and 2039
- State Pension age should not increase more than 1 year in any 10 year period, assuming that there are no exceptional changes to the data used
- that all employers should have elder care policies in place which set out a basic care offer
- that people should be able to access a mid-life career MOT and review which should be facilitated by employers and by the government using online support and through the National Careers Service

Meanwhile, the Government Actuary's Department report concludes that:

- under a 32% scenario the State Pension age could rise to 69 between 2040 and 2042
- under a 33.3% scenario the State Pension age could reach 69 between 2053 and 2055

No new changes to [State Pension age](#) will come into effect before 2028 and the government is committed to maintaining a State Pension that is fair for all generations and helps to provide for the cost of living in retirement. Part of this commitment to fairness includes providing 10 years' notice of any changes to the State Pensions age.

Follow DWP on:

[Press release: Trustees of Ipswich Kurdish Islamic Cultural Centre breached their legal duties, regulator finds](#)

The Charity Commission has today (23 March 2017) [published a report](#) of its statutory inquiry into the [Ipswich Kurdish Islamic Cultural Centre](#) (registered charity number 1149580) ('the charity'), concluding that there was misconduct and mismanagement in the charity's administration.

The report sets out multiple failings by the trustees and concludes that the charity's financial management was poor.

The inquiry, which began in November 2015, found that the trustees:

- made unauthorised salary payments to one trustee amounting to £1,360, even though the charity's governing document prohibits the employment of trustees
- provided a zero interest loan to 2 members of the local community totalling £20,000 which amounted to twice the size of the charity's 2015 income
- did not have a safeguarding policy in place despite the fact that the charity operates weekend classes for children

The report also criticises the trustees' approach to engaging with the Commission, saying that their conduct fell below that which the regulator and the public expect, including by initially failing to take prompt action to address concerns identified by the Commission before it opened the inquiry. Following the opening of the inquiry, and as reflected in the report, the Commission acknowledges improvements in the trustees' conduct.

As part of the inquiry, the Commission has made an order requiring the trustees to complete a number of actions to address the failings and regulatory concerns identified.

The report states that the regulator will take further regulatory action if

the trustees fail to comply with the order within a stated timeframe.

Michelle Russell, Director of Investigations Monitoring and Enforcement at the Charity Commission said:

Our inquiry into the Ipswich Kurdish Islamic Cultural Centre found serious problems and basic failures. As our core guidance, [The essential trustee](#), explains, trustees must comply with their charity's governing document and the law and must manage their charity's resources responsibly. That hasn't always happened at this charity, putting it at risk of not being able to carry out its charitable purposes. I now hope the trustees take the necessary steps we have set out in our Order to improve the charity's governance in the future.

The [full report](#) is available on GOV.UK.

Ends

PR 21/17

Notes to editors

1. [The Charity Commission](#) is the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales. To find out more about our work, see our [annual report](#).
2. Search for charities on our [online register](#).

[Global buyers get a taste of Wales in an effort to reach new markets post-Brexit](#)

As part of the Welsh Government's commitment to raise Wales' global profile as a first-class place to do business, it is hosting the largest ever showcase of Wales' food and drink industry. The event, being held in the Celtic Manor, brings together producers, buyers and food industry professionals.

The two-day TasteWales event is hosting over 50 buyers from countries across the globe, including the Far East, Middle East, North America and Europe, over 100 UK buyers and in excess of 100 Welsh producers.

The event has Meet the Buyer opportunities, where influential domestic and international buyers can meet with Welsh food and drink producers to explore the potential of working together and identify new trade channels.

It also boasts an Innovation Skills and Business Zone where attendees will have the opportunity to see new developments and learn more about the support available for businesses in the sector.

Food and drink is already one of Wales' largest sectors, employing over 223,000 people and worth over £17bn to the Welsh economy annually.

Exports for the sector have grown by 95% in the past decade and continue to grow, up 13% in the first six months of 2016 compared to the same time in 2015.

Speaking ahead of TasteWales, the Economy Secretary, Ken Skates said:

"We are extremely proud of our high-quality food and drink and recognise the enormous value it brings to our economy. Food and drink is a priority sector for the Welsh Government and this is why we have set an ambitious target to grow the sector by 30% by 2020.

"Food and drink exports have grown considerably and I am keen to see this continue. There are challenging times ahead as we navigate towards a future outside of the EU, particularly given almost 90% of our food and drink exports go to the EU. We continue to call for full and unfettered access to the single market, a request which has been replicated in discussions with representatives of the industry.

"However, in light of the UK's decision to leave the EU, it is now more important than ever we promote the very best the food and drink industry has to offer and continue to make an impact in global markets. Today's event is part of our response to overcoming future challenges and provides an exciting opportunity for Welsh producers to strike new deals with some impressive and influential buyers."